

Hagerty Hall, 255

Friday December 2nd

2:20-3:40 PM

**LATIN AMERICAN &
IBERIAN COLLOQUIUM**

**DEPARTMENT OF
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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Writing and Reading Colonial Mexican History: The Case of the *Códice Chimalpahin*

Amber Brian, University of Iowa



In 2014, three volumes of colonial Mexican manuscripts that had belonged to the British and Foreign Bible Society in England were sold to Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) where they were named *Códice Chimalpahin*, *Codex Chimalpahin*. The volumes contain autograph histories – written in Spanish and Nahuatl on European paper – by don Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxochitl (ca. 1578-1650) and don Domingo de San Antón Muñón Chimalpahin Quauhtlehuanitzin (b. 1579), both important and influential historians of native ancestry. The works of these authors had been known through copies and came to influence patriotic history in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Mexico. The rediscovery and repatriation of the manuscripts themselves draw our attention to both the material history of the texts and the contexts in which they were produced and disseminated. Engaging with the bound manuscripts, this presentation will explore both what they reveal of the composition of the original texts and the consumption and circulation of those texts after their production. This presentation will also address an ongoing collaborative translation project (funded by the NEH) related to Alva Ixtlilxochitl's *History of the Chichimec Nation*, one of the major historical texts found in the *Códice Chimalpahin*.

Dr. Amber Brian is Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Spanish & Portuguese; she also directs the Latin American Studies Program. Her research and teaching focus on colonial Spanish America. Her publications address the movement of cultural knowledge and historical memory from native communities to the dominant intellectual sphere in colonial Mexico, and include *Alva Ixtlilxochitl's Native Archive and the Circulation of Knowledge in Colonial Mexico* (Vanderbilt, 2016) and *The Native Conquistador: Alva Ixtlilxochitl's Account of the Conquest of Mexico* (Penn State Press, 2015).