In 17th-century New Mexico, colonists’ households were an important location for ethogenesis as colonists and indigenous peoples labored together. LA 20,000 is a complex Spanish ranch with extensive architecture and material culture. It clearly housed at least one extended family and probably servants of various ethnicities. While we know the economy of this ranch was based on farming, we know little about how space was divided and used. We explore the distribution of various artifacts to understand the nature of the structures and the types of activities that occurred in this multi-ethnic household.

**What is the nature of the structures? What activities were undertaken there? How do they compare?**

**Selenite**

Selenite was used for windowpanes and whitewash. We expect selenite to be associated primarily with domestic structures.

**Evidence of cooking – distribution of comales (cooking griddles)**

In the 17th century, glass was rare because it was imported, and we expect it to be associated with domestic activities.

**Evidence of food consumption – location of imported majolica ceramics**

The distribution of comales suggests that food may be being prepared in both structures, but the majority of majolicas were recovered from Unit A, suggesting elite or more public consumption.

**Metals**

Metals, also imported, are distributed throughout Unit A, but there are concentrations in Unit B. Lithics are fairly widely distributed in Unit A, less so in Unit B. To the extent that metal and lithics illustrate Spanish and indigenous peoples’ activities, respectively, there are a mix of people laboring in both structures.

**Spindle whorls**

Spindle whorls provide an indication of textile production, one of the most important commodities.

**Conclusions:** The house (Unit A, E) is clearly evident in the distribution of selenite (used for windows and whitewash), glass, and majolica ceramics used for high status food consumption. Textile production, probably by women, also seems primarily related to the house. Unit B, identified previously as a barn because of its proximity to the corral and layer of manure, has some properties that suggest domestic activities such as food preparation were undertaken there. This may indicate that servants or laborers were housed in Unit B along with livestock, a practice that is common in colonial or plantation contexts. This possible blending of domestic and specialized activities in Unit B, as well as the blending of indigenous and Spanish tool technologies throughout both structures point to the complexity of the relationships between colonizers and indigenous peoples in early colonial New Mexico.