Inés M. Talamantez is Professor of Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. A member of the Mescalero Apache tribe with a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of California, San Diego, Dr. Talamantez is a pioneer of the field and an internationally acclaimed scholar of Native American Religious Traditions. Coming to UCSB in 1978 from Dartmouth, she created a doctoral program with an emphasis on Native American religion.

“Religion is the central domain of Native American cultures; it is considered the lifeway that connects people to each other and the non-human world.”

Dr. Talamantez’ areas of expertise include:

- Native American Religious Traditions & Philosophies
- Religions of Mexico & Chicano Religion
- Women in Religion
- Religion and Ecology
- Religion and Healing in Native America

She has published extensively and lectured around the world on these topics. Among her most recent publications are:

- Teaching Religion and Healing
- “In the Space Between the Earth and the Sky”
- “Vine Deloria, Jr. Critic and Coyote: Transforming Universal Conceptions”
- “The Presence of Isanaklesh: The Apache Female Deity and the Path of Pollen”

In recognition of her extraordinary work as both a scholar & an advocate for social justice and environmental protection, Dr. Talamantez has been invited to be a centenary speaker at the 2009 meetings of the American Academy of Religion.