Thursday, September 5, 2019
2:00 PM
Haury 215

Dr. Seth Schermerhorn
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Title: Walking to Magdalena: Personhood and Place in Tohono O’odham Songs, Sticks, and Stories

Starting even before the death of Father Eusebio Francisco Kino in 1711, Tohono O’odham people made their way to Magdalena in Sonora, Mexico, as part of a spiritual journey connecting them with the land and their ancestors. Located 60 miles south of the US-Mexico Border, Magdalena is now a pilgrimage destination for seekers from many cultures, culminating each year with the Feast of St. Francis on October 4. In this talk, Seth Schermerhorn explores the context and practice of the Tohono O’odham as they make their annual pilgrimage to Magdalena. Based on extensive field research with members of the Tohono O’odham Nation, including walking five times with tribal members on the journey, Dr. Schermerhorn discusses Tohono O’odham Christian traditions as practiced in everyday life.

Co-sponsored by the Border Community Alliance and Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.