

# Pictography and Memory in Seventeenth-Century Atzaqualco, Mexico

In the mid-to-late seventeenth century, Nahuatl artists and scribes in San Sebastián Atzaqualco, the northeast sector of Mexico City, painted the most elaborately detailed Mexican pictorial catechism and then made it tell more stories, overlaying it with texts and images referencing preconquest and early colonial history. The talk will explore how these mid-colonial Atzaqualca reframed the past: they reclaimed pictographic writing to indigenize the Roman Catholic catechism and they asserted ties to a son of Moteuczoma, exaggerating his deeds. Grand statements of religious and political legitimacy were inscribed in this small, well-worn book.

The Institute for Mesoamerican Studies presents:

**Dr. Louise Burkhart**

**Friday Nov. 13 at 3:30 pm in FA 126**



Dr. Louise Burkhart is a Professor at SUNY Albany, Department of Anthropology. Her research focuses on the ways in which indigenous Mexicans experienced, engaged with, and manipulated the Christian texts and teachings introduced under Spanish colonial rule. She works primarily with materials in the Nahuatl (Aztec) language, often produced by literate native people working under varying degrees of priestly supervision, including Nahuatl religious theater, Passion Plays, Spanish Baroque Drama, and pictographic inscriptions of Nahuatl-language Christian doctrine. Dr. Burkhart's latest books include *Aztecs on Stage: Religious Theater in Colonial Mexico* (2011), *Nahuatl Theater, Vol 1-4* (2004, 2006, 2008, 2009), *Before Guadalupe: The Virgin Mary in Early Colonial Nahuatl Literature* (2001).

