

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-0-521-38745-3 — Conversations in Colombia
Stephen Gudeman , Alberto Rivera
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CONVERSATIONS IN COLOMBIA

CONVERSATIONS
IN COLOMBIA

The domestic economy in life and text

STEPHEN GUDEMAN

ALBERTO RIVERA



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
 978-0-521-38745-3 — Conversations in Colombia
 Stephen Gudeman, Alberto Rivera
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)



CAMBRIDGE
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India
 103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521387453

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 1990

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published 1990

Reprinted 1994

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data

Gudeman, Stephen.

Conversations in Colombia: the domestic economy in life and text

Stephen Gudeman, Alberto Rivera.

p. cm.

ISBN 0 521 38322 6. – ISBN 0 521 38745 0 (pbk.)

1. Indians of South America – Colombia – Economic conditions. 2. Indians of South America – Colombia – Land tenure. 3. Economic anthropology – Colombia. 4. Subsistence economy – Colombia. 5. Colombia – Economic conditions – 1970– 6. Peasantry – Colombia.

I. Rivera, Alberto. II. Title.

F2270.1.E3G83 1990

330.9861'0632'08998 – dc20 89-23945 CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-38322-6 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-38745-3 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-0-521-38745-3 — Conversations in Colombia
Stephen Gudeman , Alberto Rivera
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

*For Annabella and Amelia
Roxane, Rebecca
Elise, and Keren*

CONTENTS

	<i>List of figures and tables</i>	page ix
	<i>Acknowledgments</i>	x
I	CONVERSATIONS	1
	Conversations: here and there, now and then	
	House and corporation, core and periphery	
	Metaphors and models, the house and the corps	12
2	THE STRENGTH OF THE EARTH	18
	A contemporary conversation: the land	18
	The earth	24
	Strength and food	28
	Work	29
	Conversations: the earth, strength, and the Physiocrats	30
	Force and power	37
3	THE HOUSE	39
	A conversation: models and metaphors	40
	House connections	42
	Conversations: circuits, the house, and the corporation	48
4	THE BASE	54
	A conversation: translations and conversing communities	55
	Making the base	57
	A conversation: transforming the base	61
	Conversations: forms of capital	76
	The voice of theory in the historical conversation	72
	The base in practice	77
5	THE ADVANCE AND THE INCREASE	84
	Getting ahead	84
	Livestock	85
		vii

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
	The advance as metaphor	88
	A conversation: the advance of economists	90
6	WORK FOR THE HOUSE	98
	The faces of work	98
	A conversation: the force of labor	102
	Transactions in labor	104
	Conversations: reciprocity, exchange, and local traditions	113
7	REMAINDERS	116
	The house schema	118
	Conversation: remainders and profit	121
	Potatoes on the <i>paramo</i> : a one-sector economy	123
	Conversations: models of the remainder	131
8	THE HOUSE AND THE MARKET	139
	Rural markets	139
	A conversation: the just price	145
	Circulation and the profits of trade	149
	Conversations: terms of trade, the margin of capital, surplus, and remainder	152
9	MAKING SAVINGS	160
	Ways of being thrifty	162
	A long conversation: thrift	166
10	FROM HOUSE TO CORPS	183
	A conversation: house and corporation contrasted	184
	Conversations and communities	187
	<i>Notes</i>	192
	<i>References</i>	195
	<i>Index</i>	203

FIGURES

1	Number of holdings and plot sizes in Cumbal, 1986	21
2	Plot size and total area in Cumbal, 1986	21
3	Number of holdings and plot sizes in Samaniego, 1986	22
4	Plot size and total area in Samaniego, 1986	22
5	Number of holdings and plot sizes in Consacá, 1986	23
6	Plot size and total area in Consacá, 1986	23
7	The house schema	119
8	Potato field and harvest	126

Figures 1–6 reproduced from Planning Bureau, Gobernación, Nariño.

TABLES

1	Models for classifying holdings	74
2	Monetary purchases of a house	80–1
3	Returns on the base	82

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Grants from the Graduate School and the McMillan Fund of the University of Minnesota plus a Scholar of the College award to the first author generously supported part of the field research. A Bush Sabbatical Fellowship, also from Minnesota, provided timely assistance for the period of writing. We thank Keith Hart, Adam Kuper, and Enrique Mayer for their suggestions and comments. Portions of chapters 1 and 2 were first published in *Current Anthropology*, vol.30, no.3, © 1989 by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research.