



Drawings by Ignacio Tirsch, State Library, University of Prague.

## "Soldiers of Baja California, 1697-1840. Social Interaction Processes in Northwestern New Spain."

Dr. Lucila del Carmen León Velazco

Wednesday, April 27, 2016 @ 12 - 1 p.m. | Zimmerman Library, Willard Room

Join the LAII and University Libraries for a presentation with Dr. Lucila del Carmen León Velazco, a Richard E. Greenleaf Visiting Library Scholar, who will discuss her current research on "Soldiers of Baja California, 1697-1840. Social Interaction Processes in Northwestern New Spain." During the eighteenth and early nineteenth century, the soldiers that settle with their families in the peninsula of Baja California, in addition to effecting their military service they performed other activities that allowed them to become exceedingly familiar with the geographical characteristics of the region. This knowledge of the physical environment allowed for multiple processes underlying social interaction between soldiers and various groups of the emerging society. The experience facilitated many soldiers to act as intermediaries in relationships with indigenous populations and as cultural mediators to facilitate the adaptation of other regional groups, such as the local authorities and missionaries, to the environment.

Dr. León is a Full Time Professor at Instituto de Investigaciones Historicas, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California. She has a M.A. in History, El Colegio de Michoacan. M.A. in History, University of California, San Diego. Ph.D. in History, Universidad Autonoma de Baja California. Lucila Leon teaches courses on Regional History, Colonial New Spain and Paleography. She research focuses on colonial and nineteenth-century Mexican history, with an emphasis on Baja California. Her thematic interests include interrelations between missionaries, soldiers and indigenous peoples during the colonial period and changes that occurred after Independence. Her current project examines the role of Spanish soldiers in the development of Baja California during the mission period and the first part of the nineteenth-century. Among her recent publications, she served as coordinator of the anthology entitled Territorio, sociedad y frontera. Estudios históricos sobre Baja California. She is co-author of the book Historia y Geografía de Baja California (History and Geography of Baja California) for third grade primary school.

The Greenleaf Visiting Library Scholar travel grant is funded by a generous gift to the Latin American and Iberian Institute from Dr. Richard E. Greenleaf. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [lail.unm.edu/events](http://lail.unm.edu/events).