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You are invited to the Brown Bag Lecture Series  
Wednesday, April 17, 2013, 12 noon to 1 pm  
Texana Room, DeGolyer Library  
6404 Hyer Lane & McFarlin Blvd.

**“Do to them as I have seen done with the loads of *negros*”:  
Apache Indians in New Spain in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century**

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In 1714, the governor of New Mexico ordered residents of his jurisdiction to ensure that all Apache children being shipped out of the province be baptized before departure. As he explained it, New



Fig. 106.—Apache Prisoners condemned to the Mines of Chihuahua, Mexico.

Mexicans should do to them “as I have seen done in the seaports with the loads of *negros*.” While the history of captivity and slavery in the pre-1848 Southwest has largely been seen as an “Indian” and “Hispanic” story, the governor’s order evokes a more complicated reality. Comparisons between baptizing Apaches and baptizing enslaved Africans were not simply theoretical. In places like Parral, a mining town in what is now Northern Mexico, Apaches and other

Native captives were incorporated into households, ranches, and mining enterprises with pre-existing enslaved populations of African and Asian descent as well as other laborers of diverse statuses and origins. The stories this presentation will examine of Apache children with enslaved African godparents or Apaches marrying *mestizos* or *mulatos* provide new insights into the history of captivity and slavery in the Southwest Borderlands and early modern North America more broadly. Parral was not a community in which Indian slavery was replaced by African slavery, but rather one in which an enslaved African population interacted with and was gradually supplanted by a supply of indigenous captives imported from north of the Rio Grande.

For more information or if you need special accommodations,  
please contact [swcenter@smu.edu](mailto:swcenter@smu.edu) or 214-768-3684.



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