

# Pan-American Ceramics Project / Proyecto Cerámica Panamericana: A digital tool for synthetic research, inclusivity, and educational outreach

Andrea Torvinen (ASU), Andrea Berlin (BU), and Kostalena Michelaki (ASU)

## The Pan-American Ceramics Project (PACP) seeks to:

- Design a sustainable, ever-growing, interactive, and accessible web-based application** that will act as a digital resource of comprehensive archaeological ceramic data from across the Americas, beginning with the appearance of pottery in the Archaic Period through the present, **to foster synthetic research across communities, borders, and specialties**
- Develop an iterative, inclusive, and equitable process** by which the PACP web application will grow through the years **to help undo the colonial roots of exploration and excavation throughout the Americas** (Crellin et al. 2021; Hoffman 2020)

The PACP will **generate, facilitate, and galvanize research and curation of data among a growing, inclusive, and collaborative network** of archaeologists, indigenous and descendent stakeholders, curators, materials scientists, art historians, ceramic artists, practicing potters, educators, and students, across international borders via an **open-access, expandable repository for data on pottery from Canada to Argentina**. The availability of good-quality, searchable, pottery-related data across the vast area of the Americas during the last 7500 years will allow the exploration of “grand challenges” beyond those identified in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century (Kintigh et al. 2014a).

We seek to **build a dynamic structure alongside and with the input of a wide community and to create a transformative resource for pottery in the Americas**. Our iterative design process involves direct consultation with and active participation from diverse communities whose conceptualization of pottery differs greatly. The continued involvement of minoritized community members will help us create an equitable and inclusive resources of archaeological data that accommodate the voices of multiple stakeholders and the stories they want to tell (Colwell-Chanthaphohn and Ferguson 2007).

## What makes the PACP worth it?

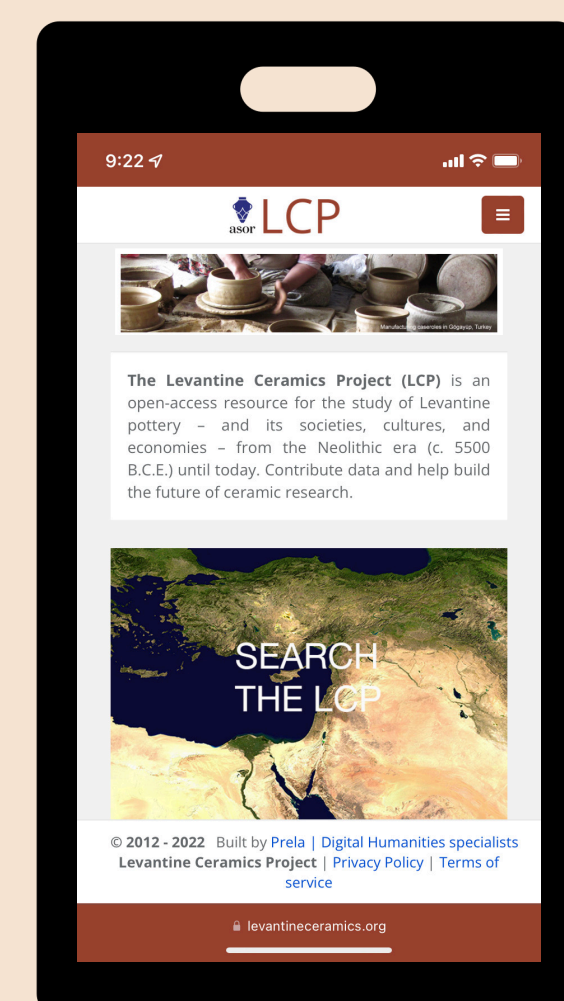
Digital pottery collections and reference sites already exist in the Americas. However, all are web-based encyclopedias (closed sets) that cannot accommodate new scholarship or new scholars. Their static nature reifies the state of the field at the time they were conceived, making them repositories of an ever-receding state of knowledge.

The PACP will be a portal for accurate information that **anyone can access** (assuming proper safeguards for people and/or tangible and intangible heritage (Carroll et al. 2020; 2021)), **and to which anyone can submit information** relevant to pottery, its context, manufacture, use, movements, and discard, including photos, videos, drawings, maps, descriptions of wares, types, forms, pastes, and techniques.

**All PACP entries will be digital citations linked to their contributor(s)** and those **entries can be edited and expanded** as knowledge changes over time. In essence, the PACP will act as a resource for individuals and groups to submit, compare, refine, and modify data.

## Are you feeling skeptical?

This model of long-term community building and iterative app development has been quite successful for our sister site, the Levantine Ceramics Project. If you don't believe us, then check it out at [levantineceramics.org](http://levantineceramics.org)!



### Basic Features of PACP web app

- PACP URL: [panamericanceramics.org](http://panamericanceramics.org)
- All users and contributors must register = DOI citation
- Text-based search for any category of data
- Browse within a category by filtering for specific attributes
- Bulk upload tools are available for some data categories
- Map display will be a later feature

FILL OUT OUR CONTACT FORM TO GET INVOLVED!



HYPERLINK TO SITE PAGE

CITATION GENERATOR

HYPERLINKS TO RESPECTIVE PAGES

WARE AND TYPE FREQUENCIES WILL ALLOW FOR MULTI-SITE OR REGIONAL DATA INTEGRATION

Example of a PACP site display page.

Contributor: Andrea Torvinen  
Submitted by: Andrea Torvinen  
Privacy: Publicly Available  
Vessel Info  
Description  
Thin Sections  
Display on Map  
Vessel Images  
Petrographic Sample Info  
Associated Petro-Fabric  
Associated Ware  
Associated Type  
Associated Kiln  
Bibliography  
Discussion

Site: La Quemada  
Home / Sites / La Quemada

Get Citation

Site Information  
Site Name: La Quemada  
Country/Region: Mexico/West Mexico  
Alternate Names: none  
Coordinates: 22.4569, -102.8214  
Periods attested by vessels on the PACP: Epiclassic, Malpaso Phase 1 to Phase 3

Site/Project URLs  
Site/Project URLs: <https://lqmvap.asu.edu>  
<https://core.tdar.org/project/11/malpaso-valley-la-quemada-project>

Related Illustrations (e.g., group shots, clay deposits, kiln images, etc.)  
LQ RMS 1 Clay deposit Rio Malpaso  
LQ RMS 2 Clay deposit Rio Malpaso  
LQ RMS 3 Temper Ignimbrites  
Pseudo-cloisonné Group Shot Type

Local Geology  
La Quemada is located in the Malpaso Valley of Zacatecas, Mexico, which lies within the Sierra Madre Occidental (SMO) geologic province, a transition zone of north-south trending valleys formed by horst-and-graben topography along the edge of the central Mexican plateau as it flattens toward the Pacific Coast. The SMO ...

Associated Ware  
Ware Name: West Mexico Red-on-buff Ware, West Mexico Incised-engraved Ware, West Mexico Resist Polychrome Ware, West Mexico Pseudo-cloisonné Ware  
Date: 500-1000 CE  
Period: Classic-Epiclassic  
Count: 4335, 2304, 1092, 217

Associated Type  
Type Name: Soyate Red-on-buff, Huizache Incised-engraved, Tepozan Resist Polychrome, Pseudo-cloisonné  
Date: 600-800 CE  
Period: Epiclassic  
Count: 4335, 421, 757, 217

Associated Petro-Fabric  
Malpaso Volcanic Glass Fabric, Malpaso Rounded Pumice Fabric, Malpaso Altered Sand in Fine-Grained Matrix Fabric

Associated Kiln/Workshop  
None

Bibliography  
Torvinen, Andrea (2018) *Social Identification and the Capacity for Collective Action at La Quemada, Zacatecas, Mexico (600-800 CE)*. PhD dissertation, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University.

Example of a PACP vessel display page.

Contributor: Andrea Torvinen  
Submitted by: Andrea Torvinen  
Privacy: Publicly Available  
Vessel Info  
Description  
Thin Sections  
Display on Map  
Vessel Images  
Petrographic Sample Info  
Associated Petro-Fabric  
Associated Ware  
Associated Type  
Associated Kiln  
Bibliography  
Discussion

Vessel: La Quemada V-112  
Home / Vessels / La Quemada V-112

Get Citation

Context Information  
Site Name: La Quemada  
Country/Region: Mexico/West Mexico  
Date: 600-800 CE  
Site Type: Ceremonial center  
Period: Epiclassic  
Context: Trash midden 11

Vessel Details  
Shape: Plato  
Forming technique: Coiling  
Secondary finish: Smoothing, Polishing  
Functional category: Serving, Ceremonial  
Primary finish: Scraping  
Decorative treatment: Resist painting

Vessel Images  
La Quemada V-112 Plato Epiclassic  
La Quemada V-112 Plato Epiclassic  
La Quemada V-112 Plato Epiclassic

Break Photos  
La Quemada V-201 Plato Epiclassic  
La Quemada V-201 Plato Epiclassic

Thin Section Photos  
La Quemada PP 203 Plato Epiclassic  
La Quemada PP 203 Plato Epiclassic  
La Quemada PP 2-3 Plato Epiclassic  
La Quemada PP 203 Plato Epiclassic

Associated Ware  
West Mexico Resist Polychrome Ware  
Date: 650-800 CE  
Period: Epiclassic

Associated Type  
Tepozan Resist Polychrome  
Date: 650-800 CE  
Period: Epiclassic

Associated Petro-Fabric  
Malpaso Volcanic Glass Fabric

Associated Kiln/Workshop  
None

Bibliography  
Torvinen, Andrea (2018) *Social Identification and the Capacity for Collective Action at La Quemada, Zacatecas, Mexico (600-800 CE)*. PhD dissertation, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University.

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