



UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA PRESS



SPRING 2019

A powerful portrayal of the complexities of the American West in the twenty-first century

Two-Buck Chuck & The Marlboro Man

The New Old West

FRANK BERGON

“With a novelist’s fine gifts for character and scene, a historian’s depth of perspective, and a local’s intimate knowledge and love, Frank Bergon leads us through California’s Big Valley, where the past lies entwined with the present and every critical tension in modern America plays out in its most distilled form.”

—Miriam Horn, author of *Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman: Conservation Heroes of the American Heartland*

“Novelist and critic Frank Bergon paints a remarkable portrait of life in California’s Great Central Valley through his loving sketches of rural and small-town Westerners.”

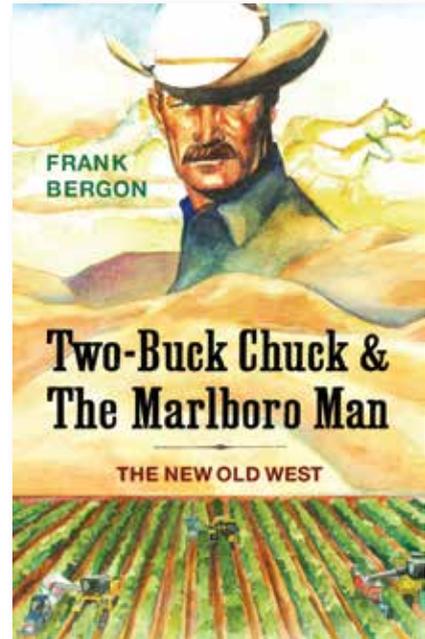
—Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Alphonse Fletcher University Professor, Harvard University, author of *Colored People: A Memoir*

Frank Bergon’s astonishing personal portrayals of people in California’s San Joaquin Valley reveal a country where the culture of a vanishing West lives on in many twenty-first-century Westerners, despite the radical technological transformations around them. All are immigrants, migrants, their children, or their grandchildren whose lives intertwine with the author’s, including several races and ethnicities: Chicanos, Mexicans, African Americans, Italians, Asians, Native Americans, Scots-Irish descendants of Steinbeck’s “Okies,” and Basques of the author’s own heritage.

Chapters feature the celebrated Native American writer Louis Owens and the untold stories of California’s legendary Fred Franzia, the controversial creator of the Charles Shaw wines dubbed “Two-Buck Chuck,” and Darrell Winfield, a Dust Bowl migrant and lifelong working cowboy who for more than thirty years reigned as the iconic Marlboro Man.

Bergon creates a powerful portrayal of the complexities of the American West in the twenty-first century, where Old West values intertwine with New West realities. This is the West (and America) today—a region in conflict with itself.

Frank Bergon is a critically acclaimed novelist, critic, and essayist whose writings focus mainly on the history and environment of the American West. He was born in Ely, Nevada, and grew up on a ranch in Madera County in California’s San Joaquin Valley.



MARCH

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Of related interest

No Place Like Home



A profound meditation on all aspects of life, from the Presidio National Park to personal tragedies

Here Is Where I Walk

Episodes from a Life in the Forest

LESLIE CAROL ROBERTS

“A series of absorbing, funny, tragic, and deeply present ruminations... Packed with a scientist’s curiosity and an artist’s imagination, she uses her walks the way Thoreau encouraged us to treat every journey into nature: as a lesson in how to accept, relish, and even seek out change.”

—John D’Agata, author of *About a Mountain*

It is in the Presidio National Park in San Francisco, California, that Leslie Carol Roberts walks. The Presidio, America’s only residential national park tucked wholly into an urban setting, is a fading historic forest. Here is where Leslie’s memories of other places, people, and travels emerge. Here is where the author’s home has been for more than a decade and here is the place she raised her two children as a single mother.

In this thickly textured literary treasure, Leslie turns her daily journeys, rich with observation and recollection, into revelations of deeper meaning. Through her daily walks into the Presidio, Leslie accepts the invitation of the beckoning trees and finds herself colliding with the urban coyote, the peculiar banana slug, and the manzanita. She notes both ridiculous and poignant aspects of human ecosystems—parents bragging about Austrian ski vacations, grocery stores packed with nannies—all in pursuit of what it means to live a life of creativity and creation.

The twelve episodes, each connected to a month of the year and interwoven with field notebooks, explore everything from Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone in the fields where he spoke with the birds to the work of Western botanist Alice Eastwood. Leslie reflects on the high school art teacher who first inspired her thinking about aesthetics, the tragic accident that left her severely injured, her subsequent work as a college professor teaching writing, and the loss of a beloved student to cancer. In all this, places of exquisite beauty and complexity provide her with exactly the scaffolding needed to survive, with nature serving as a tonic. *Here Is Where I Walk* provides a vivid answer to how we can find our place, not only in nature but within ourselves and the world we walk.

Leslie Carol Roberts is an author, journalist, and essayist as well as professor and chair of the MFA Writing Program at California College of the Arts in San Francisco.

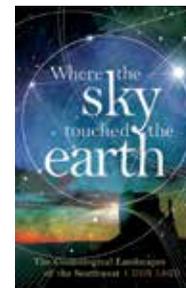
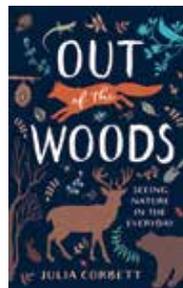


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Of related interest

Out of the Woods • *Where the Sky Touched the Earth*



One man's lifelong encounter with the iconic granite-filled peaks of Yosemite National Park

Granite and Grace

Seeking the Heart of Yosemite

MICHAEL P. COHEN

“Cohen has produced an inimitable capstone to a scholarly career: a metamorphic anti-memoir... By situating his personal inquiry into human meaning on a substance—intrusive granite—that resists storytelling, Cohen takes a hard route to grace. A perfect book for mountain people who distrust easy answers to existential questions.”

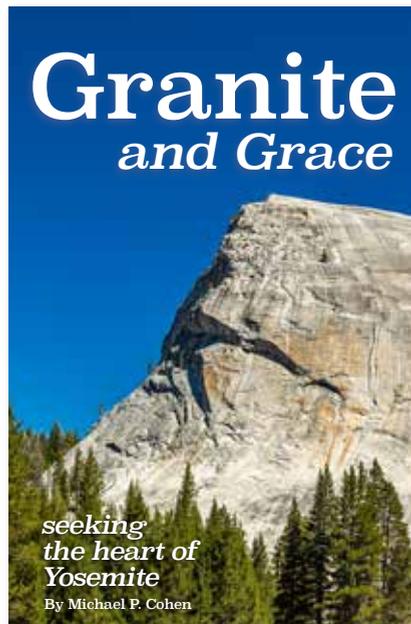
—Jared Farmer, author of *Trees in Paradise: A California History*

In *Granite and Grace*, Michael P. Cohen reflects on a lifetime of climbing, walking, and pondering the granite in Yosemite National Park at Tuolumne Meadows. This high-country region of Yosemite is dominated by a young, beautifully glaciated geological formation known as the Tuolumne Intrusive Suite. It does not include familiar Yosemite icons like Half Dome, yet geologists describe this granitic realm at over 8,000 feet as “an iconic American landscape.”

Drawing together the humanistic and scientific significance of the wild landscapes he traverses, Michael uncovers relationships between people and places and meaning and substance, rendering this text part memoir—but also considerably more. On-the-rock encounters by hand and foot open up a dialogue between the heart of a philosopher and the mind of a geologist. Michael adds a literary softness to this hard landscape, blending excursions with exposition and literature with science. It is through his graceful representations that the geological becomes metaphorical, while the science turns mythological.

This high country, where in 1889 John Muir and Robert Underwood Johnson planned what would become Yosemite National Park, is significant for cultural as well as natural reasons. Even though Yosemite has changed over half a century, the rock has not. As Michael explores the beauty and grace of his familiar towering vistas, he demonstrates why, of the many aspects of the world to which one might get attached, the most secure is granite.

Michael P. Cohen is an award-winning author of several books including *Tree Lines* and *A Garden of Bristlecones*. Cohen, a rock climber and mountaineer, is a pioneer of first ascents in the Sierra Nevada and has been a professional mountain guide. He splits his time between Reno, Nevada, and June Lake, California. He first visited Tuolumne Meadows in 1955.

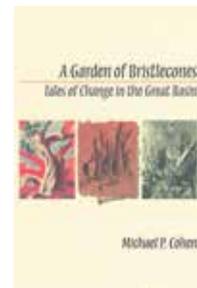


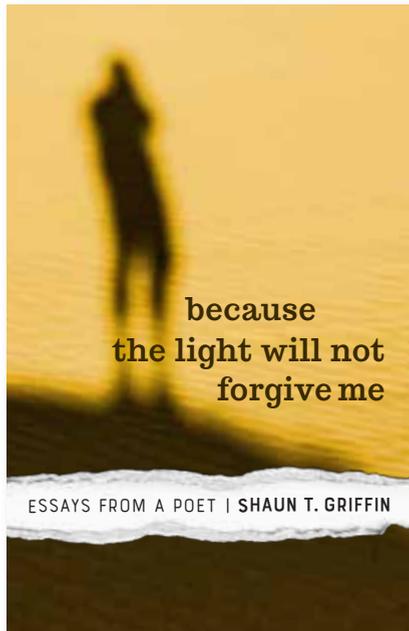
MAY

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Of related interest

Contact • *Garden of Bristlecones*



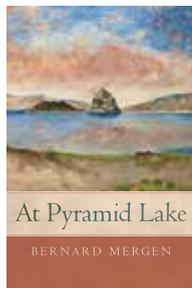
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Of related interest*At Pyramid Lake* • *Going Away to Think*

A poet ponders the people, spaces, and ideas that influence the American West and beyond

Because the Light Will Not Forgive Me

Essays from a Poet

SHAUN T. GRIFFIN

“Shaun Griffin commingles his heart and his intellect in singular and moving ways. Each essay has its own integrity, yes, but each is also an artery opened by Mr. Griffin’s pen, out of which flows profound and powerful feeling.”

—Richard Wiley, author of *Bob Stevenson*

“These wonderfully adroit essays speak to and for the poetry of the earth and the poetry that emanates from the hands of men and women.”

—Baron Wormser, author of *The Road Washes Out in Spring: A Poet’s Memoir of Living Off the Grid*

In this luminous and moving book of essays, award-winning author Shaun T. Griffin weaves together a poetic meditation on living meaningfully in this world. Anchored in the American West but reaching well beyond, he recounts his discoveries as a poet and devoted reader of poetry, a teacher of the disadvantaged, a friend of poets and artists, and a responsible member of the human family.

Always grounded in place, be it Nevada, South Africa, North Dakota, Spain, Zimbabwe, or Mexico, Griffin confronts the world with an openness that allows him to learn and grow from the people he meets. Along with Griffin, readers will reflect on how they might respond to a homeless man walking through central Nevada, viewing the open desert as Thoreau might have viewed Walden, seeing the US-Mexico border as a region of lost identity, reconciling how poets who live west of the Hudson River find anonymity to be their laurel, and experiencing how writing poetry in prison becomes lifesaving.

Whether poets or places in the West or beyond, experiences with other cultures, or an acute awareness that poetry is the refuge of redress—all have influenced Griffin’s writing and thinking as a poet and activist in the Great Basin. The mindfulness of *Because the Light Will Not Forgive Me* demonstrates that even though the light does not forgive, it still reveals.

Shaun T. Griffin is an award-winning poet, writer, teacher, and activist.

*A life and times biography of civil rights
and political icon Senator Joe Neal*

The Westside Slugger

Joe Neal's Lifelong Fight for Social Justice

JOHN L. SMITH

“Las Vegas has always been blessed with sharp-penned journalists, but I’m not sure anyone else can serve up a story of modern Vegas/Nevada politics as fine-grained and readable as this one by native son John Smith... *The Westside Slugger* recreates the life of a brave, principled man inhabiting a glittering place in a sordid time. It’s a fascinating ride of a book.”

—Dan Flores, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Coyote America*

The Westside Slugger is the powerful story of civil rights in Las Vegas and Nevada through the eyes and experience of Joe Neal, a history-making state lawmaker in Nevada. Neal rose from humble beginnings in Mound, Louisiana, during the Great Depression to become the first African American to serve in the Nevada State Senate.

Filled with an intense desire for education, he joined the United States Air Force and later graduated from Southern University—studying political science and the law at a time of great upheaval in the racial status quo. As part of a group of courageous men, Neal joined a Department of Justice effort to register the first black voters in Madison Parish.

When Neal moved to southern Nevada in 1963 he found the Silver State to be every bit as discriminatory as his former Louisiana home. As Neal climbed through the political ranks, he used his position in the state senate to speak on behalf of the powerless for more than thirty years. He didn’t always succeed—he lost two runs for governor—but he never stopped fighting. His successes included improved rights for convicted felons and greater services for public education, mental health, and the state’s libraries. He also played an integral role in improving hotel fire safety in the wake of the deadly MGM Grand fire and preserving the pristine waters of Lake Tahoe, which brought him national attention.

Neal lived a life that personified what is right, just, and fair. Pushing through racial and civil rights hurdles and becoming a lifelong advocate for social justice, his dedication and determination are powerful reminders to always fight the good fight and never stop swinging.

John L. Smith is a Nevada native and award-winning freelance writer, journalist, and author of more than a dozen books.

The Westside SLUGGER

Joe Neal's
Lifelong
Fight for
Social
Justice

By John L. Smith

JANUARY

296 pages • 6 x 9 • 15 b/w photographs
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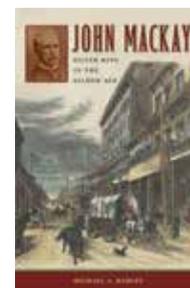
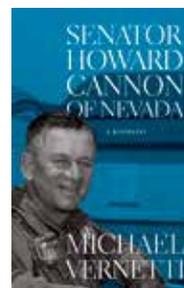
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Wilbur S. Shepperson Series in Nevada History

Of related interest

Senator Howard Cannon of Nevada • John Mackay



The untold 150-year story of inspiration and controversy surrounding San Francisco's Civic Center

The San Francisco Civic Center

A History of the Design, Controversies, and Realization of the City Beautiful Masterpiece

JAMES W. HAAS

"This exquisite book invites us to eavesdrop on and understand why our thoughtful author has stayed so loyal to this urban architecture love affair."

— Chip Conley, hospitality entrepreneur and bestselling author

"Haas takes his record of service to the City to a higher level by bringing to light the unique history of the Civic Center. By doing so, he helps us not only to understand how the Civic Center came to be, but also to grasp its significance and central place in San Francisco's past, present, and future."

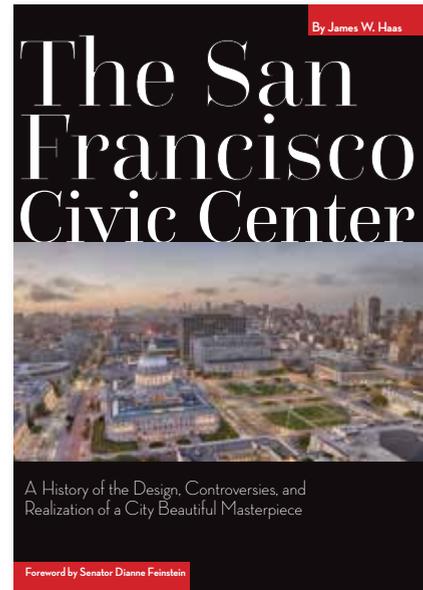
—Senator Dianne Feinstein, from the foreword

San Francisco is known and loved around the world for its iconic man-made structures, such as the Golden Gate Bridge, cable cars, and Transamerica Pyramid. Yet its Civic Center, with the grandest collection of monumental municipal buildings in the United States, is often overlooked, drawing less global and local interest, despite its being an urban planning marvel featuring thirteen government office and cultural buildings.

In *The San Francisco Civic Center*, James W. Haas tells the complete story of the Civic Center and how it became one of the most complete developments envisioned by any American city. Originally planned and designed by John Galen Howard in 1912, San Francisco's Civic Center is considered in both design and materials one of the finest achievements of the American reformist City Beautiful movement, an urban design movement that began more than a century ago.

Haas meticulously unravels the Civic Center's story of perseverance and dysfunction, providing an understanding and appreciation of this local and national treasure. He also delves into the vision for the future and related national trends in city planning and the architectural and art movements that influenced those trends.

Riddled with inspiration and leadership as well as controversy, *The San Francisco Civic Center*, much like the complex itself, is a stunning manifestation of the confident spirit of one of America's most dynamic and creative cities.



MAY

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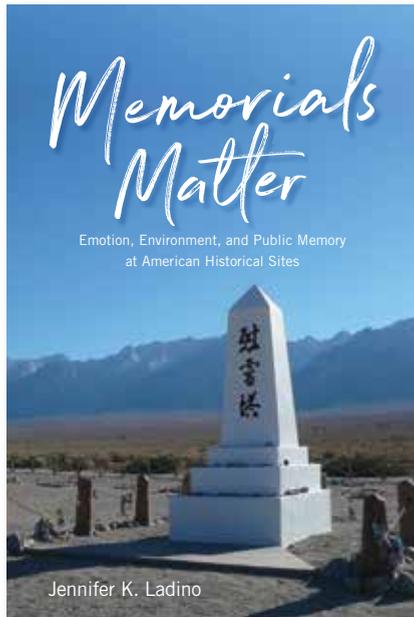
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Of related interest

Tale of Two Bridges • *Genesis of Reno*

James W. Haas is an author, attorney, and expert on San Francisco's Civic Center history and politics. He has lived in San Francisco most of his life and spent more than forty years engaged in civic projects, including the restoration and completion of San Francisco's Civic Center.

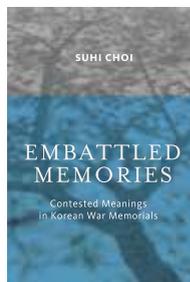
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Of related interest

*Reimagining Environmental History •
Embattled Memories*



A thought-provoking analysis of place and trauma encapsulated in sites of public memory

Memorials Matter

Emotion, Environment, and Public Memory
at American Historical Sites

JENNIFER K. LADINO

“Deploying first-person narrative scholarship and drawing on her experience as a former park ranger, Ladino makes unique and accessible contributions to material ecocriticism, affect studies, and national park studies. As threats to the U.S. national park system continue to proliferate alongside resurgent white nationalisms, *Memorials Matter* proves a timely and necessary work.”

—Nicole Seymour, author of *Strange Natures*

“In Ladino’s study, national parks are sites of emotional friction and emotional discovery... For the parks lover and ecocritic alike, Ladino’s book informs and guides.”

—Heather Houser, author of *Ecosickness in Contemporary U.S. Fiction*

From the sculptured peaks of Mount Rushmore to the Coloradan prairie lands at Sand Creek to the idyllic islands of the Pacific, the West’s signature environments add a new dimension to the study of memorials. In such diverse and often dramatic landscapes, how do the natural and built environments shape our emotions?

In *Memorials Matter*, author Jennifer K. Ladino investigates the natural and physical environments of seven diverse National Park Service (NPS) sites in the American West and how they influence emotions about historical conflict and national identity. Chapters center around the region’s diverse inhabitants (Mexican, Chinese, Japanese, African, and Native Americans) and the variously traumatic histories these groups endured. Ladino emphasizes the ideological and political importance of memorials and how they evoke visceral responses that are not always explicitly “storied,” but nevertheless matter in powerful ways.

In this unique blend of narrative scholarship and critical theory, Ladino demonstrates how these memorial sites and their surrounding landscapes, combined with written texts, generate emotion and shape our collective memory of traumatic events. She urges us to consider our everyday environments and to become attuned to features and feelings we might have otherwise overlooked.

Jennifer K. Ladino is an author and associate professor of English at the University of Idaho, where she specializes in American literature and the environmental humanities.

*A provocative take on what it means to
see the world through a vegan lens*

Through a Vegan Studies Lens

Textual Ethics and Lived Activism

Edited by LAURA WRIGHT

“Veganism has arrived as a visible practice across a diversity of cultures—this rich volume significantly furthers the conversation of what a vegan studies perspective can be and illustrates just why it should be an integral part of cultural studies and critical theory.”

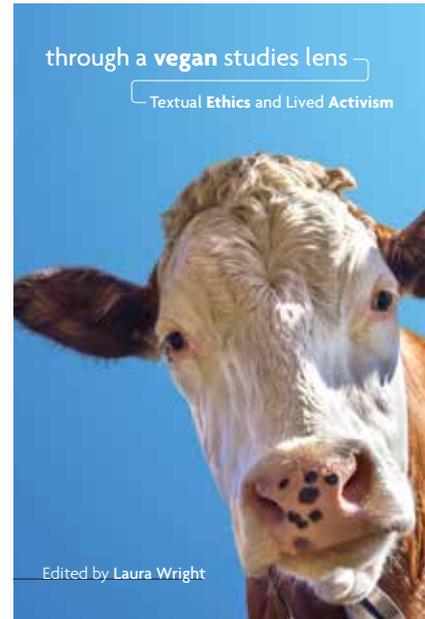
—Richard Twine, Senior Lecturer in Social Sciences and Co-Director of the Centre for Human Animal Studies, Edge Hill University

Interest in the vegan studies field continues to grow as veganism has become increasingly visible via celebrity endorsements and universally acknowledged health benefits, and veganism and vegan characters are increasingly present in works of art and literature. *Through a Vegan Studies Lens* broadens the scope of vegan studies by engaging in the mainstream discourse found in a wide variety of contemporary works of literature, popular cultural representations, advertising, and news media.

Veganism is a practice that allows for environmentally responsible consumer choices that are viewed, particularly in the West, as oppositional to an economy that is largely dependent upon big agriculture. This groundbreaking collection exposes this disruption, critiques it, and offers a new roadmap for navigating and reimagining popular culture representations on veganism. These essays engage a wide variety of political, historical, and cultural issues, including contemporary political and social circumstances, emergent veganism in Eastern Europe, climate change, and the Syrian refugee crisis, among other topics.

Through a Vegan Studies Lens significantly furthers the conversation of what a vegan studies perspective can be and illustrates why it should be an integral part of cultural studies and critical theory. Vegan studies is inclusive, refusing to ignore the displacement, abuse, and mistreatment of nonhuman animals. It also looks to ignite conversations about cultural oppression.

Laura Wright is the author of three books and a professor of English at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina, where she specializes in postcolonial literatures and theory, ecocriticism, and animal studies.



FEBRUARY

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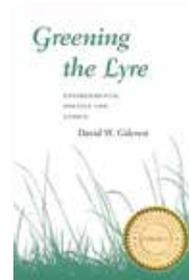
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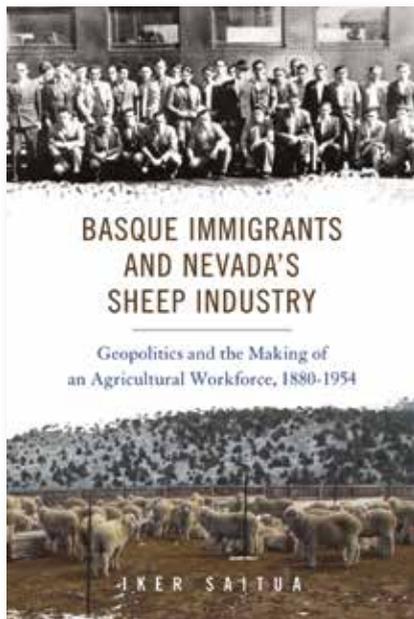
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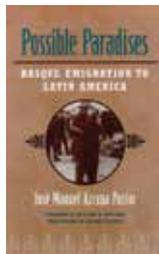
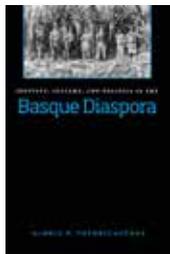
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Basque Studies Series

Of related interest

Identity, Culture, and Politics in the Basque Diaspora • Possible Paradises



A geopolitical perspective on Basque migration to the American West

Basque Immigrants and Nevada's Sheep Industry

Geopolitics and the Making of an Agricultural Workforce, 1880-1954

IKER SAITUA

“This is a story that is simultaneously transnational and intensely local. Historians of the American West are deeply indebted to this fine young historian.”

—Steven M. Avella, professor of history, Marquette University, Milwaukee

Basque Immigrants and Nevada's Sheep Industry is a rich and complex exploration of the history of Basque immigration to the rangelands of Nevada and the interior West. It looks critically at the Basque sheepherders in the American West and more broadly at the modern history of American foreign relations with Spain after the Second World War.

Between the 1880s and the 1950s, the western open-range sheep industry was the original economic attraction for Basque immigrants. This engaging study provides deep detail about the sheepherders' history, native and local culture, the challenges they faced, and the changing conditions under which the Basques lived and worked. Saitua also shows how Basque immigrant sheepherders went from being a marginalized labor group to a desirable, high-priced workforce in response to the constant demand for their labor power.

In 1924, the Restrictive Immigration Act resulted in a truncated labor supply from the Basque Country in Spain. During the Great Depression and the Second World War, the labor shortage became acute. In response, Senator Patrick McCarran from Nevada lobbied on behalf of his wool-growing constituency to open immigration doors for Basques. Subsequently, Cold War international tensions offered opportunities for a reconciliation between the United States and Francisco Franco, despite Spain's previous sympathy with the Axis powers.

This fresh portrayal shows how Basque immigrants became the backbone of the sheep industry in Nevada and contributes to a wider understanding of the economic interests of Western ranchers, and McCarran's diplomacy as catalysts that eventually helped bring Spain into the orbit of western democracies.

Iker Saitua is a Basque Government Postdoctoral Fellow in History at the University of California, Riverside and the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU). He is a native of the Basque Country and a historian of the Basque Country and the United States.

An examination of University of Nevada, Reno's programs and strategies to support first generation, low-income, and underrepresented students

Access for All

Expanding Opportunity and Programs to Support Successful Student Outcomes at the University of Nevada, Reno

Edited by MELISA N. CHOROSZY and THEODOR M. MEEK

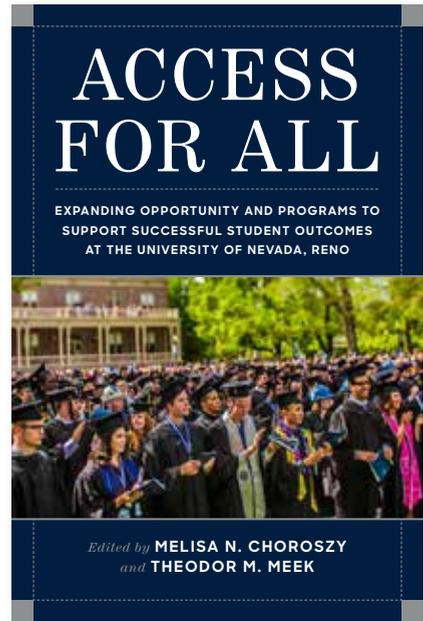
For many students in Nevada and throughout the nation, they are the first in their family to go to college—these students are identified as “first-generation.” The population of first-generation students continues to increase year-over-year and their unique needs have shaped the way education practitioners must approach serving future students effectively.

This collection of essays written by the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) faculty and students is an examination of the programs and strategies created to support first-generation and other underrepresented student populations. In addition, it serves as a dedication to the families and students whose hopes and dreams include the attainment of a college degree. The authors describe their work with first-generation and underrepresented college-bound students and students themselves tell their stories of success. Readers will gain insight into the framework needed to provide accessible programs and services to a large and diverse student population before, during, and after college graduation as well as first-hand success stories from the students themselves.

Each generation hopes for a better life for their children. Higher education, in particular, has been a dream for many in this country that has been made possible through public and private financial support. Every new generation of college-bound students faces new and evolving challenges, but the fierce dedication and commitment demonstrated in these pages define the key to developing a thriving and diverse institution that helps all students succeed.

Melisa N. Choroszy, Ph.D., is the Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services at the University of Nevada, Reno where she oversees the offices of Admissions and Records, Financial Aid and Scholarships, Office for Prospective Students, Office of International Students and Scholars, the Disability Resource Center, Academic and Opportunity Support Programs, Veteran Services, and athletic eligibility.

Theodor M. Meek, M.A., is the director of advising for the university advising center at the University of Nevada, Reno, where he focuses on the transition from recent high school graduates to incoming college students.



JANUARY

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Of related interest

University of Nevada, Las Vegas: A History •

Visitor's Guide to the University of Nevada, Reno Arboretum

