



RECOVERING VOICES

Seminar Series in Endangered Languages and Indigenous Knowledge

Víctor Cata

Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes

Emiliano Cruz Santiago

Universidad de Sonora

Thursday 8 November 2012

3:30 PM

NMNH, Rose Room

Ca xtuuba za. Gui'chi' yooxho' sti' guendarietenala'dxi'.

Rast béh. Gue'tz ché'n dí'z nzóo yéek mén.

Cloud traces. Texts from the codices of our memories.

This presentation focuses on texts recovered from Zapotec knowledge bearers considered to be living codices who safeguard the memory of the Peoples of the Clouds. The texts are from Juchitán in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and from San Bartolomé Loxicha in the Souther Sierra, in Oaxaca, both Zapotec towns but with distinct Zapotec languages and cultural practices.

Emiliano Cruz Santiago will present a collection of omens and superstitions which are deemed truths by the people of San Bartolomé Loxicha. Víctor Cata will give a voice to the echoes of the *Libana*, ceremonial speeches that consecrate the act of marriage in Isthmus Zapotec communities.

The voices recovered through these two language and knowledge documentation efforts bear witness to distinct philosophies, cosmogonies and literary traditions. Further, they provide evidence of the changes taking place among the Peoples of the Clouds and in their cultures and languages which are under pressure given the dominance of Spanish in Mexico.



A collaborative initiative of National Museum of Natural History,
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