

**Con Sus Calzones Al Réves,
With his Underpants on Inside Out:
Cultural Economy and Patriarchy in Pablo
de la Guerra's Letters to
Josefa Moreno de la Guerra, 1851-1872**

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ABSTRACT

"I don't have any underpants other than those I am wearing and they are so filthy they disgust me, but I wash them to keep myself from being bare. I send you all the thick linen I could find and expect that on the next stage-coach you send at least one pair so I can change, don't forget this."

When he wrote the passage above to his wife, Josefa Moreno, Pablo de la Guerra probably did not expect that more than a century later historians would be mulling over the more personal and earthly realities of his much celebrated public life. A politician whose career spanned the Mexican and Euroamerican periods of Alta California, he is the subject of a number of articles and one dissertation. Most of these studies deal with his civic contributions and those of the de la Guerra family. Indeed, de la Guerra's family letters to Josefa Moreno de la Guerra provide a rare window through which one can explore the microcosm of family, gender, and generational relations within the context of political, economic, and cultural turbulence, which followed the American conquest and annexation of California. Because of his role as a statesman, Pablo was an absentee husband, father, and businessman who heavily relied on Josefa in order to complete his socially constructed and expected duties as a patriarch.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gabriel Gutiérrez was born and raised in the Boyle Heights section of Los Angeles, Calif. After graduating from Cathedral High School, he Completed his BA (Chicano/a Studies and Political Science), MA(Latin American and U.S. History), and Ph.D. (Chicano/a History) degrees at UCSB. He is currently an assistant Professor in the Department of Chicano/a Studies at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. His research projects are in the Areas of Chicano/a history, 19th California history, Intellectual history, Chicano(a)/Latino(a) youth studies, and critical race theory.