

Cotzumalhuapa: The Archaeology of Urbanism in Pacific Guatemala

Renowned since the nineteenth century for its extensive sculptural corpus, Cotzumalhuapa was long regarded as an archaeological zone with three distinct sites, known as El Baúl, Bilbao, and El Castillo. Research conducted in recent decades has gradually revealed that these sites were actually the major architectural compounds within a large city that developed intensely during the Late Classic period (A.D. 650-950). In this talk, Dr. Chinchilla will describe the challenges posed by the invisibility of all but the largest archaeological features on the surface, and the ways in which traditional survey and excavation methods, coupled with geophysical prospection, have helped to trace the city's urban layout, and its implications for the study of southern Mesoamerican urbanism and culture history, as well as the symbolic connotations of monumental sculptures that were associated with the Cotzumalhuapa causeways and bridges.

The Institute for Mesoamerican Studies presents:

Dr. Oswaldo Chinchilla Mazariegos

Friday Sept. 25 at 3:00 pm in FA 126



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Dr. Oswaldo Chinchilla Mazariegos is an Assistant Professor at Yale University, Department of Anthropology. His research focuses on Mesoamerican art, religion, and writing, and he has conducted extensive field research at various sites in Guatemala, focusing especially on the settlement patterns, urbanism, and sculptural art of the Pacific Coastal site of Cotzumalhuapa. In 2011, he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for his work on Cotzumalhuapa art and archaeology. Dr. Chinchilla is the author of numerous peer reviewed articles and books including *Imágenes de la Mitología Maya* (2011), *Cotzumalhuapa, la Ciudad Arqueológica: El Baúl-Bilbao-El Castillo* (2012), and *Guatemala, Corazón del Mundo Maya* (1999).

