This international and inter-disciplinary conference draws scholars and students in the fields of anthropology, history, linguistics, art history, literature, and archaeology who are connected by an interest in the language and civilization of the Nahuas, from pre-Columbian times to the present. Sessions include academic talks, document translation workshops, and a workshop on Nahuatl writing. Nahuatl was the language of the Aztecs and related ethnic groups, the predominant civilization in Mexico that confronted Spanish colonialism. Under Spanish rule Nahuatl spread even further as a lingua franca and became the medium for the largest corpus of Indigenous-language colonial documents from anywhere in the Americas. Today it is the mother tongue of over two million contemporary Indigenous people, including immigrants to the United States. Hence our conference takes a long view, looking at the unrolling of Nahua language and culture over several centuries. Participants are committed to sharing scholarly research, supporting language documentation and revitalization, and advancing the availability of the Nahuas’ historical archive by translating and publishing texts. This inter-disciplinary and temporal breadth combined with a focus on one linguistic group makes this conference unique. Anyone with an interest in Nahua language and civilization is welcome to attend.

Conference organizers: Louise M. Burkhart (UAlbany), John Frederick Schwaller (UAlbany), John Sullivan (University of Warsaw and Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas), Caterina Pizzigoni (Columbia University)

Registration fee: $50 ($25 for students); includes lunches and breakfasts during the meetings

Discounts at hotels within walking distance of the conference TBA

University at Albany sponsors: Division of Research, Institute for Mesoamerican Studies, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Anthropology, Department of History

International sponsor: Center for Research and Practice in Cultural Continuity, University of Warsaw

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