The “Tajin Totonac” In and Outside the Frame
Representation and Alterity in the Photographic
Archive of Isabel T. Kelly

Part II Seminar on Indigeneity

GUEST SPEAKER
Mónica Salas Landa, Lafayette College

DISCUSSANTS
Eduardo Cadava, Princeton University
Gabriela Zamorano, El Colegio de Michoacán

MODERATORS
Paula López Caballero, CEIICH-UNAM
Tony Wood, Princeton University

This presentation will look at the critical role ethnographic photographs played in actualizing the “Indigenous other” imagined by midcentury Mexican anthropology and state-led developmentalism. Drawing on a series of snapshots taken by U.S. anthropologist Isabel Kelly, Mónica Salas Landa explores how the circulation and replication of visual records of the Totonac community of Tajín, in the lowlands of northern Veracruz, contributed to the establishment of a political regime of (in)visibility. A focus on snapshots—records of the ubiquitous and the banal across both intimate and public domains—allows Salas Landa to counteract the scientific overtones that ethnographic visual records have invoked, and to bring attention instead to the ways in which the camera, in the hands of midcentury anthropologists, fabricated the reality it seemed simply to record.

Tue., Mar. 1, 4:30pm, Zoom  |  Register HERE

Visit plas.princeton.edu/events for full details.