

# Indigenous Cultures & Colonial Legacies in the Americas

## *Latino/Latin American Studies Fall 2017 Series*

Tuesday, September 19, 7:00pm, Founders Room, SJU

### **Touring Maya Culture: Indigenous Migration and Tourism in Neoliberal Mexico**



Bianet Castellanos teaches American studies at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She is the author of *A Return to Servitude: Maya Migration and the Tourist Trade in Cancún* (University of Minnesota Press 2010) and co-editor of *Comparative Indigeneities of the Americas: Toward a Hemispheric Approach* (University of Arizona Press 2012). She recently published an essay on Maya women's migration stories published as part of the special issue "Critical Latinx Indigeneities" of the journal *Latino Studies* and edited a special forum "Settler Colonialism in Latin America" forthcoming with *American Quarterly* in December 2017.

Monday, October 23, 7:00pm, GOR 204 A&B, CSB

### **Voicing the Silences: Indigenous Language, Poetry, and Decolonization**



Ruperta Bautista Vázquez is a Tsotsil Maya poet and playwright, anthropologist and popular educator. She was born in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, where during her childhood there were few indigenous people. Many chose the path of cultural erasure as a necessary survival strategy, while Ruperta and her family continued to speak Tsotsil and maintained strong ties to the cultural practices of their Tsotsil community of Huixtán. Ruperta was the only indigenous student in her elementary school where she began privately writing poetry in Tsotsil as a way to minimize the pain of marginalization. She holds academic degrees in Social Anthropology, Education and Cultural Diversity as well as professional training in creative writing and indigenous rights. As a poet, she uses her ancestral language in ways that are contemporary and vital; as an activist and popular educator she works with indigenous women and youth in literacy and Maya empowerment projects.

Tuesday, November 14, 7:00pm, Art 102, SJU

### **De-industrializing Agriculture in the Shadow of the Green Man**



Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin is the principal architect of the innovative poultry-centered regenerative agriculture model of Main Street Project, which focuses on building regenerative food and agriculture systems that deliver social, economic and ecological benefits. He leads Main Street's engineering and design work and oversees the implementation of this system in various communities in the US, Mexico and Guatemala. A native Guatemalan, he received his agronomy degree from the Central National School of Agriculture, studied at the Universidad de San Carlos in Guatemala and graduated from Augsburg College in Minneapolis with a major in international business administration and a minor in communications. He began working on economic development projects with indigenous Guatemalan communities in 1988. He served as a consultant for the United Nations Development Program's Bureau for Latin America and as an advisor to the World Council of Indigenous Peoples. He was a founding member of the Fair Trade Federation in 1994 and Peace Coffee, a Minnesota-based company in 1996.