

Department of Anthropology

Colloquium Series Autumn 2022

Malinche's Refusal: New visions for a decolonized *Latinidad*

Friday, October 14th, 12-1PM, Young Library Auditorium

October 12th is known as *el día de la raza* or the day that 'la raza' was born. The term continues to unambiguously accept and uphold *mestizaje* as a nationalist construct. This lecture will deconstruct the colonial origins of the term 'la raza' while unveiling the gendered violence in its origins. What are the implications of uncritically embracing *mestizaje* 530 years after 'discovery'? How can we reframe *Latinidad* through a critique of the gendered nationalist violence which produced the term 'la raza' and the colonialist gendered stereotypes that accompany it? Dr. Spears-Rico's talk will read 'la raza' through a feminist critique of *malinchismo* while highlighting Mexican Indigenous women's contemporary fight for respect and visibility.



Dr. Gabriela Spears-Rico, University of Minnesota

Dr. Gabriela Spears-Rico is a Mexican Indigenous and Chicana feminist anthropologist and poet who currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Chicano Latino Studies and American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Her scholarship can be found in *The Chicana Motherwork Anthology* (University of Arizona Press, 2019) and in *Transnational Chicana Perspectives on Ana Castillo* (Pittsburg University Press, 2021). Dr. Spears-Rico is a former Mellon Fellow and Woodrow Wilson Fellow and was also awarded a fellowship with the Institute for Advanced Study and a McKnight Land Grant Professorship by her institution. Her book manuscript *Mestizo Melancholia and the Legacy of Conquest in Michoacan* offers an ethnographic analysis of indigenized Mexican cultural events to examine how 'going native' or 'playing Indian' functions in Mexico. In 2022, she was one of ten Indigenous artists in North America to win the Radical Imagination Grant from the NDN Collective. Her poetry has been published in *Sing: Poetry from the Indigenous Americas* (2011), *Chiricú Journal* (2021), *Ethnic Studies Review* (2021) and *Feminist Anthropology* (2022). She won the Sidewalk Poetry Contest in the City of Saint Paul (2021) and was recently a finalist for the Bougainvillea Poetry Prize (2022). Her collection of poems *Deer Hide Eulogies, Reclamos y Remedios* will be published next year by FlowerSong Press.

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