Some possible topics for research posters

A brief (one or two sentences) description of your poster topic is due next Tuesday, March 14. It is OK to submit a fairly general topic that you plan to narrow down in the next week or two. However, the more specific you can be now, the less time you will spend exploring tangents.

Below are some suggestions that might point in directions that interest you. Some have multiple parts, any one of which could be enough for a good poster. There are countless other topics you could choose. Flip ahead in the textbook and/or the Reader, or consult the book's index and bibliography for ideas and background on the stuff we have not touched on yet. The class website has a link to a large index of Andean archaeology websites that might offer some inspiration. For many of these, you would do some reading on the general subject and then pick a particular theory, debate, interesting case, theme, etc. to present in your poster.

- 1. Controversial evidence for very early people at Pedra Furada, Brasil
- 2. Controversial evidence of people at Monte Verde over 30,000 years ago
- 3. Early inhabitants ways of life, debates, recent discoveries, interpretations of lithic points and other stone tools, interpretations of burials, etc.
- 4. Chinchorro mummies types, interpretations, etc.
- 5. Late Preceramic or Initial period ceremonial centers possible functions, architectural interpretations, labor estimates, evidence of surrounding populations, associated burials and their interpretations, artifacts found in apparently ritual areas and what they might mean, etc.
- 6. The Nazca lines possible functions, possible meanings and orientations, how they were laid out and made, labor estimates, ethnographic analogies, etc.
- 7. Art or iconography of _______ (Initial Period Casma valley; Chavín, Nazca, Moche, Wari, Tiwanaku, Chimu, Inka, etc.) interpretations, meanings, relationship to certain media (ie. do Chimu textiles and metals differ in iconography, and why?), comparisons (in what ways are Wari and Tiwanaku iconography similar and different, and what might that tell us?), connections to other cultures or regions (jungle imagery in Chavín iconography, and what that might mean; traces of Wari ideas in Inka iconography), etc.
- 8. The site of _____ (Cuzco, Machu Picchu, Moche/Cerro Blanco, Sipán, Cuelap, Huari, Tiwanaku, Pukara, Cahuachi, etc.) important features that tell us about the society there, recent work, debates about, functions, population estimates, etc.
- 9. How does Early Horizon evidence from the coast differ from that at Chavín de Huántar, and what might that mean?
- 10. What do users of San Pedro cactus as a hallucinogen say they experience, and can that be related to _____ (Chavín art, Initial period art, Moche art, etc.)?
- 11. What evidence is there to suggest the functions of the Huaca del Sol?
- 12. What was the nature of violence and warfare among the _____ (Moche, Wari, Tiwanaku, Chimu, Late Intermediate Period highland chiefdoms, Inka, at ____ specific site, etc.)? This could involve iconography, ethnohistory, fortified sites, etc.

- 13. The sunken rectangular court tradition of the Altiplano, or specifically of Chiripa, Pukara, Tiwanaku, etc. functions, surrounding populations, implications about social organization, etc.
- 14. Wari was it a state? an empire? how and why does Wari evidence differ in the northern highlands, Ayacucho area, north coast, south coast, southern highlands...?
- 15. How did Wari (or Tiwanku) sites and settlement patterns differ from Inka ones, and what might that mean about the kinds of societies they were?
- 16. Textiles of ______ (Late Preceramic, Initial Period, Early Horizon, Moche, Wari, Tiwanaku, Chimu, Inka, etc.) uses, forms, decoration, technology, interpretations, ethnohistorical information, etc.
- 17. Metalworking of _____ culture or period; _____ metalworking technology; etc.
- 18. The technology of ______ (gold working, tapestry textiles, bead making, fishing, boats, stone carving, stone architecture, canals and irrigation, etc.) dating, development over time, methods, labor requirements, role in _____ society, etc.
- 19. Chan Chan interpretations, activities, population, etc.
- 20. The role of maize (or coca, or llamas, or chicha...) in Inka society (or parallels to modern Andean society as described in ethnographies)
- 21. Correlating climate changes with prehistoric trends in the Andes
- 22. El Niño events evidence of impacts on specific cultures or sites
- 23. Inka human sacrifices on mountaintops (frozen mummies) description, interpretation, ethnohistorical background, etc.
- 24. Inka roads and bridges how were they built, how were they maintained, are there earlier (Wari, Tiwanaku, local, etc.) roads or bridges, what can we learn from a prehistoric road map, etc.
- 25. Quipus efforts to decipher them, ethnohistoric or ethnographic information, can we learn anything from the contexts in which they have been found, etc.
- 26. Inka architecture technology, design considerations (for warmth, drainage, views, defensibility, symbolic references, etc.), functions, reconstructions, how ____ site or building was built, labor estimates, etc.