Atomic Advertising as Atomic History (and Present and Future)



Promise of a golden future

Yellow prunium ore from the Colorado Platean

is helping to bring atomic wonders to you

Long ago, Indian brove, made their was point from the catorful sandsnows at the Colorado Plateau.

THEY MEND URANIUM. Their brilliant valleuse curve from catuaties, the important menaicum-bentring uninest. Lardy in this certificy, this are emplified collism for the famous extentivity. Mazie and Floren Luciu, and large variations for spenial allays and stocks.

Index, this Photono accelerance over parts of Colorado, Urah, New Meximo, and Arivono also our chief demastic source of urasities. How, now communities their elegaand objectors replace the burros: Geigar mainters supplied the distring and and mone? Intech.

Prom bande do at miron that are often just small tunnels in the hills, carnotte is banded to processing callly After the wandians, to extracted, the windows, resonant and in the form of "wildow-cake," to shapped to atomic energy plants.

A NEW ERA SECKONS - What there are not energy promise for your Already radinactive actops, are working won-

ners in resolution, industry, and agriculture, in atomiargy, schmitter, also see a vision of unknown point, sitseconday may hast and light your bone, and populmurines, ships, and microfit. The Indian's war pales the morels ogain toward a golden future.

UCC TAKES AN IMPORTANT PART—The people of is: Carbide locate, mane, and refine uscaling are, the a operate for the Grozenowet the large atomic meterals do at Oak Ridge, From, and Pacheak, ky, and the Ok in National Laboratory, where realibelatopes are cash-

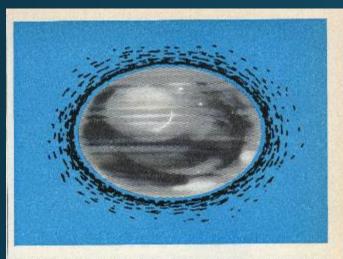
TREET For an illustrated story of the familiating water country of the Colorado Plateau, write for the box "Move Mirando" Ash for boulded B.

UNION CARBIDI

THE C's Trade-modest Printings of Alloys, Carbonic Chemicals, Gorns, and Planting archaels
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Martin Pfeiffer University of New Mexico

Outline



MATERIALS IN SPACE ENVIRONMENTS

The nature of the interactions between atemically clean surfaces is at best only poorly understood. Conditions which will magnify the effects of surface forces are present under space environments. These conductions are of major importance when one considers long from exposure of materials to ultra high vacuum, sievaled temperatures, high radicular fluxes, etc. These are the environmental conditions are can expect during the project life of a space vehicle.

Prediction of the behavior of materials in such systems hinges on a more fundamental understanding of the nature of the force, involved. One such program involved the study of the adhesive between struicely clean meter surfaces under often high vacuum. Other projects in ion of gas plating provide basic data in auxiliary fields dealing with interfaces. Sendia Corporation is a Bell System subsidiary and a prime contractor of the horizontal provided provided the provided provided provided the provided provided provided the provided p

Sendia colentiate and engineers do related work in many diversified floods including: Physical Solonces research: Mathematical and statistical studies: Electronic and mechanical decigo and development of systems and components; Environmental testing; Reliability and quality control.

Sandla Corporation recruits on many major campuless and is primarily interested in recent and current outstanding graduates in comparation organization and current outstanding graduates in comparation organization and without regard to race, or each, color or national origin, U.S. citzenzeip is, however, required, color or national origin, U.S. citzenzeip is, however, required, For current apportunities, contact the Sondia recruiter at your college or write Professional Employment Organization 3133, Ref. 569-6, Sandia Corporation, Pust Office Son 5800, Albuquerque, New Massies 37215



ALBUQUERGUE NEW MEXICO / LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA

I. Introduction

- -Who am I?
- -What are We Doing Today?
- -What are my Arguments?
- II. Jargon and Theory
- -Production and Participation in Ads
- -Indexicality
- -Imaginaries
- III. Data and Analysis
- -Gross Characterization
- -Changes Over Time
- -Imaginaries of Modernity & New Mexico
- -Sandia Justifies the Bomb
- **IV. Conclusions**
- V. Questions and Answers
- VI. Works Cited

It's a Wonderful Day for Anthropology!



Special Thanks To:

- -Melanie Laborwit.
- -Center for Regional Studies.
- -UNM Anthro Department.
- -Patrons on Patreon.

Who am 1?



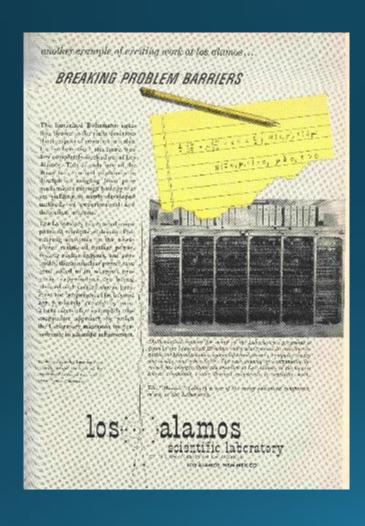
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- -Patreon: www.patreon.com/nuclearanthro
- -Email: LickTheBomb@gmail.com

My Big Question:

How—and with what results—do we make meaning about, around, and through nuclear weapons?

What are We doing Today?



Two objectives:

- 1) To contextualize, characterize, and share a fascinating archival data set: New Mexican nuclear weapon laboratory recruitment advertisements.
- 2) To convincingly show that these ads tell us worthwhile things about how we make meaning about, around, and through nuclear tech.

What Are My Arguments?



1) Thematically and graphically these ads demonstrate both stability & change over time.

This tells us things about the past, present, and future of Albuquerque, nukes, and weapons labs.

2) These ads draw on, construct, and mobilize imaginaries of New Mexico & the "American Southwest" to make meaning about nuclear weapons and recruit workers.

How we think & talk about nuclear technology shapes what we do with it (and vice versa).

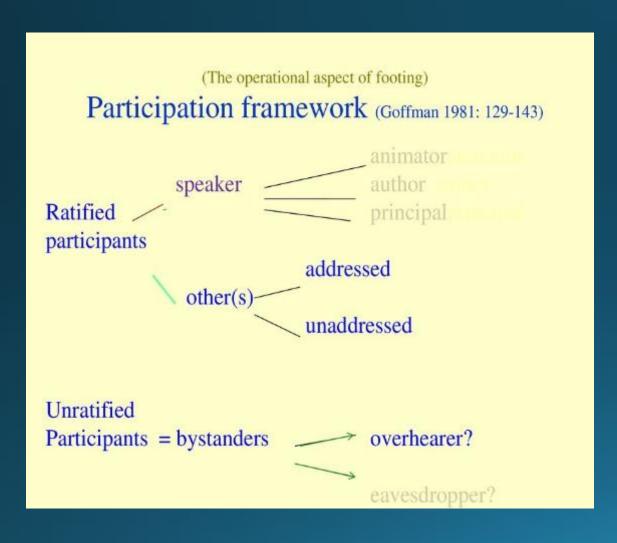
II. Jargon and Theory



II. Jargon and Theory

- 1) Participation & Production Frameworks in Advertising
- 2) Indexicality
- 3) Imaginaries

Jargon: Production and Participation Frameworks & Advertising (Goffman 1981, 1986)



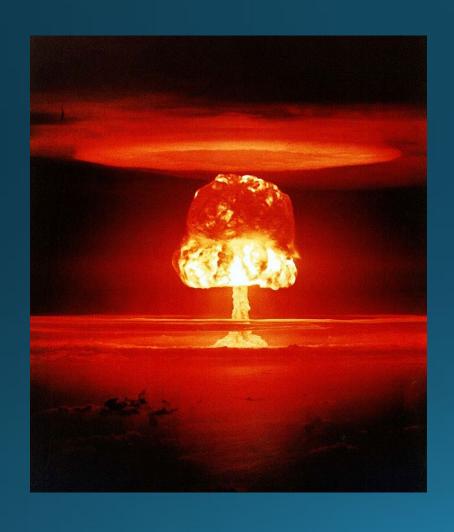
Principal: Los Alamos or Sandia.

Authors: Ward Hicks Advertising and the Labs.

Animator:
Physics Today or Scientific
American.

Audiences: It depends. How do we know?

Jargon: Indexicality



- Indexicality (Peirce 1998):

 -A sign exhibiting a pointing to relationship based on "spatiotemporal contiguity" (Parmentier 1996: 6).
- -Do "I" or "she" always mean the same person?
- -How do you know who is referenced?
- -How do you know when a commercial is directed at you?

Jargon: Sociotechnical Imaginaries



"collectively held and performed visions of desirable futures...animated by shared understandings of forms of social life & social order attainable through, & supportive of, advances in science & technology" (Jasanoff 2004; 2015: 19).

#DeusExAtomica #TechnoUtopianism

II. Data and Analysis



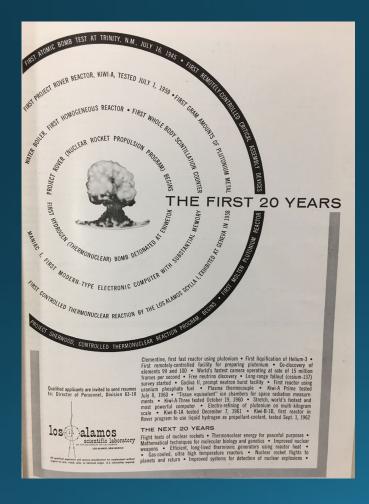
II. Data and Analysis

- 1) Gross Characterization -LASL and Sandia

 - -By the Numbers -Why Advertise Then?
- 2) Changes Over Time -Women in Lab Ads

 - -Decreased emphasis on nuke work
- 3) Imaginaries of Modernity & New Mexico
- 4) Sandia Justifies the Bomb

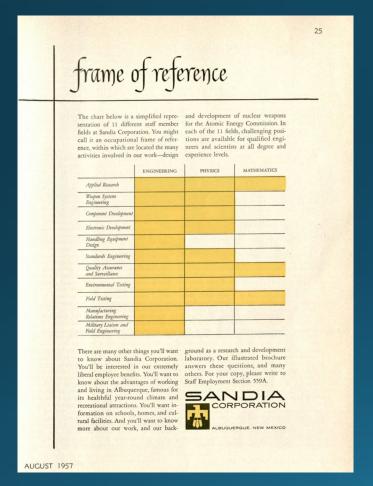
Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory (now Los Alamos National Laboratory)



Formation and Operation:

- -Site Y, 1943.
- -Nuclear weapon design lab.
- -1952 UCRL (now Lawrence Livermore National Lab) opens.
- -Managed by University of California system until 2005.

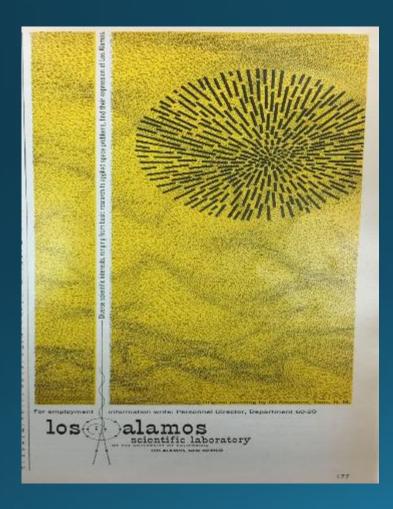
Sandia Corporation (now Sandia National Laboratories)



Formation & Operation

- -Established as offshoot of LASL in 1946.
- -Became Sandia Corporation in 1949.
- -GOCO: AT&T not UC system.
- -1956: Opened branch in CA.
- -Ordnance engineering laboratory.
- -The least studied nuclear weapon laboratory.

Gross Characterization: By TheNumbers



The Archive

What: Advertisements.

Who: Los Alamos & Sandia Corp.

Where: Scientific American &

Physics Today.

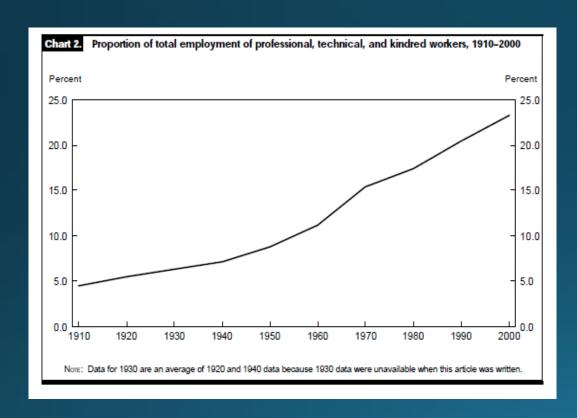
When: 1950-1964.

Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory: Approx. 100 ad types (1955-1964).

Sandia Corporation:

Approx. 35 ad types (1956-1964).

Gross Characterization: Why Start Advertising in 1955/1956?

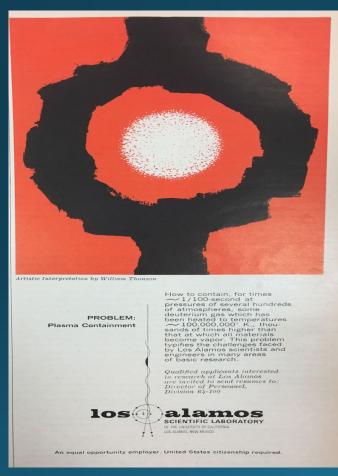


A) Sandia: Test moratorium and openness (Johnson 1997: 91).

B) RAND: Changes in US management of cost-plus defense contracting (Alchian, Arrow, & Capron 1958).

C) Common Sense: High demand and a shortage of technically trained workers (but see Wyatt & Hecker 2006: 38-39)?

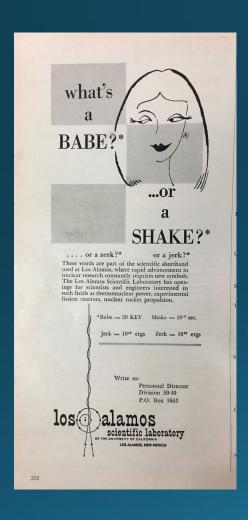
Gross Characterization: Why Advertise, Continued!



My Take:

- 1) All of the above.
- 2) Castle Bravo (maybe).
- 3) Test Moratorium:
 - -Sandia opposed.
 - -Highlight non-nuke work.
 - -Justify nuke work.
- 4) Perform an imaginary.

Changes over Time in Ads



Two Trends I will Briefly Touch On:

- 1) Increase in mention of women and gender neutral language in advertisements.
- 2) Increased emphasis on non-nuclear weapon, or nuclear weapon adjacent, work (especially for Sandia, Los Alamos started out this way).

Women in Nuclear Weapon Lab Ads



Los Alamos:

-"Los Alamos needs men and women with imagination and research ability for permanent career positions" (LASL 1956 "Year XIV")

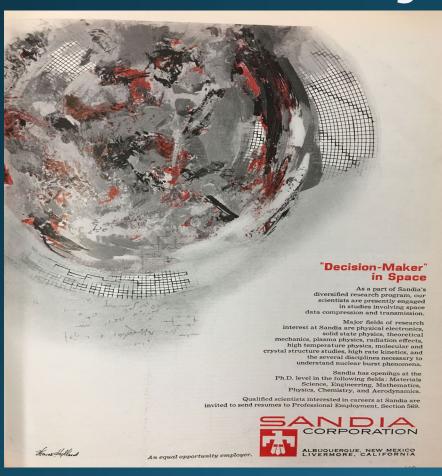
Sandia:

-As late as 1959 ads still included copy like, "We need men..." ("Beyond the Rim")

-From 1960 on, text shifted to formulations like "...vitally interested in PhD's who are seeking professional growth through full-time research" ("PhD's")

Why?

Non-Nuclear and Nuclear Adjacent Work

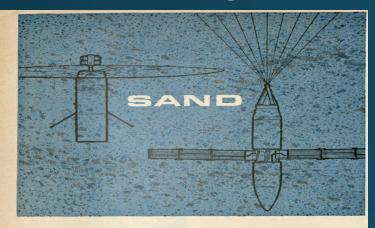


Los Alamos: "For here at world-famous Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, responsible for unleashing the terrifying power of the atom, we are now pioneering in harnessing this power for beneficial uses" (LASL 1956: "Year XIV")

Sandia: "[nuclear weapons are] still our main task, but in doing it we have learned much in the way of theory and advanced technique that has application outside the field of weaponry" (Sandia 1958 "Challenge of New Frontiers).

Why?

Non-Nuclear and Nuclear Adjacent Work: 1964



Among recent developments in upper atmosphere research at Sandia are rocket-boosted particle samplers called SAND (Sampling Aerospace Nuclear Debris). SAND will explore the regions between balloon ceilings and satellite perigees to enable radioactive debris inventories and to the sampler of the sample for recovery and laboratory analysis. Flight tests are now underway. When operational, SAND will also augment other systems in an international program of high altitude geochemical sample sample for recovery and laboratory analysis. Flight tests are now underway. When operational, SAND will also augment other systems in an international program of high altitude geochemical Sandia scientists and engineers do related work in many diversified fields including: Aerothermodynamics; Polymers, Plastics and Foams; Solid State Physics; Human Factors Engineering: Aerospace nuclear and components.

Sandia Corporation is a Bell System subsidiary and a prime contractor of the Atomic Energy Commission engaged in research, design and your would work in Albuquerque or in Livermore in the San Francisco Bay area.

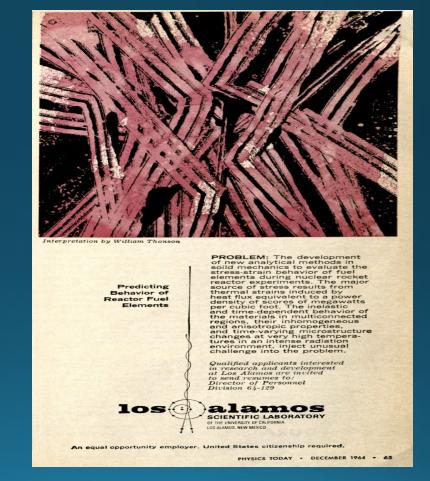
Sandia Corporation recruits on many major campuses and is primarily

Bay area.

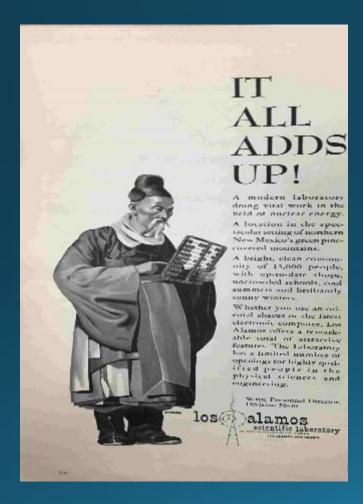
Sandia Corporation recruits on many major campuses and is primarily interested in recent and current outstanding graduates in many of the engineering and scientific disciplines at all degree levels. Consideration creed, color or national origin. U. S. citizenship is, however, required, color or national origin. U. S. citizenship is, however, required, or proportunities, contact the Sandia recruiter at your college or write Professional Employment Organization 3151, Ref. 559-6, Sandia Corporation, Post Office Box 5800, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87115.



104 . APRIL 1964 . PHYSICS TODAY

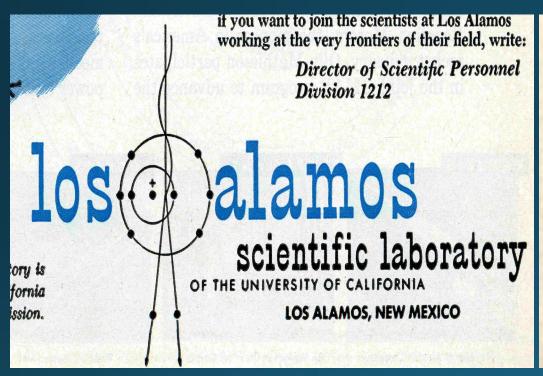


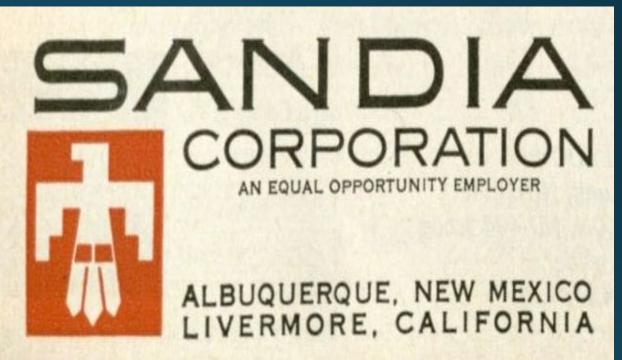
Imaginaries of Modernity and New Mexico



- 1) Both labs repeatedly contrast hyper-modern nuclear tech imaginaries to supposedly pre- or non- modern exoticized imaginaries of New Mexico, Native peoples, and other "Others."
- 2) These implicit and explicit contrasts, among other things, work to construct tautological progress narratives (Voyles 2015).
- 3) It is largely through these imaginaries that Sandia justifies the Bomb.

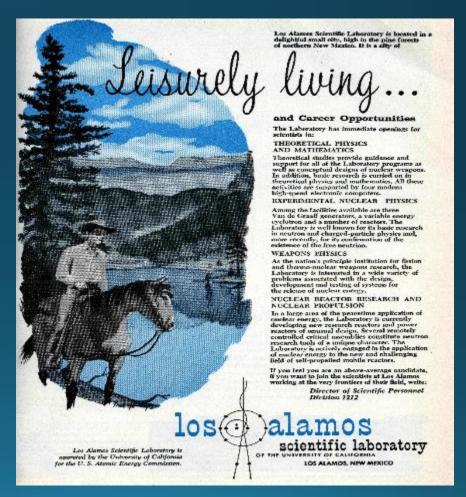
Imaginaries of Modernity and New Mexico: Logos





Imaginaries of Modernity and New Mexico, LASL





Imaginaries of Modernity and New Mexico, Sandia



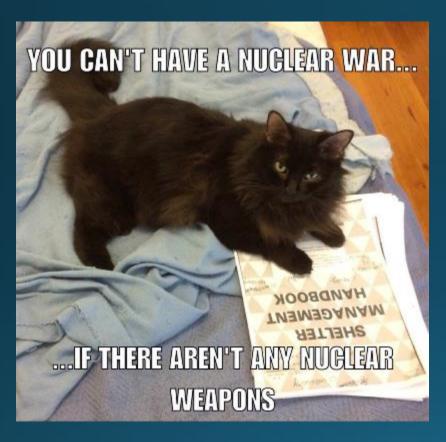


Imaginaries of Modernity and New Mexico: Sandia Justifies the Bomb





Conclusions



- 1) My research needs more funding.
- 2) Nuclear weapon laboratory advertising interacts with, reflects, and contributes to broader sociocultural and historical contexts and events.
- 3) Nuclear weapon laboratory advertising continues—in gendered & colonial ways—the disproportionate use of semiotic, labor, and land resources of the "American Southwest" for US nuclear projects.

Conclusion: So What?



- 1) How we think and talk about nuclear weapons influences what we do with them.
- 2) Understanding how we make meaning about, around, & through nuclear technology can enable us to more effectively act to reduce nuclear risk.
- 3) Themes of nuclear lab ads resonate in contemporary debates and discussions.

What Questions do You Have?



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