

# The Transcultural Adoption of the European Concept of 'Nation' as Expression of Alterity and Strategic Complementarity in Indigenous Narrative Historiographies in Colonial Spanish Latin America (17th and 18th Centuries)

B03 (Strand "Narrating Ideas")

## Summary

In the 17th and 18th centuries, indigenous authors in Central Mexico, Yucatan, and Peru implemented the European concept of the 'nation' in their historiographic works on pre-colonial indigenous past, written in Spanish and Amerindian languages and meant for an indigenous and Spanish community.

Since similar or comparable concepts did not exist in Amerindian societies before colonisation, we seek to analyse in a comparative approach the literary background and the narrative function of this transculturally adopted idea in those reports.

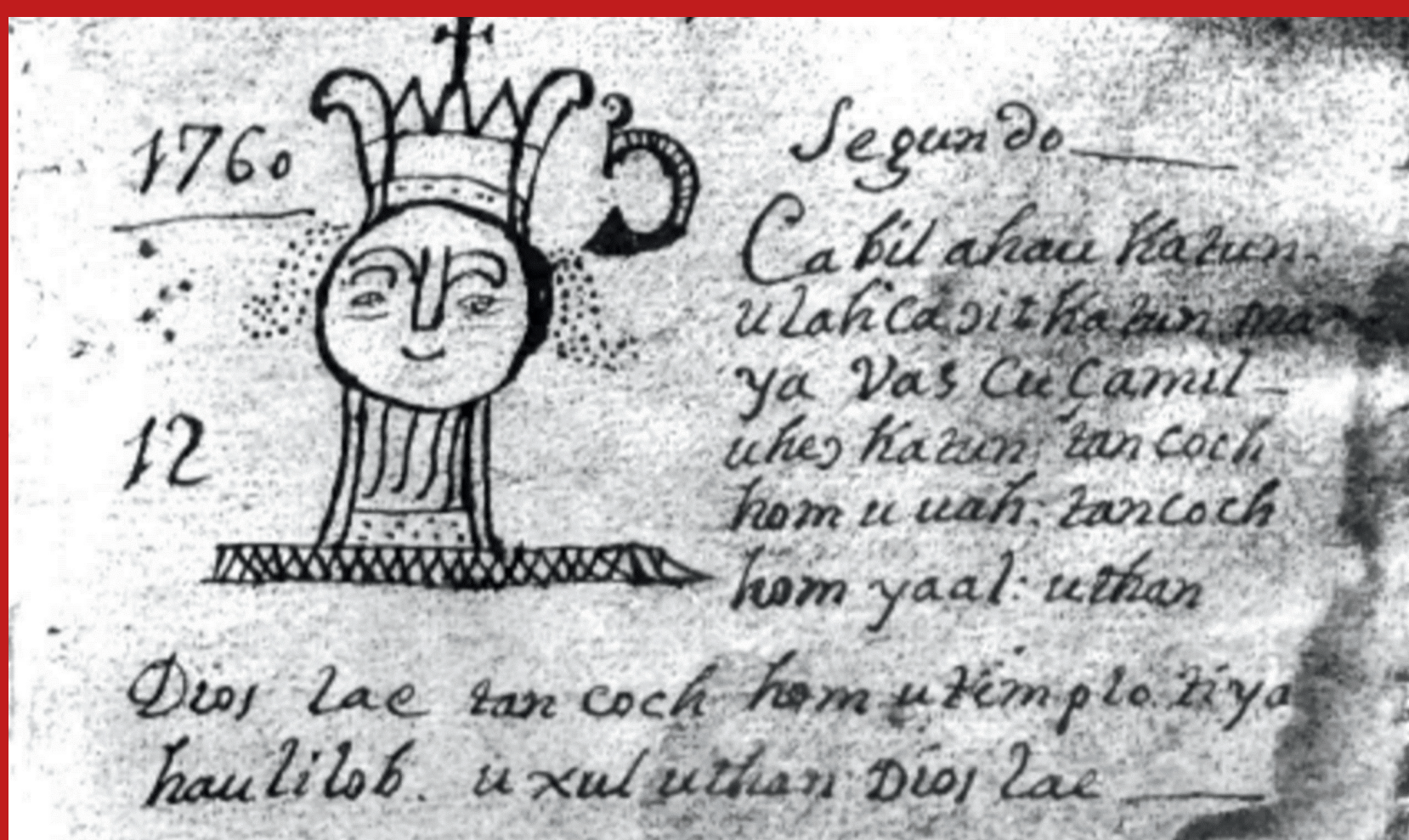
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## Corpus

- Central Mexico: *Historia de la nación chichimeca* (ca. 1650, Spanish) by Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxóchitl, *Memorial Breve acerca de la fundación de la ciudad de Culhuacan* and *Las ocho Relaciones* (Nahuatl, before 1660) by Domingo de San Antón Muñón Chimalpahin Quauhtlehuanitzin;
- Yucatan: *Chilam Balam of Chumayel* (final revision ca. 1782, Yucatec Maya) by Juan Josef Hoil;
- Peru: *Nueva corónica y buen gobierno* (1615, Spanish with Quechua-texts) by Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala.



*Chilam Balam of Chumayel, excerpt page 54r: author's description and drawing of a K'atun-Prophecy for the time frame of 1760 to 1780. Source: Facsimile-Edition by G. B. Gordon (1913, The Museum, University of Pennsylvania).*

## Objectives

B03 focuses on indigenous authors and their literary contribution to the understanding and legacy of indigenous communities under colonial rules. In particular, we

- identify, how indigenous authors translated the idea of the 'nation' into autochthonous wordings and imaginaries
- reconstruct the associated narrative strategies
- connect the emerging innovative narrative rationalities with theoretical concepts of transcultural exchange.

## Work Packages

(1) Depiction of 'nation' in Spanish colonial documents

(2) Critical reading of corpus in combination with digital processing (Methods Lab), enabling digital research for indigenous texts

(3) Analysis of wordings, imaginaries, narrative contexts and structures, genre-specific characteristics

Central to the project is the continuous exchange with indigenous historians and linguists (guest researchers).