

D9 Exchange Relationships and Collective Use of Resources in Culturally Heterogeneous Areas: Latin American Frontiers, 1880 to 1910

Research Questions

1. Is trust more effective than control in regulating collective issues?
2. What kinds of (competing) reciprocal norms can we observe in the documented interactions, and what mechanisms of adoption and resistance emerge?
3. How do reciprocal relationships and trust constellations affect each other?
4. How do (realistic or unrealistic) expectations toward institutions or their representatives consolidate, and how does this contribute to a generalization of trust?
5. What consequences resulted from the power asymmetries of interethnic relationships introduced through bargaining processes?

Project Team



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Principal Investigator



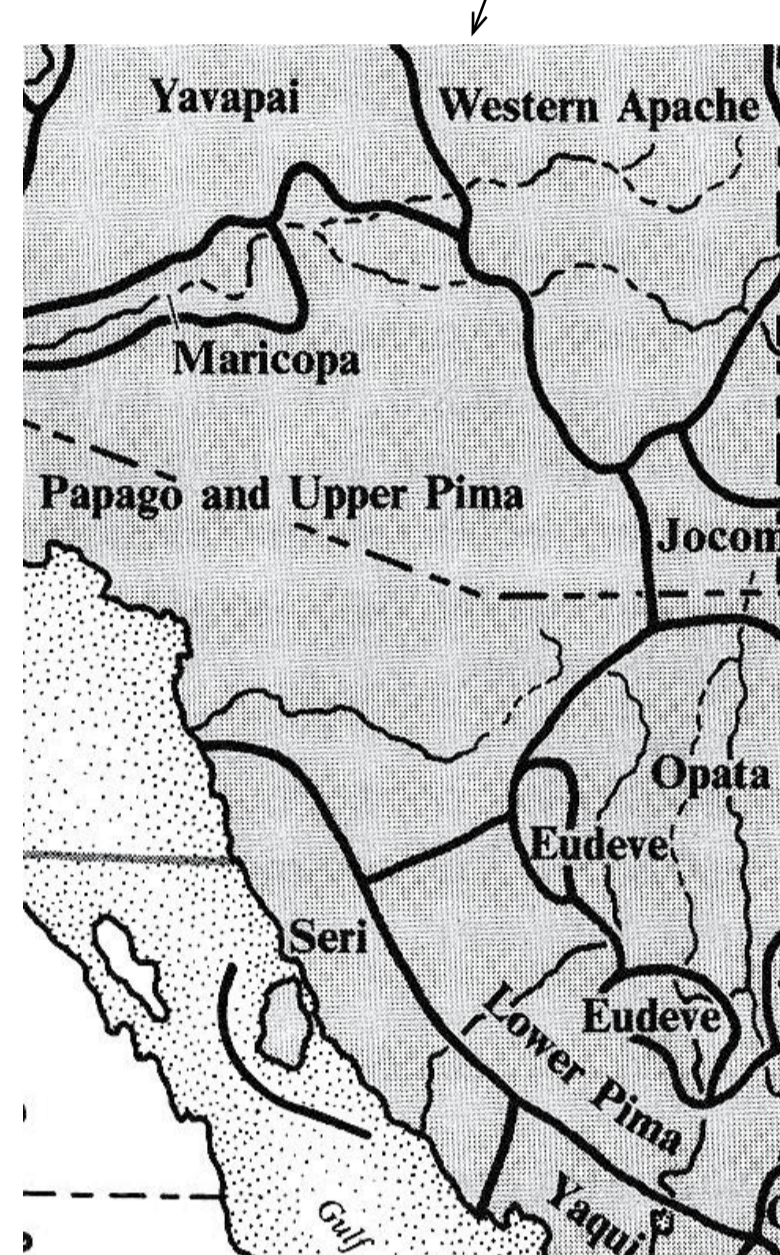
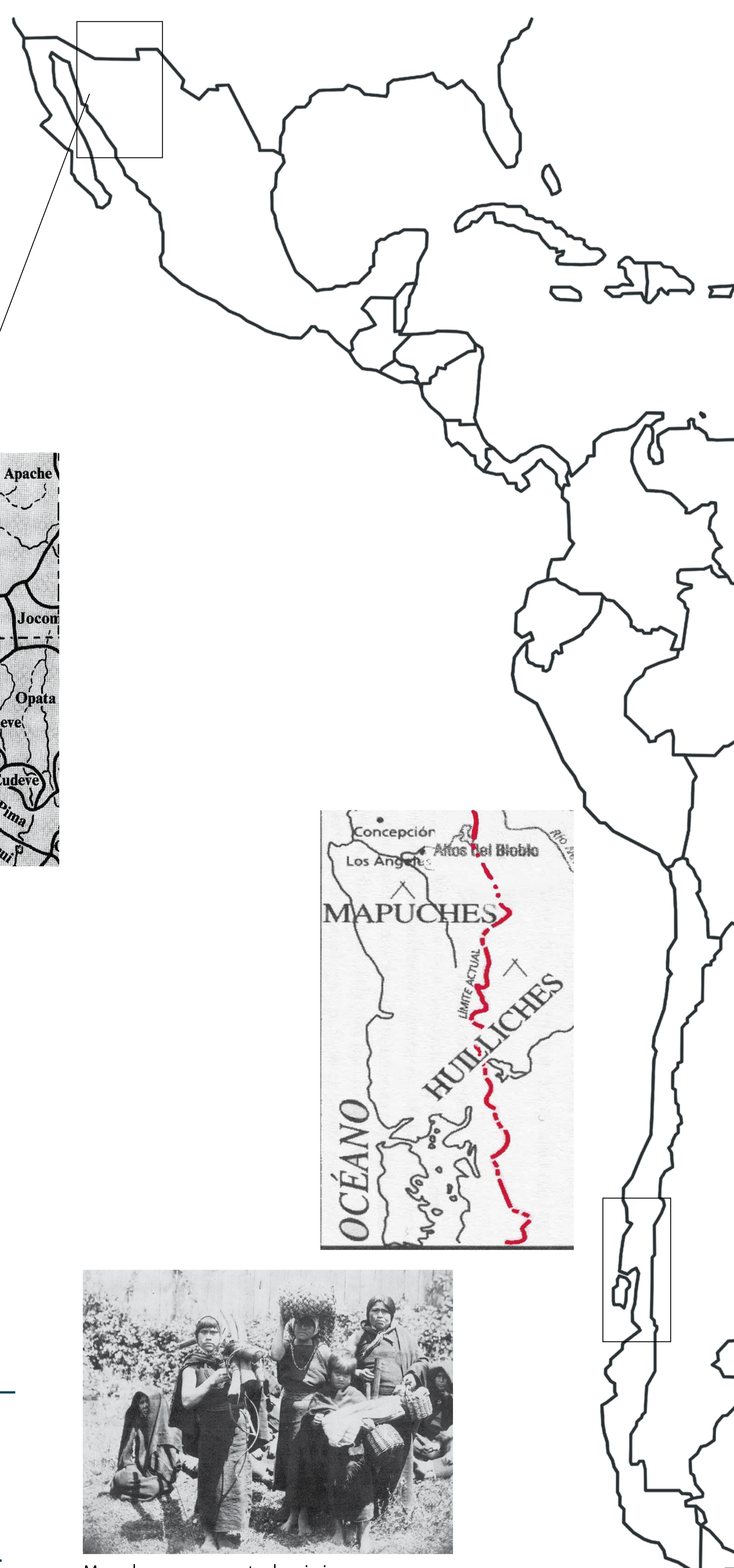
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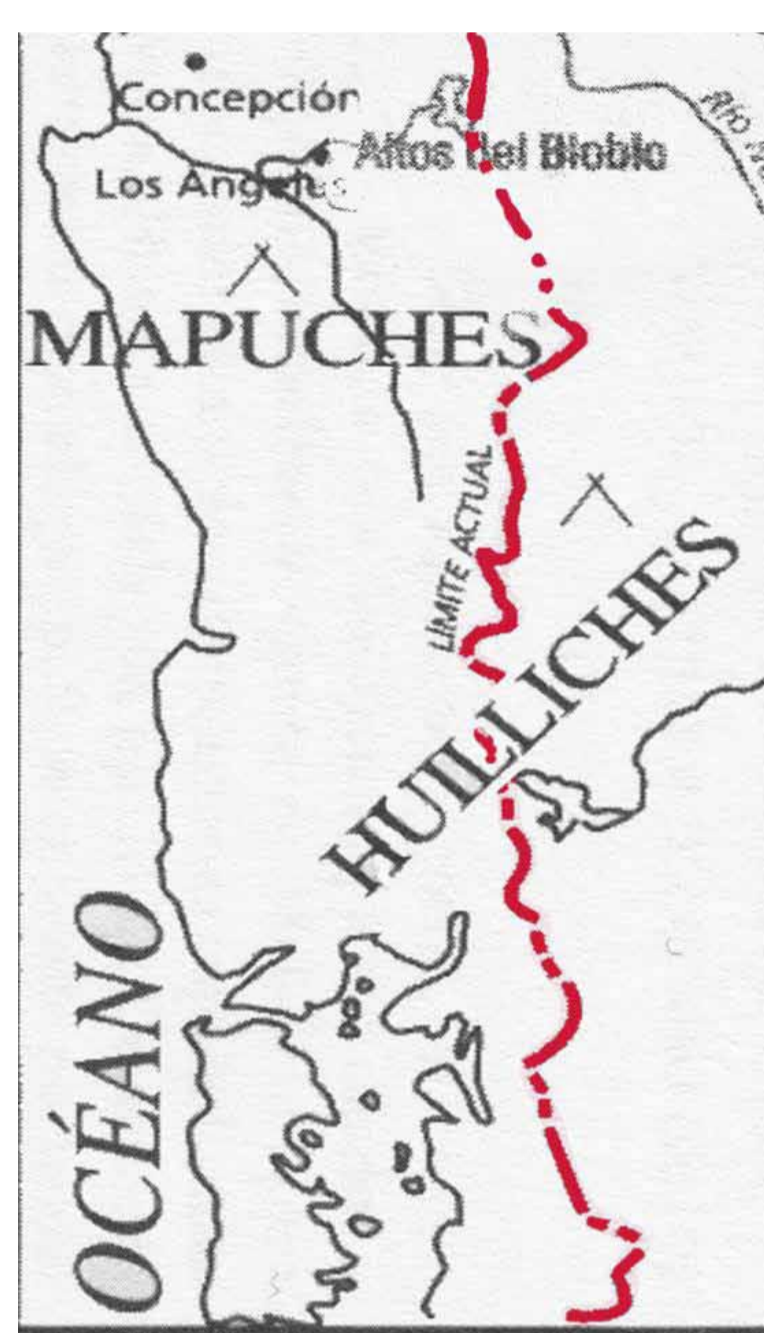
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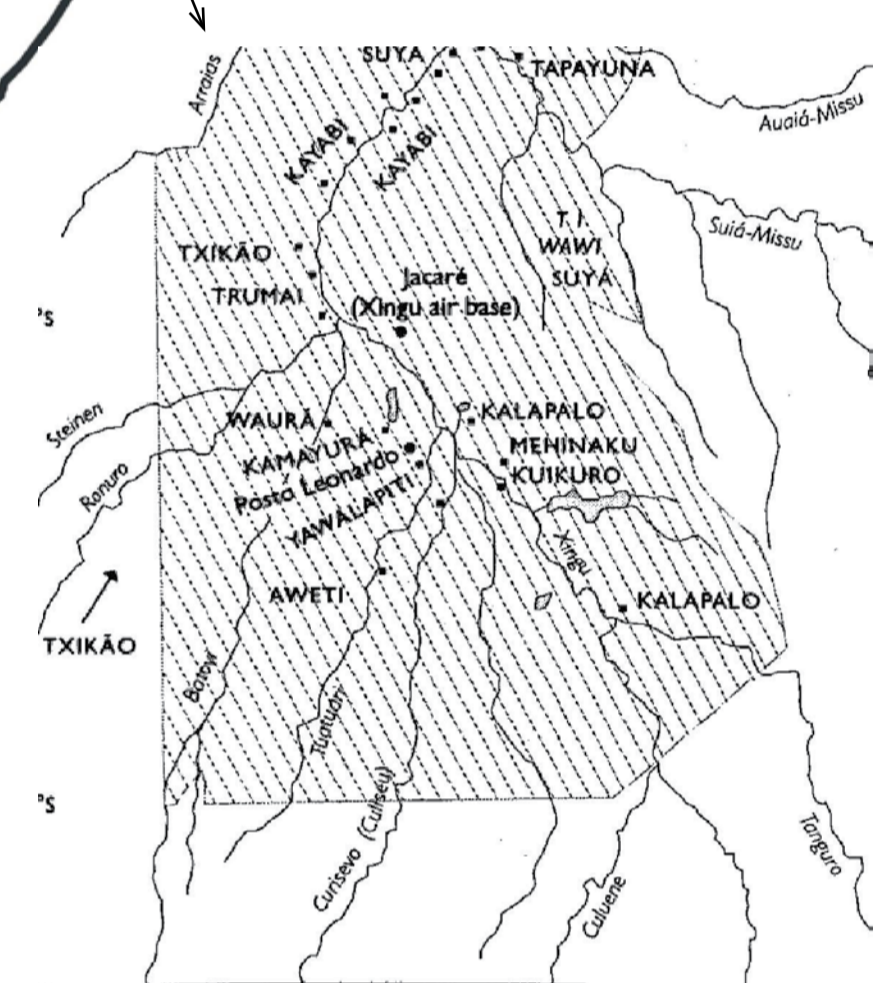
The D9 project conducts a comparative study of exchange relationships and collective use of resources in the areas of Sonora (Mexico), Araukania (Chile), and the Upper Xingú (Brazil), where ruling elites attempted to economically integrate indigenous groups at the turn of the 20th Century. We examine the reciprocal and trust-based governance mechanisms of state, private, and indigenous actors; the adoption or repression of indigenous knowledge; and the consequences of the governance forms applied, in terms of their environmental and social viability.



Comcaac men on a trade mission



Mapuche women on a trade mission



Exchange of "gifts" with the Kuikuro

Contribution to the SFB 700

This project assumes an interdisciplinary function for the historical projects of the SFB 700. Working with project A1 Risse, D9 condenses the research findings into a theoretical discussion of personalized and generalized trust as conditions for successful governance, examining these two concepts' relationship to each other as well as to governance in areas of limited statehood in general.

DFG Collaborative Research Center (SFB) 700

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