

ARCH/BIOANTH LUNCH TALK  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND, 2022, 12-1PM  
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# GEORGIE DEANTONI

## PHD CANDIDATE – UC SANTA CRUZ

*INDIGENOUS PERSISTENCE AND PLANT USE AT MISSION SAN JUAN BAUTISTA:  
A LOW-IMPACT AND COLLABORATIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPROACH*

Georgie's dissertation research examines the persistence of Indigenous peoples' plant use for food and medicine within their traditional homelands along the Central Coast of California. In this talk she will describe her ongoing collaborative research partnership at the Indian Family Housing Site at Mission San Juan Bautista, the known location where the Native families who worked at the mission lived, first in tule structures in the early 19th-century and later in adobe dormitory housing from the 1820s to the 1850s. The descendants of these families, including members of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and the Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan Ohlone Indians, are currently partnering with archaeologists from UC Santa Cruz and California State Parks to identify food plants consumed at the Native village associated with the mission, reframing existing narratives of assimilation around food choices. Through her community-based dissertation research, Georgie will analyze charred plant taxa (e.g. burned seeds and nutshell) to explore plant use at a place that was designed to disrupt Indigenous cultural practices, examining how the ancestors of the Amah Mutsun and Indian Canyon communities maintained and enhanced Indigenous epistemologies through connections to plants, connections to place, and connections to practice despite colonial pressures.



Georgie DeAntoni is a PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology at UC Santa Cruz. Her research interests include collaborative, community-based, and public archaeologies, specifically looking at ways that archaeology can be used as a tool for communities to redefine popular narratives about sites like missions and presidios. Her previous projects have primarily centered on sites along the Central Coast region of California from Sonoma to San Benito counties. In addition to her dissertation work, Georgie is working as an Archaeological Specialist at the Presidio of San Francisco on their public research excavation and archaeology volunteer stewardship program.