2009 Conference on Mesoamerica
Continuity and Change in Mesoamerican History
From the Pre-Classic to the Colonial Era
A Homage to Tatiana A. Proskouriakoff

Theatre, University-Student Union
May 15-16, 2009
California State University, Los Angeles
This cultural event is free and open to the public

Conference Organizer
Roberto Cantú, Ph.D.
Professor of Chicano Studies and English
Conference Co-Organizers
Manuel Aguilar-Moreno, Ph.D.
Professor of Art History
California State University, Los Angeles

Enrique Ochoa, Ph.D.
Director of the Latin American Studies Program
California State University, Los Angeles

Aaron Sonnenschein, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of English
California State University, Los Angeles

Student Organizing Committee

Conference Administrative Assistant
Velia Murillo
Administrative Support Coordinator
Department of Chicano Studies
California State University, Los Angeles

Acknowledgments
We would like to thank Dr. Alfredo O. Morales for a generous donation to the Gigi Gaucher-Morales Memorial Lecture Fund. We are also grateful to Dr. James Henderson, Dean of the College of Natural and Social Sciences, for the funds and trust he gave to this project from the beginning. Our expression of gratitude to Michael Soldatenko, Chair of the Department of Chicano Studies; to Yolanda Galván in the Department of English; to Peter Díaz and the amazing staff at Reprographics, for their contributions and prompt assistance on short-term notice. Thank you Michael Sedano of La Bloga and Flor y Canto Festivals; Joel Skidmore at Mesoweb; and Sean Kearns (Director of Media Relations at Cal State L.A.), for assisting us from the beginning of our project with media and blog publicity. This conference is sponsored by the Gigi Gaucher-Morales Memorial Lecture Fund, the College of Natural and Social Sciences, the Women’s History Month, the Latin American Society, M.E.Ch.A., the Departments of Anthropology, Art, Chicano Studies, History, Latin American Studies, and the faculty teaching in the Minor in Mesoamerican Studies at Cal State L.A.
Tatiana A. Proskouriakoff
(1909-1985)

This conference on Mesoamerica commemorates the first centennial of Tatiana A. Proskouriakoff’s birth. Born in 1909 in Tomsk, Siberia (Russia), Proskouriakoff migrated with her family to the United States in 1916. She studied architecture and archaeology at the University of Pennsylvania, and began doing fieldwork on Maya sculpture and architectural reconstruction in Piedras Negras, Guatemala (1936-1937), Copán, Honduras (1938-1939), and in Chichén Itzá (1939-1940), and Mayapán (1951-1955), México.

In her first article published in 1944, Proskouriakoff linked historical inscriptions in carved jade found in Chichén Itzá with the history of rulership in Piedras Negras, thus making it possible to undertake stylistic analysis of Classic Maya monuments and to understand the inscriptions in Maya sculptures and glyphs of the historical succession of rulers. Proskouriakoff’s work during the 1950s dealt with Mexico’s Gulf Coast, giving due emphasis to the meaning and function of the ancient ballgame as found in regional sculpture. While at the Peabody Museum (Harvard University), Proskouriakoff began her detailed stylistic analysis of Maya hieroglyphic inscriptions in the belief that, more so than a record of ritual and calendric information, the contents were historical in scope. This breakthrough in Mesoamerican research led to Proskouriakoff’s 1964 historical dating of ruling dynasties in Yaxchilán, México.

Recognized for her fieldwork and publications on Maya inscriptions, architectural reconstructions, and the stylistic analysis of Maya sculpture, Proskouriakoff is also remembered for her contributions to the interpretation of ideological features in Mesoamerican art, religion, and indigenous forms of ancestor veneration. In 1984, Guatemala honored Proskouriakoff with the Order of the Quetzal. She died in 1985. Proskouriakoff’s book, Maya History, appeared posthumously in 1993 as a testimony of a life devoted to the study of Mesoamerica.

Roberto Cantú
Friday, May 15
9:00-9:30 am
Roberto Cantú, Cal State L.A.
Welcome and Introduction
Theatre, University-Student Union
Session #1
May 15, 9:30-11:30 am
Theatre, University-Student Union

A Valley Zapotec Text from 1614: What it Tells Us

**Moderator:** Aaron Sonnenschein, *Cal State L.A.*

**Panelists**

1. Pamela Munro and Kevin Terraciano  
   *The Zapotexts Project*
2. Xóchitl Flores-Marcial, *UCLA*  
   *Colonial Oaxaca: A Portrait of Daily Zapotec Life*
3. Kevin Terraciano, *UCLA*  
   *The Power of the Pen: How a Oaxacan Community Defended its Lands with Zapotec-Language Writings*
4. Michael Galant, *CSU Domínguez Hills*  
   *Kinship Terms in Colonial Valley Zapotec*
5. Aaron Huey Sonnenschein, *Cal State L.A.*  
   *Joining Hands, Face of Word, Heart of the Hand, and Belly of the House: The Use of Body Part Nouns in Colonial Valley Zapotec*
6. Pamela Munro, *UCLA*  
   *Evidence about Proto-Zapotec from a Colonial Document*
May 15, 11:45 am.-1:00 pm.
Theatre, University-Student Union

Featured Speaker
John Pohl
Curator of the Arts of the Americas
Fowler Museum at UCLA

Title of Lecture
The Hummingbird and the Flower Prince:
New Approaches to Identifying Regional Political
Interaction from an Analysis of the Narrative Themes on
Postclassic Polychrome Vessels

1:00-2:00 pm. Lunch Break
Session #2-A  
May 15, 2:00-4:00 pm  
Theatre, University-Student Union  

Ulama: the Survival of the Mesoamerican Ballgame

Moderator: Manuel Aguilar-Moreno, Cal State L.A.
Panelists
1. Manuel Aguilar-Moreno, Cal State L.A.  
   The Critical Existence of the Rubber Ball in Ulama
2. Luis M. Ramírez and Manuel Aguilar-Moreno, Cal State L.A.  
   Ulama Rules and Scoring: A Connection to the Mesoamerican Ballgame
3. Dianna Marisol Santillano, Cal State L.A.  
   The Heroes of Ulama
4. Ricardo García, UCLA  
   Lord 8 Deer’s Beard: The Mesoamerican Ballgame Tradition and Its Protective Equipment
5. Mark Van Stone, Southwestern College  
   The Meaning of the Ballcourt “Goal” Rings
Session#2-B
May 15, 2:00-4:00 pm
Salazar Hall E-184

Mesoamerican Society, Beliefs, and Myths
In Film and in Modern Chicano and
Northern Mexican Literature

Moderator: Louis R. Negrete, Cal State L.A.

Panelists

1. Manuel de Jesús Hernández G., Arizona State University

2. David C. Rubí, Paradise Valley Community College, Arizona
   Antecedentes indígenas del héroe sobajado en las culturas indohispanas

3. Graciela Silva-Rodríguez, InterAmerican College, San Diego
   *Terramara* (2004), de Alicia López Lomas: Memoria, mito e historia. Transgresión y resistencia identitaria en la frontera

4. Demetrio Anzaldo, University of Idaho

5. José de Jesús Torres, UC Irvine
   Un análisis cinematográfico y cultural de *Apocalypto* (2007), de Mel Gibson
Session #3-A
May 15, 4:15-5:45 pm
Salazar Hall E-184

Literature & History

Moderator: Roberto Cantú, Cal State L.A.

Panelists
1. Citlalli H. Xochitiotzin, Seminario de Cultura Mexicana, Tlaxcala
   Otra visión de la conquista en México: mitos y realidades
2. Tatiana Plikhnevich, Kyiv Municipal University, Ukraine
   A Ukrainian View of the Cholulan Massacre
3. Ignacio López-Calvo, UC Merced
   Unproblematic and Strategic Identifications of the Chicano Movement with a Mythicized Aztec Past
4. Alfonso González, Cal State L.A.
   The Mexican Indigenous Peoples as Literary Subjects and Objects:
   The Culmination of a Process
Session 3-B
May 15, 4:15-5:45 pm
King Hall Lecture Hall 2

Mesoamerican Landscapes, Rituals and Religious Narratives

Moderator: Octavio Barajas, Tulane University

Panelists
1. Jessica Joyce Christie, East Carolina University
   Maya Palaces and Landscape: Ideological Appropriations of Space
2. Deborah Conway de Prieto, Pacifica Graduate Institute
   Art, Performance, Shamanic Activity, and Ritual in Mesoamerica
3. Leslie Jacobo, Cal State L.A.
   Izapa and the Popol Vuh: Explorations of a Connection of Religious Narratives and Iconography
4. Stephanie Lozano, Cal State L.A.
   Ancient Maya Funerary Urn Use Reveals Social Dimensions
May 15, 6:00-8:00 pm
King Hall Lecture Hall 2
Viewing of the film "Breaking the Maya Code" based on a book by Michael Coe with references to Tatiana Proskouriakoff’s life and work.

A Film by
David Lebrun
Night Fire Films
Saturday, May 16
9:00-9:30 am
Coffee and Pan Dulce
Theatre, University-Student Union

9:30-11:30 am
Salazar Hall C-164B
Decipherment Workshop on Maya Writing Systems
(Maximum: 35 participants)

David Lebrun
NIGHT FIRE FILMS
Session #4
May 16, 9:30-11:30 am
Theatre, University-Student Union

Mesoamerican Cultures and Colonial Ethnohistorical Narratives

Moderator: Charlotte Ekland, CSU Chico

Panelists
1. Jon Spenard, UC Riverside
   Chicomoztoc: A Brief Life History of the Mesoamerican Place of Emergence
2. Danny Zborover, University of Calgary
   ‘Mesoamerican History X’: Reconsidering Indigenous Historical Archaeology
3. Octavio Barajas, Tulane University
   Lords of the Night and Glyph G: Structural Commonalities in the Central Mexican and Maya Divinatory Cycles of Time
4. León García Garagarza, UCLA
   The Birth of Disease in the Códice Borgia and in the Contemporary Narratives of the Tenan Tzizimitl: Continuity and Change of a Mesoamerican Etiology
May 16, 11:45 am-1:00 pm
Theatre, University Student Union

Featured Speaker
Viola König
Ethnologisches Museum SMB Berlin
Berlin, Germany

Title of Lecture
New Insights on Mesoamerican Iconography and Symbolism

1:00-2:00 pm. Lunch Break
May 16, 2:00-3:15 pm
Theatre, University-Student Union

Featured Speaker
Karl Taube
UC Riverside

Title of Lecture
The Womb of the World:
The Cuauhxicalli and Other
Offering Bowls of
Ancient and Contemporary Mesoamerica
Session #5-A
May 16, 3:30-5:15 pm
Theatre, University-Student Union

The Aztecs and their Cosmovision

Moderator: Manuel Aguilar-Moreno, Cal State L.A.

Panelists

1. Rhonda Taube, Riverside Community College
   Mountains of Abundance: Early Colonial Accounts of Tlaloc Veneration

2. Leslie Negrete, Cal State L.A.
   The Mexica God of Death in the Sacred Precinct of Tenochtitlan: Two
   Mictlantecuhtli Sculptures in the House of Eagles

3. Jeremy Coltman, Cal State L.A.
   The Stuttgart “Xolotl” Statuette and the Symbolism of Dawn in Late Postclassic
   Central Mexico

4. Manuel Aguilar-Moreno, Cal State L.A.
   The “Cuauhcalli” of Malinalco
Mesoamerican Writing Systems: 
Ancient and modern

Moderator: Danny Zborover, University of Calgary

Panelists
1. Ivonne Heine-Balcázar, CSU Domínguez Hills
   The Resurgence of Maya Writing and the Revitalization of Mayan Languages as Essential Symbols of Mayan Identity
2. Rogelio Valencia Rivera, Universidad Complutense de Madrid & Michela Craveri, Centro de Estudios Mayas, UNAM
   The Voice in the Writing: Orality Traces in the Maya Codices
3. Robin Anne Lynch, CSU Long Beach
   The Teotihuacán Writing System
4. Gerardo Aldana, UC Santa Barbara
   K’AL as Ritual Enclosing at Copan and in the Dresden Codex Venus Pages: Revealing an 80-Year Detour in the Study of Ancient Mayan Astronomy

Reception
May 16, 5:15-6:00 pm
University-Student Union
May 16, 6:00-8:00 pm
Theatre, University-Student Union

Keynote Speaker

David Carrasco
2009 Gigi Gaucher-Morales Memorial Lecturer
Founder and Director of the Mesoamerican Archive
Harvard University

Title of Lecture:
Re-Discovering Aztlan and a Mesoamerican Odyssey:
An Interpretive Journey through the Mapa de Cuauhtinchan

Book-signing after the lecture
Dr. Jeanine “Gigi” Gaucher-Morales

The Gigi Gaucher-Morales Memorial Lecture Fund has been established in memory of the late Dr. Jeanine (Gigi) Gaucher-Morales, who passed away on May 20, 2007. Born in Paris, France, Dr. Gaucher-Morales was a professor emerita of French and Spanish at Cal State L.A. She taught from 1965 till 2005, thus devoting four decades of her academic life to Cal State L.A., where her friends, students and colleagues knew her as Gigi.

During her long and productive tenure at this campus, Gigi taught generations of students the literature and culture of France, of the Anglophone world, and of Latin America, including the Caribbean. With her husband, Dr. Alfredo Morales, also professor emeritus of Spanish, she co-founded, directed, and served as advisor of Teatro Universitario en Español for almost 25 years, bringing to Cal State L.A. annual theater productions based on plays stemming from different traditions and languages, such as the Maya (Los enemigos), Colonial Mexico (Aguila Real), Spanish (Bodas de sangre), French (The Little Prince), and English (Under the Bridge). In addition, Gigi was the founder at Cal State L.A. of Pi Delta Phi, the national French honor society. She was recognized and honored by the French government for her contributions to the knowledge of French civilization in Latin America and the United States. Gigi was also honored by her peers at Cal State L.A. with the 1991-1992 Outstanding Professor Award.

On March 7, 1997, Gigi was recognized by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, State of California, with a resolution that in part reads as follows: “be it resolved that by the adoption of this resolution, the Los Angeles City Council does hereby commend Dr. Jeanine “Gigi” Gaucher-Morales valued Professor of Spanish and French at California State University, Los Angeles for her vision and her gift to the people of Los Angeles and for contributing to the richness of multicultural arts in Los Angeles.”

The Gigi Gaucher-Morales Memorial Lectures will honor each spring Gigi’s memory as a teacher, colleague, and mentor whose academic interests and theatrical productions included pre-Columbian civilizations, Latin America, Asia, and Francophone America, such as Canada and Haiti. Gigi embodied the highest academic standards and a range of academic fields that were truly global and interdisciplinary. The Memorial Lectures shall serve as a forum for distinguished guest speakers who engage vital topics of our age in a world setting, thus offering students, staff, and faculty at Cal State L.A. an opportunity to be critically exposed to different areas of study and artistic traditions that constitute the highest cultural aspirations of humanity. In the Spring 2010, the Gigi Gaucher-Morales Memorial Lecture Fund will sponsor a two-day conference under the theme of “Octavio Paz and France: Poetry, Essays, and Translation.” In the Spring 2011 we will host another conference on Mesoamerica Details forthcoming.

Roberto Cantú
MINOR IN MESOAMERICAN STUDIES  
DEPARTMENT OF CHICANO STUDIES

The Minor in Mesoamerican Studies offers students a cross- and interdisciplinary curriculum on the cultures frequently associated with the Mexica (Aztecs) and Mayas, but inclusive of other ancient peoples who populated metropolitan and ceremonial centers such as Teothihuacan and Tula, among others. The fields of study include art history, cave archaeology, colonial ethnography, and myth narratives read as examples of Mesoamerican literature, such as the poetry of Ancient Mexico (e.g., Texcoco), and Maya texts, such as the Popol Vuh and the Rabinal Achi. A total of 24 units in required and elective courses comprise the Minor in Mesoamerican Studies. For more information, call the Department of Chicano Studies at (323) 343-2190.

**Requirements for the Minor in Mesoamerican Studies (24 units)**

### Upper Division Required Courses (8 units)
- ANTH 428  Civilizations of Western Mesoamerica (4) or  
- ART 447H  The Art of Mesoamerica and the Southwest (4) or  
- CHS 400  Pre-Columbian Literature of Mexico (4)

### Upper Division Electives (16 units)

Students must select one course from each of the four disciplines:

**Anthropology**
- ANTH 428  Civilizations of Western Mesoamerica (4)  
- ANTH 429  Maya Civilization (4)  
- ANTH 454L  Cave Archeology (4)

**Art**
- ART 447H  The Art of Mesoamerica and the Southwest (4)  
- ART 450H  Art of Colonial Mexico and Guatemala (4)  
- ART 453  Aztec Art and Culture (4)

**Chicano Studies**
- CHS/ML 312  Mediterranean and Pre-Colombian Myths in Latin American Literature (4)  
- CHS 400  Pre-Colombian Literature of Mexico (4)  
- CHS 490  (When topic is Mesoamerican Studies) (4)

**History**
- HIST 450  (When topic is Mesoamerican Studies) (4)  
- HIST 461  Latin America: Colonial Period (4)  
- HIST 466A  Colonial Period (4)  
- HIST 469  Indigenous Peoples of Mexico, 1325-1910 (4)