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SEPTEMBER PCAS SPEAKER

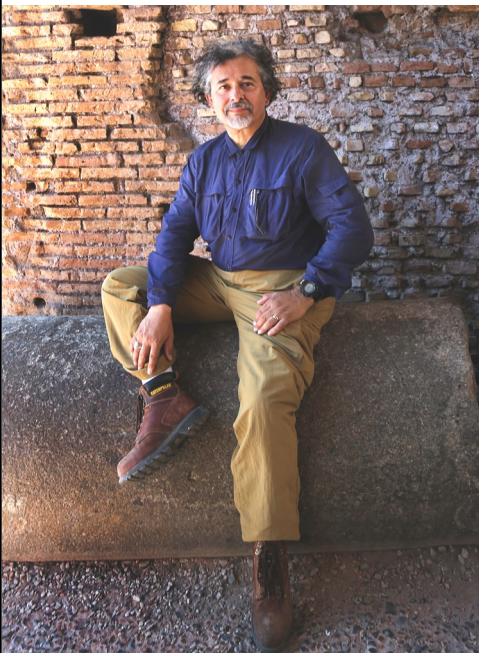
Dr. Rubén G. Mendoza

*Jade Earth, Turquoise Fire—
The Epiclassic Bifurcation of Cosmology,
Rank, and Prestige in Mesoamerica
and the Greater Southwest*

**Free Zoom Meeting
September 9, 7:30 pm
Registration required**

Please see instructions on p. 4.

Turquoise, a copper aluminum phosphate whose color spans the spectrum of blue through green, remains a highly sought-after mineral used



Dr. Rubén G. Mendoza



Turquoise and coral mask from Teotihuacan.

in the production of jewelry, ritual paraphernalia, and in antiquity, Mesoamerican mosaics and the royal Xiuhtilmatli or “Turquoise Cloak” of the Aztec or Mexica Emperors. The majority of those turquoise deposits sought after were located in semiarid regions, including the Southwestern United States (New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, southeastern California) and northern Mexico. Mount Chalchihuitl of Cerillos, New Mexico, became the epicenter of the turquoise trade between the US Southwest and Mesoamerica. With between one and two million individual turquoise specimens projected for Mesoamerica alone, and hundreds of thousands of elements recovered from both Chaco Canyon, New Mexico, and Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico, the formidable extent of trade, exchange, and interaction between the US Southwest and Mesoamerica is today construed to be a given. In an effort to clarify the role of trade in prompting heightened levels of long-distance trade and inter-elite exchange, *Continued on p. 3*

**This is the combined
August/September Newsletter.**

JUNE SPEAKER NOTES

A Railroad Runs Through It: Historical-Period Ethnic Chinese and Mexican Communities in Downtown Redlands, California

By Megan Galway

Dr. Donn R. Grenda presented the findings of the Statistical Research Inc. project undertaken in 2019 and 2020 to prepare for the development of commercial properties in the old Redlands Chinatown area. The project was in the area of Eureka and the railroad tracks and included the locations of a packing house and brick residential building known as the Chinese barracks. Chinatown had been studied and documented in the past but little was known about a Mexican Colonia inhabited by farmworkers, which existed north of the tracks from 1890 to the 1960s.

The top 3 inches of the site were mechanically excavated and 65 features were excavated by hand, avoiding an existing auto electrical business on the site. Most of the features were trash pits. Chinese artifacts dating to the 1890s included evidence of opium use and Chinese and Vietnamese coins used as gaming pieces.

Evidence of a building, previously identified as a Chinese laundry, included a cobblestone foundation and an 18,000 gallon fuel tank that originally contained oil. The Chinese barracks, built by American builders, was later incorporated in 1892 into the Elephant Orchards Packing House. Single use trash pits containing up to 71 percent liquor bottles were believed to be the result of a prohibition of liquor, and the bottles were buried in secret rather than with regular trash. Food preparation articles were found in the area of the intact wok oven base which was later used as an incinerator.



Dr. Donn R. Grenda.

In 1893 unregistered Chinese were evicted from Chinatown, and in 1922 the last Chinese resident left. After this the Mexican Colonia expanded south of the tracks into the Chinatown area. Oral histories of the Mexican population tell of their life, work, and building construction during this time. The original Colonia residents were immigrants fleeing the revolution in Mexico.



Features from this later period included many trash pits and a number of privies. Artifacts included pottery and chili bottles. The area designated Site 1 included 28 trash scatters, 178 trash pits, and 6 privies. Site 2 was similar. There was no evidence of the pipe works building which existed prior to 1900 and produced irrigation and water supply pipes. The trash pits now contained domestic refuse rather than just liquor bottles. The use of privies seemed short-lived, and by 1958 there was no visible evidence of them or a sewage system.

September Speaker *(Continued from p. 1)*

this presentation explores the emergence of a Middle Classic (ca. AD 250–550) to Early Postclassic (AD 900–1250) “Turquoise Corridor” that fueled the expansion of commercial, ritual, and inter-elite interaction and exchange in prestige technologies in the Greater Southwest. Dr. Mendoza contends that the “Turquoise Corridor” delimited and/or defined the rise and fall of an oscillating frontier of compound chiefdoms and ports of trade in both Mesoamerica and the US Southwest.

Dr. Rubén G. Mendoza is an archaeologist, writer, photographer, and founding faculty member of the School of Social, Behavioral, and Global Studies at CSU Monterey Bay. He has conducted archaeological and ethnohistorical investigations in the California missions and the Spanish Royal Presidio of Monterey, in addition to his work on Amerindian and Spanish colonial sites in the US Southwest and Mesoamerica. In 2015 he served as an invited guest and expert witness for the Serra Symposium convened at the Augustinaeum in Rome. Mendoza’s expertise with respect to the California missions led to his being called upon to serve as a consultant to the UNESCO World Heritage Listing for the inscription of the San Antonio, Texas, missions. His expertise and publications in the areas of Amerindian science, technology, and medicine in turn resulted in his recruitment to serve as a cultural consultant, photographer, and on-air talent for the production of *1491: The Untold Story of the Americas Before Columbus* (an 8-part docudrama mini-series) produced by Arrow Productions, Canada.

His publications span the archaeology, prehistory, and ethnohistory of the American hemisphere, including recent publications on Mesoamerican human trophies and architectures of aggression, and the impact of Andalusian influences on the architectural histories of California and the US Southwest. Dr. Mendoza has some 250 published articles, chapters, reviews, and books including *Latin American Indigenous Warfare and Ritual Violence* (2007), *North American Indigenous Warfare and Ritual Violence* (2007), *The Ethics of Anthropology and Amerindian Research* (2012), and *Feast, Famine, or Fighting?* (2017) with Dr. Richard Chacon. His architectural histories include Rizzoli’s *The California Missions* (2018), *The Spanish Style House: From Enchanted Andalusia to the California Dream* (2021), and the forthcoming *The Santa Fe Style: From Earth to Heaven* (2022) with photographer Melba Levick. Other forthcoming titles include a reanalysis of the Aztec Sun Stone in a chapter contribution titled *The War of Heaven* (2021) for the 13th annual proceedings of the State Museum of Prehistory

in Halle, Germany, and Springer’s *Mesoamerican Ritual Human Sacrifice: Recent Findings and New Perspectives* (2023) with co-editor Linda Hansen. This presentation is based on a forthcoming publication, or chapter contribution, for *Trade Before Civilization* by Cambridge University Press.

PCAS GRANT

Camille Lopez-Ambrosio is a student at UCLA in the Lemelson Anthropology Honors Program. She is currently working on a project that aims to create a trans-Holocene narrative across the California Channel Islands. Her research consists of a reassessment of material from a 1991 excavation of a shell midden in the Little Harbor site on Catalina Island. Column samples from the excavation had not previously been thoroughly sorted and screened, limiting the extent to which the site could be accurately characterized. She believes evaluating the original researcher’s sampling methods will provide a more in-depth analysis of the ways in which the data had been interpreted and about the site itself.

Camille plans to use more refined screening and flotation methods on the samples and identify both faunal and shell remains to genus and/or species. Once the data has been sorted and weighed she will compare the column samples by retrieval location, depths, and identified species weights, including the comparison of newly and previously processed data. This comparison, along with the original project note, field catalogs, and other paperwork will allow the assessment of the methods used to excavate and catalog the samples and identify any inconsistencies within the data.



Camille expects that with a comparison of the site’s relative species densities over time she can determine the site’s environmental representation and see how it aligns with previous interpretations of the site. With the diversity of the resources found in the middens, she expects to find variability over time that reflects the local development of ecological and maritime adaptations.

This PCAS grant will cover the cost of radiocarbon dating of three shell samples.

DIG THIS ...



Lectures

Native Masterpiece Baskets: Weavers, Art, & Technology, by Alan Garfinkel (author). An Old Schoolhouse lecture, 6760 National Park Dr, Twentynine Palms, September 10, 7 pm. Fee: \$5. Information: www.joshuatree.org/desert-institute/community-lecture-series.html.

Hand Unto Ethiopia: The First African Americans to Visit Nubia, by Dr. Jeremy Pope (College of William and Mary, Virginia). An ARCE, Bowers Museum event. Recorded lecture available for 24 hours. September 11. Fee: \$10; Bowers and ARCE members free. Information: www.bowers.org.

Twenty-three years of Indigenous-based Research on the Rock Art of Minnesota's Red Rock Ridge, by Thomas Sanders. An American Rock Art Research Association virtual lecture, September 11, 5:30 pm. Free. Registration required. arara.wildapricot.org. Previous ARARA online lectures are available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPCI2NQ3RN3J5TilCuxF3cA>.

Local Lithic Technology and Small-Scale Change on Limuw (Santa Cruz Island), by Dr. Scott Sunnell. A Ventura County Archaeological Society virtual lecture, September 14, 7 pm. Free. Registration required: VCAS.ARCH@gmail.com. Information: www.venturacountyarchaeologicalsociety.com.

Virtual Garden Party with Dr. Jodi Magness (UNC Chapel Hill) speaking on ***To Sit or Squat: Scholar Flushes Out the Mystery-Toiletry of the Essenes*** will support the AIA, Orange County Chapter, 2022 grant. September 18, 2 pm. Fee: \$50. RSVP by August 31. To request Zoom registration: ocarchaeology@yahoo.com.

The History of San Diego County as Seen Through a Wine Bottle, by Richard Carrico (archaeologist, historian, winemaker). A San Diego County Archaeological Society lecture, Los Penesquitos Ranch House, September 25, 6:30 pm. Free. Information: <https://sdcas.org/>.

Classes, Meetings, and Events

The 37th Great Basin Anthropological Conference will be held October 13–16 at the Flamingo Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada. Early fee pricing through September 13: \$105; student \$75. Information and registration: greatbasinanthropologicalassociation.org.

Society for California Archaeology Data Sharing Meetings. Southern Meeting: Joshua Tree National Park, October 16, park entrance fee \$30; ***Northern Meeting***: Calaveras Big Trees State Park, September 25, park entrance fee \$10. Meetings are free. Group camping available for both meetings. Information and registration: www.scahome.org/2020-sca-data-sharing-meetings/.

Rock Art 2021 Virtual Symposium sponsored by the San Diego Rock Art Association, November 6. Three sessions at 10 am, 1 pm, and 3 pm. Free. Required registration, call for papers, and T-shirt sales: www.sandiegorockart.org/index.htm.

Editor's Note: Please confirm time and place of listing prior to the event. Submit items for Dig This to newsletter@pcas.org.

Visit www.pcas.org for all the latest news.

PCAS ZOOM MEETING

- Email a registration request by **noon on Thursday, September 9**, to membership@pcas.org.
- You will receive an email with a link to the Zoom meeting.
- Guests (non-PCAS members) are welcome with registration.
- When the presentation starts, please **mute your microphone and turn off your webcam**.

PCAS host Steve Dwyer will open the Zoom meeting at 7 pm to allow time to resolve any technical problems prior to the beginning of the PCAS General Meeting and lecture at 7:30 pm.

PCAS CODE OF ETHICS

The Pacific Coast Archaeological Society (PCAS) is a nonprofit group of professional and avocational people dedicated to proper management of our cultural resources, public education, and the protection and preservation of archaeological materials and collections.

The following principles have been adopted by the PCAS:

1. Professional methods and forms will be used on all archaeological field surveys, excavations, and laboratory sessions.
2. A complete record of field and laboratory work will be filed with the PCAS Curator and stored at a facility approved by the Society's Board of Directors.
3. No archaeological materials will be removed without proper permits, landowner permission, and a field research design.
4. Unless otherwise legally stipulated before activity commences, all materials collected will be deposited for further research with the Curator at a facility approved by the Society's Board of Directors.
5. All generated reports will be the property of the Society and distributed as deemed appropriate.
6. All Society field activities will be performed only under the direction of a qualified field archaeologist (Principal Investigator) and the supervision of field or site directors.
7. The above principles will be observed on both Society approved projects and projects performed under the direction of an authorized institution or organization.
8. The Society and its members will strive to educate the public of the importance and proper management of our non-renewable cultural resources and to discourage the collection and commercial exploitation of archaeological materials.
9. PCAS members shall not benefit from the acquisition, purchase, sale, or trade of archaeological artifacts, materials, or specimens.
10. All members shall adhere to City, County, State, and Federal antiquities laws.



Join us for a live PCAS Zoom lecture with Dr. Rubén G. Mendoza speaking on “A Jade Earth, Turquoise Fire— The Epiclassic Bifurcation of Cosmology, Rank, and Prestige in Mesoamerica and the Greater Southwest.”

Thursday, September 9, 2021, 7:30 pm

See p. 4 of this newsletter for Zoom registration instructions.

PCAS SPEAKER CALENDAR

October 14, 2021

Dr. Colleen Delaney

Tales from the Guadalupe: 3,000 Years of History at CSU Channel Islands

November 11, 2021

Dr. Loren Davis

December 9, 2021

Dr. Kevin Smith

2021 PCAS BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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PACIFIC COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Newsletters will be sent by email unless a mailed copy is requested.

I have read and agree to abide by the PCAS Code of Ethics _____

Signature

Membership (Includes Quarterly/Newsletter)

- Active Member – \$45
- Family Membership – \$50
- Supporting Member* – \$55
- Donor Member* – \$75
- Lifetime Member* – \$1000

* May be individual or family membership

Subscription Only

- Quarterly* – \$40
- Newsletter* – \$20

Scholarship Fund

- Donation \$ _____

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www.pcas.org/membrs.html

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