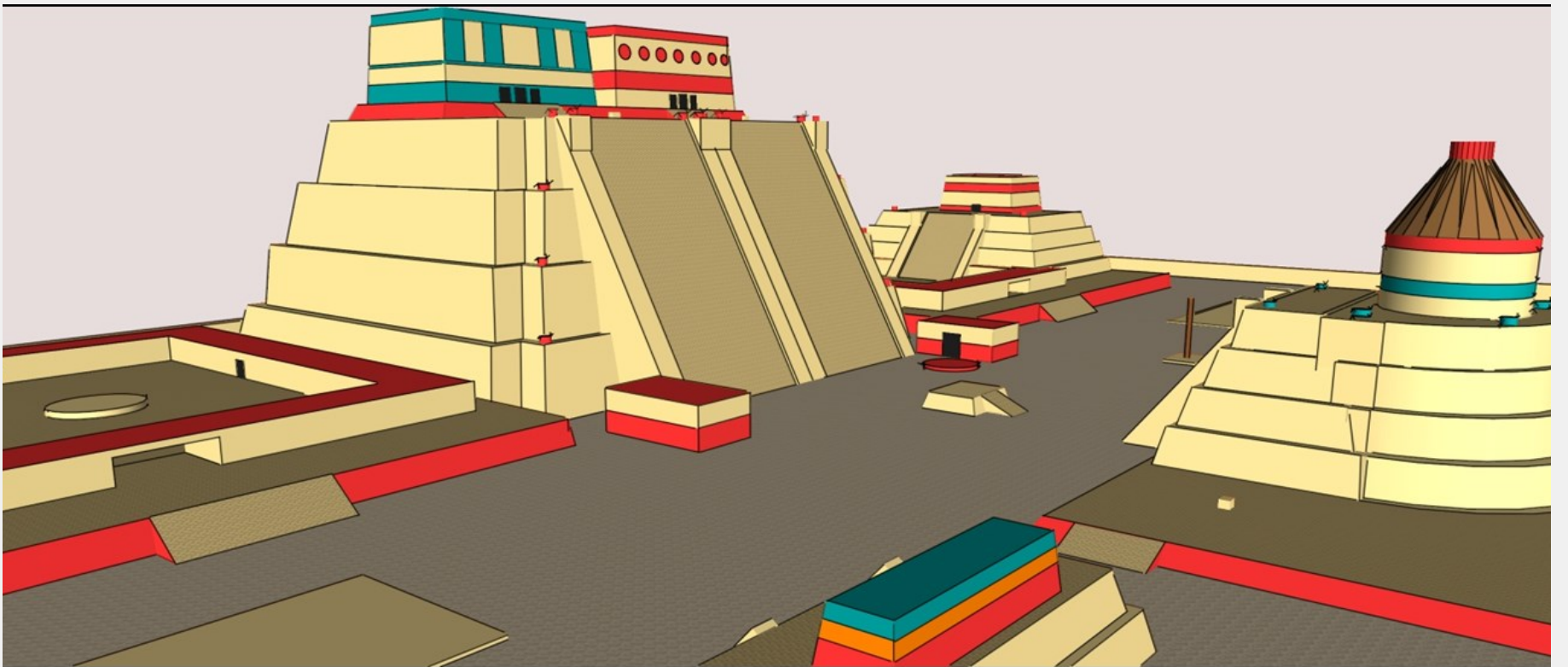


**A***The University of Western Ontario***ANTHROPOLOGY**

# PhD Candidate Diana K. Moreiras Reynaga

## Doctoral Public Lecture

Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> • 1:00 pm • SSC 5220



## The Life Histories of Aztec Sacrifices

### A Stable Isotope Study of Offerings from Tlatelolco and the Templo Mayor of Tenochtitlan

While there are countless mentions of human sacrifice in Aztec codices and Spaniards' accounts, little is known about those who were chosen as sacrifices for the many Aztec ritual ceremonies. Who were sacrificed by the Aztecs at their sacred temples? Were these individuals Aztec residents or foreigners from other regions of Mesoamerica? This dissertation examines these questions within a bioarchaeological perspective by analyzing the skeletal remains, via stable carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen isotope analyses, of a sample of sacrifices from the Templo R of Tlatelolco and the Templo Mayor of Tenochtitlan during the Postclassic period (A.D. 900-1520). Dietary and residential patterns are revealed through the stable isotope data and interpreted by following a biocultural approach drawing from the bio-archaeological and archaeological contexts, and ethnohistoric sources.