David Carrasco, Mexican-American historian of religions, will give an illustrated lecture on two types of Mexican sacrality — the ubiquitous image of La Virgen de Guadalupe and the sacred place of Tepeyac where her apparitions first occurred. Together, the sacred icon and the sacred hill provide a religious orientation for Mexicans and many Latinos, including migrants moving across borders from home-place to strange-place. Using his ‘ensemble approach’ Carrasco interprets La Morenita as a migrant mother and sacred bundle whose movements created a ritual landscape and ethnic map for future pilgrims and long-distance travelers.

David Carrasco is the Neil L. Rudenstine Professor of the Study of Latin America at the Harvard Divinity School; he has a joint appointment with the Harvard Department of Anthropology in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. He is the director of the Raphael J. and Fletcher Lee Moses Mesoamerican Archive, which has helped organize new knowledge about the religions and cultures of Mesoamerica. He is also the author and editor of over 15 books, including the award-winning “Quetzalcoatl and the Irony of Empire” and “Cave, City, and Eagle’s Nest: An Interpretive Journey Through the Mapa de Cuauhtinchan #2.”