



Valuing World Cultures/American Experience

Javier Iñáñez recently completed his postdoctoral fellowship at MCI working with **Jeff Speakman**. A 2007 graduate of the University of Barcelona, Javier was awarded a SI postdoctoral fellowship in August 2007 and subsequently a prestigious 3-year Marie Curie Outgoing Fellowship from the European Union that allowed him to continue his research at MCI for an additional 2 years (with a 3rd year to be completed in Barcelona.) While at MCI, Javier worked on multiple projects under the umbrella theme of *Spanish Majolica in the New World* with a focus on 16th century Spanish colonial expansion. Javier used archaeological ceramics and analytical chemistry to examine Spanish interaction, influence, and the acculturation of indigenous people in the New World. Majolica pottery played a central role in his research given that it is an archaeological marker for Spanish colonial sites and because of the prestige and importance attributed to this ware.

- At MCI, Javier conducted thousands of analyses (e.g., X-ray fluorescence, neutron activation, inductively coupled plasma, and electron microscopy), in support of six case studies originating in Gran Canaria, Panama (with **STRI's Richard Cooke**), Peru (with **NMAI's Emily Kaplan**), Florida (with Florida Museum of Natural History), Jamestown (with the Jamestown Rediscovery team and **NMNH's Doug Owsley**), and Mexico City (with University of Maryland). Thus far Javier's SI-based research has resulted in 8 peer reviewed publications (with a dozen or so manuscripts submitted and/or in preparation) and more than 20 presentations at both national and international venues.
- In 2010, Javier was awarded the University of Barcelona's Jose Manuel Blecu Award for the best scholarly paper derived from a PhD dissertation. The paper, published in the journal *Archaeometry*, chemically characterized and differentiated the pottery produced in multiple Iberian Peninsula centers and demonstrated that the exportation of pottery from Spain to the Canary Islands (and by extension to the New World) was at odds with historical documentation suggesting that potters in Seville exclusively controlled this outgoing ceramic trade.
- In a more recent project, Javier collaborated with UMD researchers to generate lead isotopic data from ceramic glazes to demonstrate that Romita pottery (found in the Valley of Mexico) was produced in Mexico. The origin of the pottery has long been debated as either an indigenous (Mexican) imitation of Spanish majolica or authentic European majolica. The identification of this pottery as indigenous will prove important for researchers studying technological transfer and change in colonial situations, the adoption of European aesthetics among indigenous people, and competition between colonizers and indigenous people in the colonial market.

Selected Publications:

- Iñáñez, J.G., Jeremy J. Bellucci, Enrique Rodriguez-Alegria, R. Ash, W. McDonough, and R.J. Speakman (2010). Romita Ware Revisited: A Reassessment of the Provenience of Colonial Mexico Ceramics by LA-MC-ICP-MS and INAA. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 37(11):2698–2704.
- Iñáñez, J.G., R.J. Speakman, J. Buxeda i Garrigós, and M.D. Glascock (2009). Chemical Characterization of Tin Lead Glazed Pottery from the Iberian Peninsula and the Canary Islands: First Steps toward a Better Understanding of Colonial Pottery in the Americas. *Archaeometry* 51(4):546–567.
- Iñáñez, J.G., R.J. Speakman, J. Buxeda i Garrigós, and M.D. Glascock (2008). Chemical Characterization of Majolica from 14th–18th Century Production Centers on the Iberian Peninsula: A Preliminary Neutron Activation Study. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 35(3):425–440.

Right:
Javier Iñáñez.

Below:
PCA analysis
of sources.

Inset:
Majolica
pottery.

