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“Santiago del Cercado: An Urban Reducción”

Santiago del Cercado, a walled town constructed to house Lima’s indigenous population beginning in 1568, was an anomaly and a model. Like subsequent reducciones or Indian towns, it was modeled on a Spanish notion of civility, with a grid design featuring a central plaza, church, and residential lots. Unlike these, it was surrounded by a wall, administered by the Jesuits, and simultaneously subject to indigenous and royal officials. This project utilizes litigation and notarial documentation to understand how jurisdiction, citizenship, and property were theorized within the Cercado, and how the wall came to delineate the Spanish and Indian republics of Lima, the capital of the colonial province of Peru. The research, conducted during a site visit in Lima, will be presented as a draft article at a conference in Mexico and submitted for publication in an edited volume, eventually developing into a chapter in my forthcoming book.