

Call for Papers

The Public Historian

Special Issue: Cemeteries, Graveyards, and Massacre Sites

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Cemeteries and graveyards are sites that reflect the way a community memorializes its deceased and, in this sense, how it understands history in a profound and intimate way. Burial grounds allow for the public to see how families, friends, communities, and the country left a record of and paid their respects to the dead. Indeed, the discovery of cemeteries, such as the African Burial Ground in New York City, have had profound effect on public historical scholarship. We are interested in work that considers practices such as community reclaiming of unmarked graves and massacre sites; celebration of events such as Dia de los Muertos, obon, and All Saints Day; the complex process of repatriating the bones of Indigenous peoples; and the tragic unearthing of graveyards of children in boarding schools, among other topics.

This special issue of *The Public Historian* endeavors to put into conversation places of burial, cemeteries, graveyards, and massacre sites within public history and historic preservation. What are the politics of preserving these sites? How do they change over time and vary over space? What is the role of the public historian in doing so? How can a consideration of the involvement of local community members, faith groups, historic societies, and professional caretakers in the creation and maintenance of burial sites help us reimagine community-based commemoration, preservation, and memory in understudied sites and communities? How might transnational comparisons help understand practice, policy, and local history? What is the role of technology and digital history in documenting and preserving the history and legacy of our departed?

Proposals for alternative formats, such as reports from the field, interviews with practitioners, and roundtable discussions, will also be welcome. Proposals, which should be no longer than one double-spaced page, should be submitted to *The Public Historian* at shcase@ucsb.edu. The deadline for submission of proposals is December 1, 2023. Selected authors will be notified by January 31, 2024. Articles will be due by August 2024. Publication of the special issue of *The Public Historian* will be in 2025.