

Mesoamerican manuscripts: new scientific approaches and interpretations

Lecture Theatre, Weston Library, Oxford

31 May-2 June 2016

31 May

8:15-9:00 **Registration and welcome refreshments** (location tbc)

9:00-9:10 **Conference introduction:** Ms Virginia Lladó-Buisán, Head of Conservation & Collection Care, Bodleian Libraries, Oxford University, UK

9:15-10:00 Professor Dr Antonio Sgamellotti, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome, Italy; Dr Costanza Miliani, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - Istituto di Scienze e Tecnologie Molecolari (CNR-ISTM), Perugia: **'MOLAB non-invasive investigations of Mesoamerican codices in the Bodleian Libraries'**

10:05-10:35 Dr Maria Isabel Álvarez Icaza, UNAM, Mexico: **'The Codex Laud: materiality and the problem of its provenance'**

10:40-11:10 *Refreshments (location tbc)*

11:15-11:45 Professor Dr Davide Domenici, University of Bologna, Italy: **'Cultural and historical implications of non-invasive analyses on Mesoamerican codices in the Bodleian Library'**

11:50-12:30 **Questions for morning speakers and open discussion. Moderator:** Virginia Lladó-Buisán

12:35-13:50 *Lunch (details tbc)*

14:00-14:30 Dr Élodie Dupey García, UNAM, Mexico/Getty Research Institute, USA: **'The Materiality of Color in Pre-Columbian Codices: an Historical Approach'**

14:35-15:05 Dr Alessia Frassani, Leiden University, The Netherlands: **'Depicting the Mesoamerican Spirit World'**

15:10-15:40 Dr Manuel May Castillo, Leiden University, The Netherlands: **'Maya Literary Traditions and Present-day Concerns'**

15:45-16:15 *Refreshments*

16:20-16:50 Mr Paul van den Akker, Leiden University, The Netherlands: **'Contemporary K'iche' Ritual Dance and the Dresden Codex'**

16:55-17:15 **Questions for afternoon speakers and open discussion. Moderator:** Professor Dr Maarten Jansen

17:45-19:00 **Conference opening reception (open to all participants)** in Blackwell Hall, Weston Library:
Opening address by Professor Dr Maarten Jansen. Followed by the presentation **'The Codex Mendoza: Retrospect and Prospect'**, by Professor Dr Frances Berdan and Mr Ernesto Miranda Trigueros

1 June

9:00-9:30 Professor Dr José Luis Rubalcaba Sil, National University of Mexico: **'Non-destructive analysis of the Colombino Codex'**

9:35-10:05 Dr Tim Zaman, Technical University of Delft, The Netherlands: **'New Technology to Reveal Hidden Images'**

10:10-10:40 Mr Ludo Snijders, Leiden University, The Netherlands and David Howell, Bodleian Libraries, Oxford University, UK: **'The Codex Añute Palimpsest'**

10:45-11:15 Refreshments

11:20-11:50 Professor Dr Jorge Gómez Tejada, University of San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador: **'The Materiality of Codex Mendoza'**

11:55-12:25 **Discussion:** moderated by Professor Dr Joris Dik, Technical University of Delft, The Netherlands

12:30-13:50 Lunch

14:00-14:30 Mr Raul Macuil, Leiden University, The Netherlands: **'Learning from the Tlamatque'**

14:35-15:05 Mr Omar Aguilar Sánchez, The Netherlands: **'Soo nu yoso ñuhu ñuu. Mixtec Colonial Maps and Land Tenure'**

15:10-15:40 Refreshments

15:45-16:15 Dr Laura Filloy Nadal and Dr María Olvido Moreno, National Institute of Anthropology and History, Mexico: **'From the rich feather to the feathered disk. Collection, circulation and use of various feathers in the production of Mexica shields from Codex Mendoza and other indigenous sources of the XVI century.'**

16:20-16:50 Dr Leonardo López Luján, National Institute of Anthropology and History, Mexico: **'The Codex Mendoza and the archaeology of Tenochtitlan'**

16:55-17:25 **Questions for all speakers and discussion:** Professor Dr R Joyce, University of California, USA

17:30-17:40 **Conference closure:** Professor Dr Maarten Jansen and Virginia Lladó-Buisán

2 June

9:30-12:30 Workshop: 'How to read a Mixtec pictorial manuscript'

Teachers: Professor Dr Maarten E.R.G.N. Jansen and Mixtec investigator Mrs Gabina Aurora Pérez Jiménez (Leiden University, The Netherlands), Archaeologist Iván Rivera Guzmán (Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico)

Among the painted books from ancient Mexico preserved at the Bodleian Library are two manuscripts that refer to the world of the Ñuu Dzaui, the 'Nation of the Rain', an indigenous people (also known as the Mixtec) that lives in Southern Mexico. Today approximately half a million persons speak the Mixtec language. Their mountainous region is rich in (still little explored) archaeological sites and art works, as well as in oral tradition.

These manuscripts are magnificent examples of ancient Mexican historiography, which used a sophisticated form of pictorial writing. In colourful painted images they tell the history of the dynasties that ruled several Mixtec city-states prior to the Spanish conquest (1521). Genealogical information is combined with the depiction of events such as sacred origins, military conflicts, rituals, oracles, marital alliances and political intrigues. Precise dates are given in the ancient Mixtec calendar, which cover a time span from the 10th till the 16th Century A D.

The workshop offers an introduction to this subject matter and to the method of reading these manuscripts, while also paying attention to related topics such as Mixtec archaeology, ceremonial language and religious worldview. A short video documentary of Itandehui Jansen and Armando Bautista will give an idea of the present-day region, its people and customs.

Background literature: Maarten E.R.G.N. Jansen and Gabina Aurora Pérez Jiménez: *Codex Bodley: A Painted Chronicle from the Mixtec Highlands, Mexico*, Bodleian Library, Oxford, 2005.