

Dissonant Voices

Dialectics of Place

National Park Service
U. S. Department of Interior

Golden Gate
National Recreation Area



Institute Description and Resources

Our four-day institute will introduce and/or reacquaint you with place-based and inquiry learning in national parks. Our goal is to provide you with practical and useful ideas for implementing Social Studies field-based education through learning activities and research or service projects.

Our institute is framed by the essential question “How do dialectics of place influence our experience?” We have chosen topics that are rooted in areas of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area but are emblematic of larger social issues. You and your colleagues will have the opportunity to consider national events and issues within a local perspective. The institute will be held at the Presidio of San Francisco, Alcatraz Island, the Marin Headlands, and Fort Mason.

Requirements for CEUs

Participants will be required to produce a 2-3 page paper demonstrating their understanding of the course topics; place-based teaching methodology; and, historic and issues-oriented inquiry. The paper also will include how these methods can be incorporated into their teaching practice. Paper will be due within two weeks of completion of the workshop.

Day 1

Setting the Stage for Place-based Historic Inquiry
Pedagogy of place and inquiry methods is at the heart of the institute. Daisy Martin, the Co-Director of the National History Education Clearinghouse, and Associate Director of Historical Thinking Matters at Stanford University, will set the stage with a discussion of how historic inquiry and issues-based teaching can provoke students to pose meaningful questions, apply critical thinking skills, and build their own interpretations of local, national, and international events.

African Americans in San Francisco
John William Templeton, author of *Come to the Water: Sharing The Rich Black Experience in San Francisco*, tells the social and political life of the San Francisco African American community from the late 1880s into the early 20th century. He will set the context for our next two sessions about policies and events significant to local African American history that marked profound implications over two continents and two centuries.

A Question of Color – John Harris vs. Sutro Baths
How can a policy of exclusion exist in a public place? Just as Plessey vs. Ferguson established separate but equal under the law, California passed the Dibble Civil Rights Act, allowing California citizens to file civil suits against businesses that discriminated on the basis of race. John Harris, an African American denied entry to Sutro Baths, sued Adolph Sutro, owner of the popular bathhouse and former mayor of San Francisco. Elaine Eilinson, author of *Wherever There’s a Fight*, and Park Ranger Lynn Fonfa give an account of this case important to Gilded Age San Francisco, but little-known to us today.

Honorable Duty
How did American foreign policy expand a landscape of fear abroad? The moral dilemma of the African American Buffalo Soldiers during the Spanish American War and the War for Independence in the Philippines explores the fear and dehumanization of Other during America’s expansion into the Pacific. Rik Penn, Park Ranger, takes us through the Presidio National Cemetery where over 450 Buffalo Soldiers are buried.

Day 2

American Indian Occupation Through the Eyes of Women

How does gender influence the memory and telling of political events? Miho Aida, the director of the new video documentary, *Alcatraz – The Rock That Hit the Water*, brings voices of 12 American Indian women whose lives have been transformed through the 1969 Alcatraz Occupation. Miho and women in the video will screen the video and share their perspectives of the event and its living legacy.

Hopi Prisoners on the Rock

What is the military’s relationship to ‘domestic dependent nations’? Alcatraz Island played an auspicious role in the lives of 19 Hopi men who spent nearly a year imprisoned for refusing the “civilized ways of white men.” The story centers on the Hopi refusal to send their children away to boarding schools and staunch resistance to land allotment programs. Park Ranger Craig Glassner recounts the reception waiting for them at the island while it was a military prison.

Prisoners and Politics on the Rock

What is the role of exile in controlling political debate? Alcatraz housed political prisoners such as Phillip Grosser, anarchist and anti-militarist opposed to World War I, and Morton Sobell, sent in the 1950s on conspiracy charges stemming from the Rosenberg spy trial. Robert Lipscomb, incarcerated on criminal charges and later sent to Alcatraz for being an agitator, challenged federal rules of segregation within the prison walls. Park Ranger Benny Batom relates these stories as he leads us through the penitentiary.

Alcatraz in the Civil War – Military Fortress or Political Prison?

What is the true nature of loyalty in time of civil war? While more famous battles and events unfolded back east, Alcatraz was a powerful fortress guarding San Francisco Bay during the Civil War. The island became a symbol of determination to keep California in the Union at all cost, as the lines became blurred between punishment for taking action on behalf of the rebellion and repression of any expression of sympathy with the Southern cause, raising the issue: What are the limits of dissent during wartime? Join Steve Haller, Park Historian, in this interesting debate.

Day 3

Nuclear Reactions: Atomic Diplomacy at the Marin Headlands

How do we protect both our borders and our ideals? This field session showcases the Nike nuclear missile site built at the height of the Cold War. Nestled in the verdant Marin hillside, the Nike site sat next to a vibrant urban landscape. Here we can sense the delicate balance known as Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) up close and personal. We will investigate the site as we contemplate the role of nuclear power – then and now. John Porter, NPS Manager, will provide the historic context.

Marincello – New Visions of Public Land Use

Who determines the needs of the community for public space? In 1964 one of the largest U.S. development corporations joined forces with one of the largest oil companies in the world to plan and build Marincello, a model community slated to be more populous than any city in Marin County. But these developers did not anticipate the local opposition that swelled against them. The fight to stop Marincello brought to the forefront new visions of the need for public land in an urban context, as well as the broadening definition of urban space to include an urban national park. Join Doug Ferguson, attorney in the case, and Park Ranger Roxi Farwell as they unravel this dramatic story set in the times of mid-century Urban Renewal policies.

Day 4

Uprooting Chinatown

When does racism masquerade as public health? In the late 1800s and early 1900s, San Francisco’s power elite made several attempts to remove the Chinese community and their places of cultural significance to areas far from the city center. The most-often reason quoted for the proposed uprooting of the Chinese community was public health. Join Park Rangers Roxi Farwell and Nicole Jung Alexander in this session as we examine three examples of public health issues that were thinly-veiled racist policies. Is the experience of the Chinese in San Francisco over a hundred years ago similar to the experiences of other disenfranchised Americans today?

Golden Gate Bridge – Icon of an Era

How can you use historic inquiry in a class trip to the Golden Gate Bridge? We will end our institute with a working session on the Golden Gate Bridge.