

Maize for the Gods—

How a wild grass from western Mexico
came to be one of the world's
most important crops.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

11:30 – 1:00 pm

Anthropology & Sociology
Building | Room 1109

6303 NW Marine Drive

Refreshments and reception will be served
following colloquium in the graduate lounge at
the Anthropology & Sociology Building.

DR. MICHAEL BLAKE (Department of Anthropology at UBC)

Research during the past decade has produced a veritable tsunami of information about the origins and development of agriculture around the world. In the Americas we've seen major advances in knowledge about the timing and geography of agriculture's adoption and spread. In most cases this research has raised new questions about the changing relationships between humans and the plants and animals they domesticated. Among these, maize is one of the most interesting domesticates because of its early appearance some 9000 years ago and its eventual rise to dominance as one of today's three most important food and industrial crops. Was it always an important food crop for early Americans, or was this a more recent development as the plant itself underwent genetic modifications during its long history? What does this plant's history tell us about the complex process of agricultural emergence in different regions of North, Central, and South America?

Co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, UBC