



Walking scene, Tepantitla Apartment Compound, Teotihuacan, ca. 400-550 CE, fresco mural (pigment and lime plaster). Photo by the speaker.

Some Kinds of Narration: The Problem of Plurality in Teotihuacan Walking Scenes

GUEST SPEAKER

Trent Barnes

PLAS Postdoctoral Research Associate and Lecturer, Princeton University

Moderator: Javier Guerrero, PLAS Acting Director, Princeton University

Scenes of walking humans, animals, and deities were the most common subject matter of the pictorial arts of Teotihuacan, Mexico, the largest city of Indigenous American antiquity. Earlier comments on the walking scenes—which to date have not been treated as a coherent genre—have understood images of human walkers as depictions of groups of individuals acting in a single moment, an interpretation that has fostered secondary readings of the structure of Teotihuacan governance. Namely, the purportedly consular nature of these scenes has served as evidence for the view that this city was remarkably non-hierarchical, and perhaps even proto-democratic, among the pre-contact city-states of Mesoamerica. This talk argues that the plurality of both the depicted personages and of the temporal instant in which they act are far more dialectical and ambiguous than previous scholarship has allowed.

Trent Barnes (Ph.D., Harvard University), is a scholar of the Indigenous Americas, that specializes in the art and architectural history of the ancient Central Mexican and Maya cultures.

Wed., April 20, 12:00pm | PLAS 3rd Floor Atrium, Burr Hall

REGISTER HERE

*Boxed lunches will be provided. Open to PU ID holders only.
Visit plas.princeton.edu/events for full details.*

PLAS

PROGRAM IN LATIN
AMERICAN STUDIES

