

“Brosseder combines insights from history, anthropology, and art history (how depictions of saints, of confession, of hell, changed over time) to create a compelling narrative that is as powerful as it is surprising. . . . Very few books attempt to do what the author has done here, that is, establish what were the parameters of the discussion between European and native perceptions and how they influenced one another.”

—Tamar Herzog, Monroe Gutman Professor of Latin American Affairs, Harvard University, author of *Defining Nations: Immigrants and Citizens in Early Modern Spain and Spanish America* and *Upholding Justice: State, Law, and the Penal System in Quito*, and coeditor of *Polycentric Monarchies: How Did Early Modern Spain and Portugal Achieve and Maintain a Global Hegemony?*

“Claudia Brosseder is an important new voice in South American studies. Her tour de force, THE POWER OF HUACAS, explores the interactions between Andean shamans and Jesuit priests in colonial Peru through the lens of the evolving European concepts of ‘witchcraft.’ . . . Brosseder’s new understanding of colonial Andean religion is convincing, innovative, and thoroughly researched.”

—Sabine Hyland, Associate Professor of Anthropology, St. Norbert College, and author of *Gods of the Andes: An Early Jesuit Account of Inca Religion and Andean Christianity*, *The Quito Manuscript: An Inca History Preserved by Fernando de Montesinos*, and *The Jesuit and the Incas: The Extraordinary Life of Padre Blas Valera, S.J.*

The role of the religious specialist in Andean cultures of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries was a complicated one, balanced between local traditions and the culture of the Spanish. In *The Power of Huacas*, Claudia Brosseder reconstructs the dynamic interaction between religious specialists and the colonial world that unfolded around them, considering how the discourse about religion shifted on both sides of the Spanish and Andean relationship in complex and unexpected ways.

In *The Power of Huacas*, Brosseder examines evidence of transcultural exchange through religious history, anthropology, and cultural studies. Taking Andean religious specialists—or *hechizeros* (sorcerers) in colonial Spanish terminology—as a starting point, she considers the different ways in which Andeans and Spaniards thought about key cultural and religious concepts. Unlike previous studies, this important book fully outlines both sides of the colonial relationship; Brosseder uses extensive archival research in Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Spain, Italy, and the United States, as well as careful analysis of archaeological and art historical objects, to present the Andean religious worldview of the period on equal footing with that of the Spanish. Throughout the colonial period, she argues, Andean religious specialists retained their own unique logic, which encompassed specific ideas about holiness, nature, sickness, and social harmony. *The Power of Huacas* deepens our understanding of the complexities of assimilation, showing that, within the maelstrom of transcultural exchange in the Spanish Americas, European paradigms ultimately changed more than Andean ones.

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