

Mexico's Steam Connections Across the Pacific (1867-1910)

Authors : Ruth Mandujano Lopez

Abstract : During the second half of the 19th century, in the transition from sail to steam navigation, the transpacific space underwent major transformation. This paper examines the role that the steamship companies between Mexico, the rest of North America and Asia played in that process. Based on primary sources found in Mexico, California, London and Hong Kong, it argues that these companies actively participated in the redefining of the Pacific space as they opened new routes, transported thousands of people and had an impact on regional geopolitics. In order to prove this, the text will present the cases of a handful of companies that emerged between 1867 and 1910 and of some of their passengers. By looking at the way the Mexican ports incorporated to the transpacific steam maritime network, this work contributes to have a better understanding of the role that Latin American ports have played in the formation of a global order. From a theoretical point of view, it proposes the conceptualization of space in the form of transnational networks as a point of departure to conceive a history that is truly global.

Keywords : mexico, steamships, transpacific, maritime companies

Conference Title : ICLACS 2025 : International Conference on Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Conference Location : Sydney, Australia

Conference Dates : March 29-30, 2025