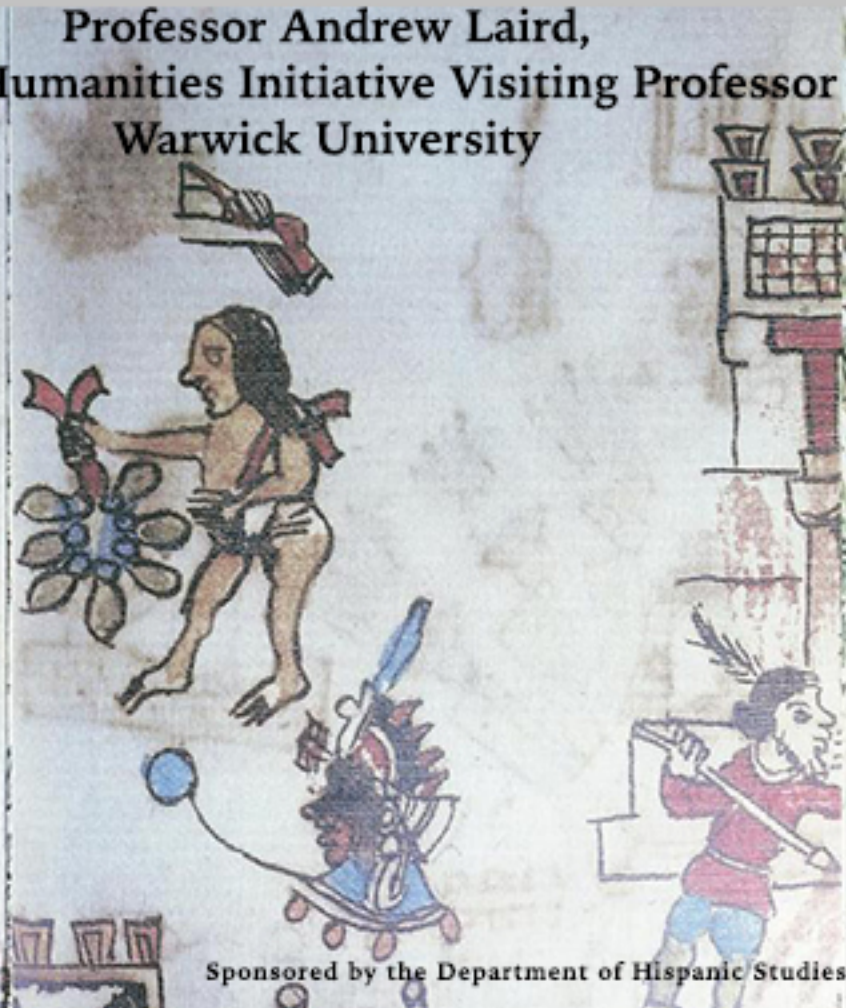


Responding to the *Requerimiento*: Imagined first encounters between natives and Spaniards in 16th-century Mexico



Motecuhzoma II welcoming Cortés on his arrival in Mexico in 1519, Codex Ríos (Vaticanus 3738), fol. 87r

Professor Andrew Laird,
Brown Humanities Initiative Visiting Professor
Warwick University



Sponsored by the Department of Hispanic Studies

The *Requerimiento* or 'Requirement' was a document proclaiming Spain's legal right to possess the Americas. It was read aloud in territories invaded by the Spaniards to inform uncomprehending local inhabitants that they would alone be responsible for their own death or enslavement if they chose to resist Christian rule. This talk will use the text of the proclamation to explain some unusual early accounts of exchanges which conquistadors and missionaries had with native groups in Mexico shortly after the conquest, and suggest that the contradictions of the *Requerimiento* continue to bear on intercultural encounters today.

Friday, November 6th
4:00pm, 84 Prospect Street
Rochambeau House, Music Room
Followed by a reception in the Library