

Anthropology Brown Bag presentation

De-Colonizing Malintzin: a feminist perspective on the Spanish conquest of Mexico

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Friday, Feb. 23rd, 12:30 pm Lafferty Hall Rm. 213

This presentation will review archaeological and ethnohistoric evidence to contextualize the role of Malintzin/La Malinche during the Spanish conquest of Mexico. Malintzin was an Indigenous noblewoman (probably still a teenager) who was acquired by Hernan Cortes during his entrada to mainland Mexico in 1519. She was a skilled linguist, also trained in statecraft, who served as translator and advisor to Cortes, playing a key role in negotiations and strategy. Contrary to her traditional persona as a 'traitor' to the Mexican people, I will demonstrate that her agency benefitted her own Gulf Coast ethnic group as well as her personal status.

