PhD. Prospectus Presentation:

Vanessa Miranda Juarez

Nahuatl Discourses and Political Speeches as Ways to Resist Monolingual Ideologies in Hidalgo, Mexico

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Monday, November 6, 2017
5:00 pm
Machmer E21

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Committee Membership:

Emiliana Cruz, Chair (Anthropology)
Jacqueline Urla, Member (Anthropology)
Jonathan Rosa, Stanford Univ. (Anthropology)
Luiz Amaral, Outside Member (Spanish & Portuguese)

The public is invited to attend.

Abstract:
This project investigates the importance of the local governmental structure of an indigenous Nahua community in Hidalgo, Mexico for the preservation of the community’s native language. The project focuses on the use of the Nahuatl language in San Isidro Atlapexco Hidalgo, a community located in the Huastec region. The hypothesis is that the governmental structure commonly referred to as the “cargo system” serves as both a factor contributing to the maintenance of Nahuatl and it operates as a site for the expression of resistance to the imposition of the national colonial language of Spanish. Since the formation of the nation-state, indigenous people have resisted pressure to assimilate into the larger society, including the use of Spanish. Nahuatl language is key to this resistance since it is the channel through which decisions are made. Using Nahuatl as the language of self-government, the San Isidro people exercise their right of self-determination. The research will investigate how cargo system sustains indigenous language through their function of local political decision-making.