

UC Riverside Retirees' and Emeriti Associations  
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UCR's Office of Gift Planning  
Present

The Edward A. Dickson Emeritus/a Professorship Lecture Series

# SIGNATURE ROCKS: EMIGRATION AND THE SIGNED LANDSCAPE IN INDIAN COUNTRY 1830-1869

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

3:00 - 4:30 p.m. with Reception to follow

In-person at University Extension Building 1101 in the  
University Village

Livestreamed via Zoom

## Featuring

Conrad Rudolph, PhD

UCR Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Medieval Art History



## Description

Signature Rocks is the first systematic study of the surviving "signatures" inscribed by the emigrants, as they called themselves, on both the famous and not so famous rock formations that line the overland trails through Indian Country from the Missouri River to the Pacific from the 1830s to 1869. Once numbering in the hundreds of thousands, only several thousand have survived. Following the overland crossing, we read these inscriptions--an unrecognized and vanishing American archive--in light of a number of motivations to signing culled from the over two thousand emigrant journals and other accounts that have come down to us. The result is a new understanding of this completely overlooked aspect of one of the most iconic episodes in the history of the United States.

## Register

Priority seating is given to members of the UCR Emeriti and Retirees' Associations who must register by September 21, 2025 on the [Retirement Center webpage](#).

Registration will open to UCR and the public on September 22, 2025.

Questions may be sent to [retirees@ucr.edu](mailto:retirees@ucr.edu)