

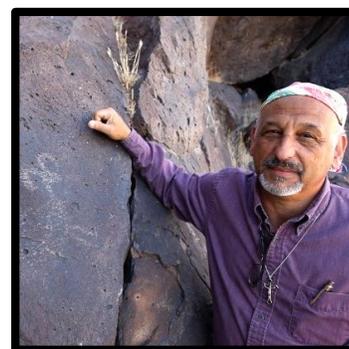
ARCH/BIOANTH LUNCH TALK

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 12:00PM
SOC SCI 1, 261

DR. ALAN GARFINKEL GOLD

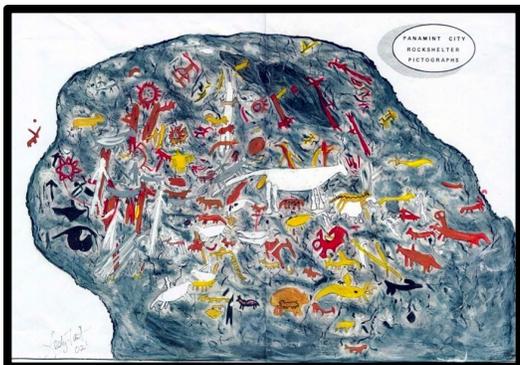
PRINCIPAL ARCHAEOLOGIST
ULTRASYSTEMS ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

RELIGIOUS SYMBOLISM IN EASTERN CALIFORNIA GHOST DANCE ROCK PAINTINGS



The Ghost Dance movements of 1870 and 1890 were revitalistic or millennial expressions (crisis rites). The central theme was that if Natives danced (the round or circle dance) and prayed the world would return to a natural, unharmed state: the way it was before Euroamericans introduced their devastating diseases and destructive habits that nearly destroyed the Native Great Basin people – in essence a new heaven on earth. In eastern California, a number of historic multicolored Native American rock paintings have been documented that are extraordinarily rich in imagery (including an extensive array of representational elements). These rock paintings are a window into the worldview of Native people and provide some amazing insights into the religious meaning and metaphor of Ghost Dance religion and Numic (Great Basin Paiute Shoshone) cosmology. New technology (d-stretch, computer aided color enhancements, deconstruction of superimposition, and color sequencing), has provided some new discoveries of the deeper meanings.

Dr. Alan Garfinkel is a California and Great Basin anthropologist/archaeologist principally known for his work with the indigenous people of the Far West and for his studies of Native American rock art in California and the Great Basin. He is most well regarded for his pioneering studies in the regional prehistory of eastern California, the far southern Sierra Nevada, and southwestern Great Basin. He is a recognized authority on the Coso Range Rock Art traditions and Coso Region prehistory in general.



Dr. Garfinkel is currently Principal Archaeologist for UltraSystems Environmental, Inc. in charge of their work in the Western United States and Pacific Rim. Their corporate office is in Irvine, California. Garfinkel is also founder and director of the California Rock Art Foundation. - a not for profit, scientific and educational organization dedicated to the preservation of indigenous rock art resources in Alta and Baja California.