



Decolonial Transnational Ch'owen: Invoking Guatemalan Highland Spirituality and Environmental Indigenous Futures

Dr. Tiffany Miller (Colby College)

Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center (1299 Oread Ave, Lawrence, KS 66044)

Friday, March 7, 2025

11:00am - 12:00pm

Drawing from her longtime fieldwork in the Guatemalan Highlands, methodologically Dr. Miller's use of epistemologies deriving from Kaqchikel spirituality and the four cardinal points as she analyzes contemporary Maya cultural production across media formats and genres. Representations of the cardinal points connect contemporary Maya *ajq'ij*a' (daykeepers), authors, and artists to their pre-Hispanic past by referencing Kaqchikel Maya religious beliefs deriving from the *Cholq'ij* calendar. At the same time, references to the cardinal points geographically deterritorialize these texts, moving them beyond Iximulew (Guatemala) to dialogue with Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures and their communities in other parts of the globe. As readers and audiences - from Guatemala and abroad - are interpellated into the *ch'owen*, or dialogue, she proposes that there are unique possibilities to sow seeds for allyship and engaged environmental activism.

Conference Website:

<https://spanport.ku.edu/grasp-conference-2025>

Image: "Gears of time" Modern representation of the *Cholq'ij* calendar by the Mexican artist Patricia Morales

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