

The Americas
Journal Information and Guidelines for Authors

1. Journal Mission

The mission of *The Americas* is to publish the highest quality research on the history of Latin America. In keeping with the original founding vision of the Academy of American Franciscan History, the journal strives to make Latin American history accessible to the English-speaking world. Guided by these principles, the journal seeks to publish significant works in English based in whole or in part on archival research.

Founded in 1944, *The Americas* has become one of the principal journals of Latin American history. The journal publishes peer-reviewed articles and reviews about all geographical regions of Latin America including the Caribbean, reflecting a wide variety of methodological orientations. The journal welcomes works dealing with comparative and transnational themes within the region, and ones that address critical issues with new perspectives and methods. While submissions from all types of specialists are welcome, works by new voices are especially encouraged. The journal takes a special interest in the history of the Franciscan presence in the Americas and offers an annual fellowship for doctoral research on the Franciscans, sponsored by the Academy of American Franciscan History, as well as Vault Associate Fellowships for advanced graduate students and postdoctoral scholars.

2. Journal Information

Frequency of publication: Quarterly

Articles published per year: 16 (approximately).

Minimum and maximum length of articles: 10,000 words (not including notes) for articles; 5,000-7,000 words for Research Notes (not including notes).

Languages of submission: English, Spanish, Portuguese

Translation policy: If requested, the journal can offer a subvention for authors to translate an accepted article into English.

Peer review process: Submissions are vetted by the Editorial Board at quarterly editorial meetings; selected articles are then sent for external review by two double-blind reviewers.

Approximate acceptance rate: 30-40%

Journal metrics: Q1 History SJR 2024 0.22 ; impact factor 0.6 (2024), 65 out of 538 in History

Editorial Board calendar: Editorial Board decisions are made at quarterly meetings, usually held the first week of March, June, September, and December.

3. Submission Categories

The Americas invites submissions in the following categories:

Research Articles

Research articles of 10,000 words, not including notes, grounded in whole or in part in archival evidence about all geographical regions and historical eras of Latin America including the Caribbean, reflecting a wide variety of methodological orientations. The journal welcomes work dealing with comparative and transnational themes within the region and new perspectives and methods. Comparative and interdisciplinary submissions need to have a geographic primary focus on Latin America, including the Caribbean, and a primary disciplinary focus on history. *The Americas* requires original articles, not previously published in other venues or languages.

We welcome submissions arising from dissertation chapters but ask that authors first transform them into a journal article format. These include, at the minimum, revising the chapter to meet the journal's word limit requirement; removing language referencing other sections or chapters; including a concise, introductory historiographical section of usually 2-3 pages, and establishing the argument up front.

Research Note

Shorter articles exploring historiographical debates and in-depth analysis of select archival documents in 5,000-7,000 words, not including notes.

In Dialogue

Concurrent publication of at least two articles that speak directly to one another, meant to foster scholarly exchange. When articles reveal overlapping questions, complementary findings, shared bodies of archival materials, or productive points of tension, they may be published together as an *In dialogue* cluster. Designed as a space between a traditional special issue and individual research articles, this format highlights

conversations already emerging across historical fields, disciplines, geographies, and methodological approaches, reflecting the increasingly collaborative and interdisciplinary character of scholarship today.

Prior to publication, authors have the opportunity to read one another's work and draw out points of connection in the article text or footnotes, but there is no expectation of a formal response, and authors may choose not to engage the other articles. Articles selected to appear *In Dialogue* may arise from author proposals or from the Editorial Board's recognition of affinities among independently submitted manuscripts.

Forums

Building from a tradition in social science journals of including opposing opinions alongside new, cutting-edge research, Forums are designed to foster a debate about contested issues in the fields we study.

Each Forum presents a main article of 10,000 words (not including notes) offering a new take on an important issue in the literature, engaging with an important essay or scholarly publication, or exploring paradigm shifts in the field. Two to four other scholars in the field present their critiques of the featured article in responses of 3,000 to 6,000 words, not including notes. The author of the featured article rounds out the debate with a final rebuttal of 3,000 to 6,000 words, not including notes. Another scholar in the field provides an introduction to the Forum with an overview of the discussion and introduction to the debate.

Special Issues

The Americas invites scholars to propose thematic Special Issues consisting of four to six research articles revolving around the issue theme. Special issues are evaluated by the Editorial Board and then sent out to external readers. All articles need to adhere to the standards of the journal and the Editorial Board reserves the right to reject any individual essay. As with research articles, Special Issues dealing with comparative and interdisciplinary themes need to have, as a whole, a geographic primary focus on Latin America, including the Caribbean, and a primary disciplinary focus on history.

To propose a Special Issue, send a prospectus to the Associate Editor for Special Projects or to the Editor, outlining the theme, the envisioned articles, timeline for completion, and identifying the Guest Editors for the Special Issue who will coordinate with article authors.

Additionally, *The Americas* also publishes the following categories of commissioned articles:

Review Essay

Review essays allow invited scholars the space and latitude to discuss multiple recently published works on a selected topic. Reviewers assess the collective contributions to a field, innovative perspectives, new knowledge, range of sources, and methods of interpretation in 3,000- 5,000 words. Cambridge considers these Review Essays original research content. Although most Review Essays are commissioned, interested authors can contact the Book Review editors with a proposal for a review essay listing at least three books they would review.

Vault Collections: Special Teaching and Research Collections for *The Americas*

The *TAM* Vault series illuminates historiographical trends in Latin American history as well as key articles in the journal's back catalog for both a scholarly and general audience. This series was designed with instructors constructing syllabi or looking for a classroom-ready article on historiographical trends in mind, and are proposed, researched, and written by TAM Vault Associates. Vault Associates are advanced graduate students or post-doctoral scholars within three years of completing their PhDs who are selected through a competitive process.

Interviews

The Americas publishes interviews with scholars with long records of distinguished service to the profession, usually retired or at Emeritus rank, who have significantly contributed to the field of Latin American history. Interviews are usually 7,000 to 12,500 words and typically provide a conversational overview of their life in the discipline, the profession, and their contributions to the field. While the Journal will usually invite a scholar to interview this colleague, we will consider proposals for potential Interviews.

Obituaries

The Journal publishes obituaries for colleagues in the field of Latin American history. Obituaries are typically 3,000-5,000 words and the Journal will often invite a colleague to write these memorials.

4. Use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools

Authors should explicitly acknowledge in their article and/or notes if AI tools were used for translation and analysis, but the Editorial Board does not require authors to detail how AI tools were used for grammar or stylistic refinement.

All articles in *The Americas* must also comply and affirm compliance with Cambridge's policy on use of AI tools:

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools

We acknowledge the increasing use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in research and writing processes. In this section we explain how to declare the use of AI tools in an accountable and transparent way, in accordance with the Cambridge University Press [Research Publishing Ethics Guidelines](#).

Authorship

We do not consider artificial intelligence (AI) tools to meet the accountability requirements of authorship, and therefore generative AI tools such as ChatGPT should not be listed as authors on any submitted content.

Credit and citation

All use of AI-generated content must comply with our [plagiarism policy](#) and best practices regarding citation and acknowledgement. You must not present ideas, words, data, or other material originally produced by third parties without appropriate acknowledgement or permission.

Transparency: declaration and description

We outline below the forms of AI use that must be declared and described to readers, as well as where and how to do this within your manuscript.

What to declare

You should always declare and describe your use of an AI tool if you have used it to **generate text or images** or to **analyse or extract insights** from data or other materials.

Minimal and non-generative uses of AI tools in manuscript preparation do not require declaration. For instance, basic spelling or language checking, incorporation of single words, or minor formatting tasks such as converting section headers to bold type. **It is important to note that accountability for the use of AI tools, including minimal and non-generative ones, rests with the author. Caution should be used in all**

cases and it is important to check your article thoroughly for unintended consequences, particularly in relation to the references.

If you are unsure about whether a particular use of an AI tool requires declaration, please contact the journal's editorial office.

Where to declare

Use of AI tools should be declared in your manuscript in the same way that you would declare your use of other tools and assistance.

- If you have used AI tools to generate text within your manuscript, this should be declared in your **acknowledgements**, in the same way you would declare your use of other language-editing services.
- If you have used AI tools to collect or analyse data, the way you have done this should be described in your **methods** section, in the same way you would describe your use of other software or analysis processes.
- If you have used AI tools to generate visual content that appears in your manuscript, this should be declared in the **captions of any figures** that you have generated or modified using AI tools.

This ensures your declarations appear where readers, editors, and reviewers naturally expect to find information about tools and processes used in your work.

How to declare

Descriptions of your use of AI tools should include, at minimum:

- the name and version of the tool you used
- the date(s) you used the tool for the purpose(s) described
- how the tool can be accessed or used by others
- a full description of how you used the tool
- appropriate citations to any third-party text, datasets or other material used or included in the tool's output.

Additionally, as appropriate, descriptions should include:

- any proprietary information relevant to the use of the tool
- any ways in which you modified the version of the tool that you used (such as training it on your own data)
- any competing interests or potential bias that should be considered as a consequence of the tool's use, including as a result of its ownership or development.

5. Preparing your materials

Abstract: A well-composed abstract is key to the effective dissemination of your research. Anonymous peer reviewers of your scholarship will read the abstract first; some readers may see *only* the abstract.

The abstract should be 200 to 250 words long and provide a concise summary of the article, its contribution, the research strategy, its key findings, its place in the literature, and its broader implications. It should be able to stand alone. The abstract is a reduced but complete version of your article—not a first paragraph—and should intrigue the likely reader into wanting to see the full thing. As a best practice, it is suggested that you write the abstract after the article itself, because it is a summary of the article contents, not an expectation of what they will be.

Length and format: Manuscripts should generally be under 10,000 words, not including endnotes. Submit manuscripts with both notes and text double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman, as Word .docx files. Do not apply special paragraph styles or formats; the final layout is managed in the typesetting process.

- Insert page numbers at the top right of each manuscript page.
- Place your title at the top of the first page of your manuscript.
- Since we use a double-blind review process, please do not provide clues to your identity in your manuscript. (Please do not include acknowledgments at this time and avoid such expressions as "my dissertation," etc.)

Manuscripts prepared using British (or other English language) spelling and style/markup if accepted will be converted to US editorial style, generally following *Chicago Manual of Style*.

Short biography: Provide a brief biography as a separate file; the file name should include "Bio" and your last name. Bios should be approximately 100–125 words and include publication dates only for any cited works. Names and institutional affiliations, including country, of all contributing authors are required.

Tables: Submit each table, clearly numbered in the sequence it is to appear, in a separate Word file. Do not embed tables directly into the manuscript. Name each table file so it is clearly tied to your article. In the same file, provide a table title and a complete source citation for each table. In the article manuscript, add the insertion point for each table: "Insert Table X here."

Figures: Do not insert figures directly into the manuscript. Submit each figure as a separate .jpg file (scan at 300 dpi or above). Name each file so that it is clearly tied to your article. In the article manuscript, mark the insertion point for each figure: "Insert Figure X here." With your article, submit one separate Word file that includes captions and complete source citations for all figures you submit.

Capitalization: Be judicious in using capitals. Do not capitalize words such as colonial, republic (unless it is included in the name of a country), audiencia, viceroy, bishopric. However, capitalize "church" when referring to the Roman Catholic Church.

Non-English words (first use): Italicize words or phrases not generally familiar to an academic audience in your field, and only the first time they occur in an article. After each such word or phrase, insert a translation in parentheses, not italicized. Example: *malabarista*(juggler).

Numbers: Spell out numbers under 11. For numbers 11 and above, use figures. Spell out centuries: nineteenth century.

Endnotes

Endnote instructions: Submit articles with endnotes, not footnotes. Do not use in-text citation formats or include a bibliography. See selected endnote examples.

- Follow the *Chicago Manual of Style* endnote citation format with full information in the first note and short titles thereafter. See the endnote examples that follow this list.
- Do not place endnote markers in mid-sentence. Use no more than one marker per sentence.
- If an endnote cites more than one publication, use a semicolon to separate each citation.
- Omit "p." and "pp." before page numbers. See the endnote examples below.
- Do not use "Ibid." Instead, use a full title for the first citation of a work, and a short title for following citations. See the endnote examples that follow.
- If there are several references in succession to the same work, consider combining several citations under one numbered endnote.
- Write out the full name of each month: October, not Oct. Use month/dd/yyyy or month/yyyy format for publication dates: January 22, 2012; May 2009.
- Archival sources: Maintain consistency when citing primary or archival sources, and provide sufficient detail to guide readers to the item.

Selected endnote examples

The following list is a very basic guide. For publication types not listed here, consult the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th edition (2010). You may also find this condensed version

helpful: https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html (opens in a new tab).

Book

Author, *Title: Subtitle* (Place of publication: Publisher, Date), page numbers.

Peter Winn, *The Changing Face of the Americas* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999), 150.

Short form (Subsequent citation of a book already documented)

Author Last Name, *Shortened Title*, page numbers.

Winn, *Changing Face*, 12–14.

Article

Author, "Title of Article," *Journal Title* volume:number (month year), page numbers.

Jeffrey M. Pilcher, "Tamales or Timbales: Cuisine and the Negotiation of Mexican National Identity, 1821–1911," *The Americas* 53:2 (October 1995), 193–216.

Short form (Subsequent citation of an article already documented)

Author Last Name, "Shortened Title," page numbers.

Pilcher, "Tamales," 195.

Primary Source/Archived Material

Author name, title of material, date of material, name of archive or collection, details for locating material within the archive (specifics such as book/volume, folio, etc., that will direct reader to location of material).

Joseph Antonio Mendoza, *Relación de Marqués de Villagarcía*, Biblioteca Nacional de España [hereafter BNE], Mss. 3108, f. 22r.

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For more information on journal policies:

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/americas/information/journal-policies>

Additional Considerations:

Subheads/Subheadings: Please insert several subheads/subheadings to guide the reader, highlight main points in your discussion, and divide text on page for greater reader accessibility. Typically, articles average one subhead every 3-5 manuscript pages.

Archival Sources: At first citation of an item, please insert item title or brief description and date of item, followed by archival location. Sequence is generally as follows:

Title/description, date, archive name, location within archive.

Dates: Please use MM/DD/YYYY format for all dates, other than those appearing in publication titles or direct quotations.

Suggested Style Guide Language conventions:

- *Indigenous/indigenous* and *Black/black*: author's choice, as long as consistent.
- *Enslaved/enslavement/enslaver* is preferred