

Apache-Chicano scholar Ines M. Talamantez to present 1993 Burke Lecture on Apr. 22

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APACHE-CHICANO SCHOLAR TO PRESENT 1993 BURKE LECTURE

The Apache female initiation 'Isnklesh Gotal, a Native American religious tradition, will be examined in the 1993 Burke Lecture to be presented April 22 by Ines M. Talamantez, Ph.D., at the University of California, San Diego.

The lecture, free and open to the public, will be held at 8 p.m. in Peterson Hall, Room 108, on the UCSD campus. Talamantez also will speak at a faculty luncheon and a student colloquium April 21.

Born in New Mexico to Apache and Chicano parents, Talamantez grew up in San Diego and graduated from Lowell Elementary School and Memorial Junior High in Barrio Logan. Her B.A. and Ph.D. were earned at UCSD, and she currently is associate professor of religious studies at U.C. Santa Barbara, where she has created the first Ph.D. program in the country in Native American religious studies. Additionally, she is serving this year as a visiting professor of Native American religions at Harvard University and Wellesley College.

Her lecture will examine the ceremonial transformation, through eight days and nights, of a Mescalero Apache adolescent girl into womanhood through thought and speech, song and motion.

Through a multi-media presentation, Talamantez will explore topics such as the role of Apache women as keepers of the tradition; the conception and creation of sacred space; the importance of sacred motion in the form of dance, running, and the ritual smoothing of the body; and the imaging of nature. Looking beyond 'IsAnAklesh Gotal, she will discuss what the ceremony teaches about the role of women, attitudes toward nature, coming of age, and the creation and assumption of identity in mainstream society.

The study of this ceremony over two decades, Talamantez writes, has brought forward important questions about the way religious traditions are practiced, and especially, the way Native American religious traditions are studied in the academic world. Her major study of the ceremony, 'Isnklesh Gotal: Introducing Apache Girls to the World of Spiritual and Cultural Values, is now in press.

The Burke Lectures focus on "the religious dimensions of being human by exploring the functions and responsibilities of religion in society and its role in shaping social and moral values."

Further information may be obtained by calling the Office of Religious Affairs, 534-2521, or 481-0314.

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