The Gila River Farm Site and Salado Coalescence during the AD 14th Century in the Upper Gila

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Coalescence is the coming together of groups from different cultural backgrounds to form new communities, inclusive ideologies, and expanded networks. Using previous data and recent data collected by the Upper Preservation Archaeology (UGPA) program we compare painted ceramics, ground stone attributes, and domestic installations among room blocks at four 14th century Salado settlements in southwestern New Mexico to examine intra-site cultural diversity and the extent of coalescence. Specifically, Kayenta immigrant markers include Maverick Mountain Series ceramics, perforated plates, full-grooved axes, and manos with finger grips. Local Mogollon groups used grinding facilities with bowls inset into floors and may have had access to Jornada ceramics such as El Paso Polychrome. Local influence can also be seen on late Roosevelt Red Ware (RRW) types such as Dinwiddie Polychrome and Cliff White Ware.

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