



Far Western Graduate Spotlight Speaker Series

May 18th
@ 4:30pm
at the Far Western Lab
2727 Del Rio Pl
Davis, CA

Distribution and Chronology of Schist Millingstones in Owens Valley by Katie Hanrahan, M.A., California State University, Sacramento

To assess how, why, and when thin portable schist millingstones were used in Owens Valley (Payahūnadū), data for 1,432 schist artifacts from 156 sites and isolates were compiled and analyzed. Results support previous interpretations that schist millingstones were portable, curated, and associated with residential sites and features. Results of this research do not support the argument that schist millingstones are temporally diagnostic of the Marana Period, but that use of schist millingstones culminated during the late Haiwee and Marana periods. These findings are integrated to identify implications for Owens Valley prehistory, and suggestions for future research and understanding of ground stone technology in the eastern Sierra.

The event is also being livestreamed!

Register for the webinar link here:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/9e1f345e-6ae8-4ec7-b31f-721336cf8035@b52184b6-5dbc-4883-9087-14742c0bc7df>

CalNAGPRA and AB 275: The Reality of Collections Consultation and Repatriation by Leslie Hoefert, M.A., California State University, Sonoma

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the benefits and shortcomings of the California Assembly Bill 275 (AB 275) as an amendment to the California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (CalNAGPRA), related to the process of consultation and repatriation of funerary objects and human remains. A sample of experiences and opinions of the repatriation process were gathered from institutions and tribes to address the beneficial aspects of the legislation, determine what changes have occurred in the consultation and repatriation process as a result of AB 275, and determine the challenges that have been identified by tribes and institutions during compliance efforts. While AB 275 has created additional challenges for tribes and institutions, it was determined to be beneficial in the efforts to address the importance of Indigenous perspectives in collections management and the historical trauma Indigenous communities have experienced over the generations.

Industry and Malady: Entanglements of and Disease Afflicting Breast Cancer Patients in the Bay Area by Briann DeOrnellas, M.A., San Jose State University

In the United States, breast cancer is culturally understood as a disease that afflicts the individual (Jain 2012); breast cancer is something that "just happens" (DeOrnellas 2017). However, studies have shown that breast cancer rates of industrialized nations have risen over time (Hopkins 1993; Hill 1997). These pockets of the country that have higher incidence rates of women's cancers can be situated diachronically and alongside the historical context of war, agrochemical use, and notions of American industrial and technoscientific "progress". As such industries ebb and flow over time, and humans and chemical carcinogens move across space, these maps become increasingly complex, and obscure links between breast cancer causation and affliction. For this research project, I have utilized autoethnographic and ethnographic research methodologies to interview breast cancer patients, in efforts to understand whether prevailing discussions of "lifestyle choices" or "genetic risk" are rhetorical controlling processes (Nader 1997) that divert attention from corporate, governmental, or other institutional accountability, and whether or not these discursive diversions shift culpability onto women who are at risk of—or living with—breast cancer.

The Sacramento City Garbage Crematory Faunal Assemblage: Early Twentieth Century Consumer Patterns by Rachel Davies, M.A., California State University, Sacramento

In response to unsavory sanitation conditions caused by rapid population growth, the Sacramento City Garbage Crematory (CA-SAC-1252H) was established as the city's first municipal garbage incinerator in 1906 and operated for approximately twenty years. The analysis of the faunal remains recovered from SAC-1252H allows for the examination of historic consumer patterns in Sacramento on a communal level as they relate to increased urbanization, improved product accessibility, industry innovation, and changes to endemic animal populations.

Consumption patterns suggest increased reliance on domesticated and non-native animal products. Results regarding industrialized animal husbandry practices and transportation of animal goods from rural areas to urban centers are largely inconclusive due to limited sample size.