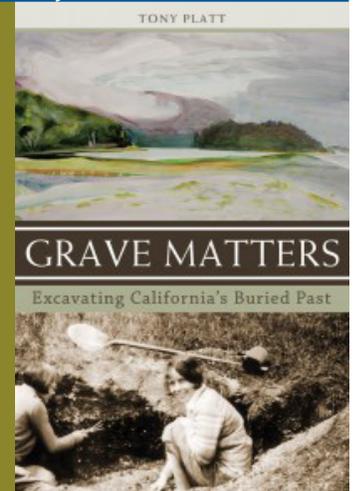




Grave Matters: Excavating California's Buried Past

Dr. Tony Platt



Join the Justice Studies Faculty and Students for a provoking discussion about this book.

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

3:00pm - 5:00pm

Engineering Room 189

About the Book

What do we find when we dig up the past?

Whether by curious Boy Scouts and "backyard archaeologists" or competitive collectors and knowledge-hungry anthropologists, the excavation of native remains is a time-honored practice fraught with injustice and simmering resentments.

Grave Matters is the history of the treatment of native remains in California and the story of the complicated relationship between researcher and researched. Tony Platt begins his journey with his son's funeral at Big Lagoon, a seaside village in pastoral Humboldt County in Northern California, once O-pyúweg, a bustling center for the Yurok and the site of a plundered native cemetery. Platt travels the globe in search of the answer to the question How do we reconcile a place of extraordinary beauty with its horrific past?

Grave Matters centers around the Yurok people and the eventual movement to repatriate remains and reclaim ancient rights, but it is also a universal story of coming to terms with the painful legacy of a sorrowful past.

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About the Author

Tony Platt is the author of ten books and more than 150 essays and articles on race, inequality, and social justice in American history, among them *Bloodlines: Recovering Hitler's Nuremberg Laws, From Patton's Trophy to Public Memorial*, and *The Child Savers: The Invention of Delinquency*, which was reissued as a fortieth-anniversary edition in 2009. Platt, now a professor emeritus, taught at the University of Chicago, the University of California, Berkeley, and California State University, Sacramento, where he received awards for teaching and scholarship. He has been a visiting professor at Chuo University, Tokyo, and at Queen's University, Belfast, and was a visiting researcher at the Huntington Library and the National Museum of American History. Platt has written for the *Los Angeles Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Truthdig.com*, the History News Network, *Z Magazine*, *Monthly Review*, and the *Guardian*, and his commentaries have aired on NPR. His publications have been translated into four languages. Tony Platt lives in Berkeley and Big Lagoon, California.

Discussants:

Libra Hilde

*Department of History
San José State University*

Alan Leventhal

*Department of Anthropology
San José State University*

Darren Modzelewski

*Boalt Hall School of Law
University of California, Berkeley*

Grave Matters: Excavating has been added to your Cart. Add to Cart. Buy Now.Â Platt, now a professor emeritus, taught at the University of Chicago, the University of California, Berkeley, and California State University, Sacramento, where he received awards for teaching and scholarship. He has been a visiting professor at Chuo University, Tokyo, and at Queen's University, Belfast, and was a visiting researcher at the Huntington Library and the National Museum of American History. Platt has written for the Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, Truthdig, the History News Network, Z Magazine, Monthly Review, and the Guardian, and his commentaries have aired This was not always the case in California, where archaeology and collecting for museums have deep, intertwined, and troubled pasts. Grave Matters: Excavating Californiaâ€™s Buried Past explores this past and also touches on themes of repatriation, site preservation, and community-based archaeology. This book targets a broad audience and is relevant to many interested members of the public, including Native Americans, archaeologists, museum specialists, and students.