

# THE CARINGA PEOPLE OF PUEBLO VIEJO-PUCARA, PERU

Reconstructing their funerary behaviour, diet and health from a bioarchaeological approach

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According to ethnohistorical sources, cultural material and architectural features, the *Caringa* people from Huarochirí were forced to migrate from the highlands to the Pacific Coast during the Inca Empire (Late Horizon ca.1470-1533 AD) as labour colonists <mitimaes>, and settled in Pueblo Viejo-Pucará. As *mitimaes* they tended to herds of camelids and militarily controlled the valley [1].



## Research

This project focuses on one part of the settlement called Sector V; its goal is to investigate from a bioarchaeological approach the following issues:

- 1) Funerary behaviour and ritual
- 2) Reorientation of diet and nutrition
- 3) Skeletal and oral health
- 4) Migration within the condition of “mitimaes”.

## Hypotheses

- 1) A new environmental adaptation within the Pacific coast zone demanded a reorientation of their diet. (a) There was an increase of marine-food consumption, and consequently (b) the caries prevalence should be low.
- 2) Their duty as *mitimaes* demanded a special care of the camelids. How predominant was this meat-resource within their diet? The stable isotopic evidence should show values indicating a rich-protein diet.
- 3) From the highlands to the Pacific coast; How do chemical analyses contribute to the understanding of the migration process?
- 4) Funerary Behavior; To what extent does the decomposition process of human remains contribute to the understanding of funerary ritual?

## Methodology

By examining skeletons and dentition from the archaeological context, a wide range of disease indicators and dental conditions, in conjunction with chemical analyses of teeth and bone samples, human diet and nutrition, and skeletal and oral health will be assessed.

The migration process will be traced and evaluated within the social condition of *mitimaes* by examining non-metric dental traits together with chemical analyses of bone samples.

By applying the strategies proposed by Duda and Courtaud [2], focused on the exhumation of comingled human remains.

## Fieldwork recording and preliminary results



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- (1) Makowski, K. (2002); Makowski and Centeno (2004)
- (2) Duda, H: (2000)/(2005)/(2007) / Courtaud, P. (1996)