

Advancing Geographies of Justice by Removing Offensive Place Names



Hosted by [Dr. Thomas Herman](#),
Director, [California Geographic Alliance](#)



CALIFORNIA GLOBAL
EDUCATION PROJECT

CALIFORNIA
SUBJECT
MATTER
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ncge
National Council for
Geographic Education

NOVEMBER 18 - 22, 2024
GEOGRAPHERS TAKE ACTION

GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK



AAG

Advancing Geographies of Justice by Removing Offensive Place Names

1. Introduction to the topic of offensive place names
2. A conversation with two scholars taking action to address the problem
3. Opportunities to learn more, engage with your community, and take action

At any time, you can enter your questions into the Zoom Q&A!

SPECIAL GUESTS



Dr. Derek Alderman
- Professor of Geography @ Univ. of Tennessee
- Federal Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names

Dr. Daniel Oto Peralías

- Associate Professor of Economics @ Univ. Pablo de Olavide (Spain)
- Principal Investigator and Data Scientist, ST NAMES LAB



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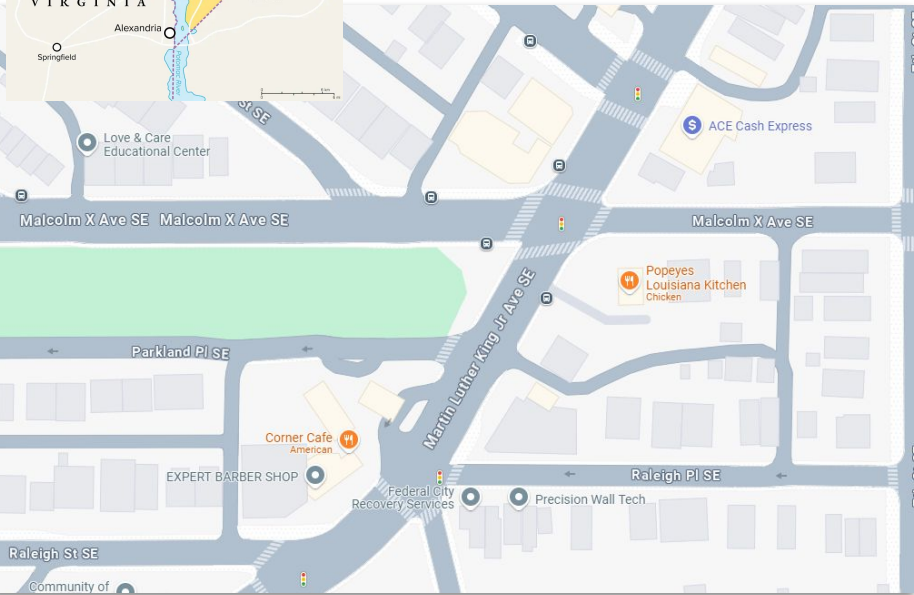
- Associate Professor of Economics @ Univ. Pablo de Olavide (Spain)
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Positionality Collage for Thomas Herman



2. Studied wilderness management at New Mexico State University



1. Graduated high school in Washington, DC

Sierra Ancha Wilderness Area



Trails:

- [Coon Trail #124](#)
- [Deep Trail #128](#)
- [Grapevine Trail #135](#)
- [Rim Trail #139](#)

First established in 1933 as a "Primitive Area," this 20,850 acre wilderness is full of surprises, and is a pleasure to explore. While not large in acres, this very special wilderness includes precipitous box canyons, high cliffs, and pine-covered mountains.

3. Studied children's everyday geographies in City Heights, San Diego





PERSON

Nathan Harrison

Homestead National Historical Park

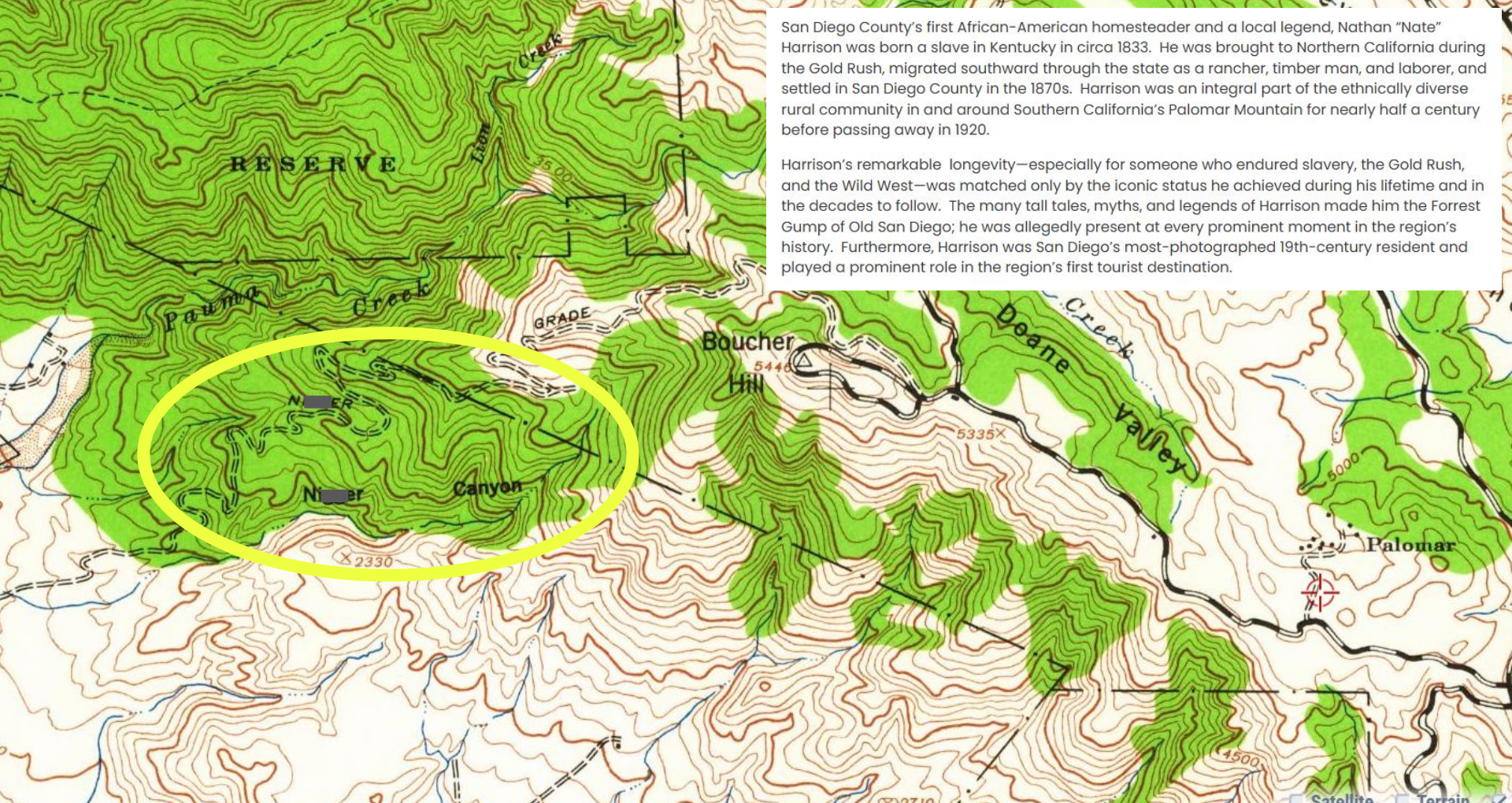
Nathan Harrison was San Diego County's first black homesteader and a local legend.

Harrison was born enslaved in Kentucky in circa 1833. As a young man, he traveled west with his enslaver during the early years of the Gold Rush. Nathan Harrison worked as a miner in Northern California in the 1850s and early '60s. He appears to have gained his freedom when his enslaver died and migrated south.

In the mid-1870s he moved to Rincon and filed a homestead claim. Harrison received a patent for 112 acres of homesteaded land near the base of Palomar Mountain in 1879. According to the 1880 census, Harrison was one of 55 African Americans in all of San Diego County. In 1882, Harrison sold his property for \$300 and went further up the mountain.



Photos from: <https://nathanharrison.sdsu.edu/harrison.htm>



San Diego County's first African-American homesteader and a local legend, Nathan "Nate" Harrison was born a slave in Kentucky in circa 1833. He was brought to Northern California during the Gold Rush, migrated southward through the state as a rancher, timber man, and laborer, and settled in San Diego County in the 1870s. Harrison was an integral part of the ethnically diverse rural community in and around Southern California's Palomar Mountain for nearly half a century before passing away in 1920.

Harrison's remarkable longevity—especially for someone who endured slavery, the Gold Rush, and the Wild West—was matched only by the iconic status he achieved during his lifetime and in the decades to follow. The many tall tales, myths, and legends of Harrison made him the Forrester Gump of Old San Diego; he was allegedly present at every prominent moment in the region's history. Furthermore, Harrison was San Diego's most-photographed 19th-century resident and played a prominent role in the region's first tourist destination.

Image of 1939 USGS 1:62500 Palomar Mountain map from <https://livingatlas.arcgis.com/topomapexplorer/>

HISTORICAL TOPO MAP EXPLORER | USGS | esri

33 Topo Maps | Pinned Topo Map

YEARS: 1879 - 2006 | SCALES: 1:10k - 1:250k

- 1:250,000 | Santa Ana, CA
- 1959 | 1980 rev | Santa Ana
1:250,000 | Santa Ana, CA
- 1959 | 1980 rev | Santa Ana
1:250,000 | Santa Ana, CA
- 1960 | 1960 rev | Santa Ana
1:250,000 | Santa Ana, CA
- 1965 | 1965 rev | Santa Ana
1:250,000 | Santa Ana, CA
- 1982 | 1983 rev | Borrego V...
1:100,000 | Borrego Valley, CA
- 1982 | 1983 rev | Borrego V...
1:100,000 | Borrego Valley, CA
- 1997 | 2000 rev | Boucher Hill
1:24,000 | Boucher Hill, CA

Map features: Search (palomar mountain), Scale bar, Satellite view, and various map controls.

Image of 1997 USGS 1:24000 Boucher Hill map from <https://livingatlas.arcgis.com/topomapexplorer/>



HOME



FIND A PARK



WHAT'S NEW



JOB



PROGRAMS



EXPLORE

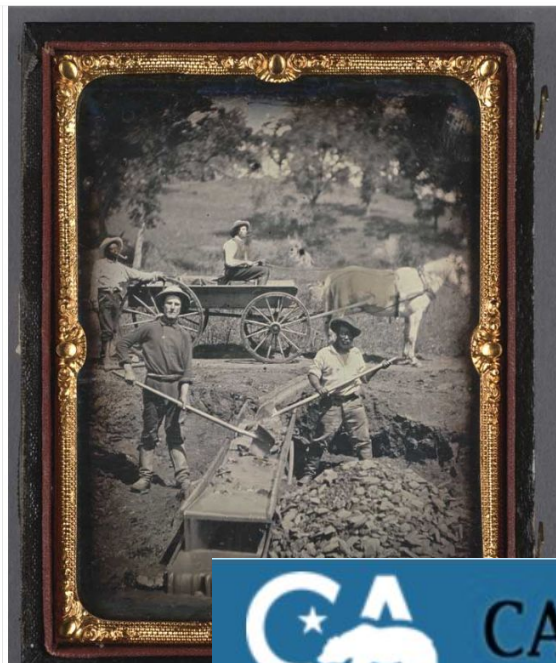


Reexamining Our Past Initiative

The State Addresses Discriminatory Names and Inequities

On Sept. 25, 2020, California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot, State Parks Director Armando Quintero and Department of Transportation Director Toks Omishakin [announced](#) a series of actions to identify and redress discriminatory names of features attached to the state park and transportation systems. The move comes in the wake of a national conversation about the names of geographic features and builds upon Governor Gavin Newsom's work to support equity, inclusion and accountability throughout the state to better reflect our values. These steps also dovetail with [several policies](#) advanced by Governor Gavin Newsom that seek to examine and address historic wrongs and promote access and inclusion for California Native peoples.

Additionally, Secretary Crowfoot directed the Natural Resources Agency to expand representation and increase transparency for the [California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names](#), the state committee tasked with recommending changes to geographic names in California.



CACGN California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names

https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30464



Little Squaw Pass Road

Offensive names dot the American street map – a new app provides a way to track them

Published: August 14, 2024 8:31am EDT

Authors



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Daniel Oto-Peralías
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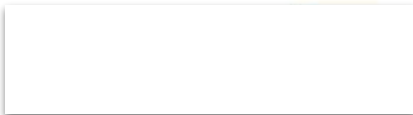


Joshua F.J. Inwood
Professor of Geography and Senior Research Associate in the Rock Ethics Institute, Penn State

Clear County, Colo., had three roads using the word 'sq—' until May 2024, when officials renamed them. Tom Hellauer/Denver Gazette

DEREK H. ALDERMAN

CULTURAL GEOGRAPHER AND SCHOLAR-TEACHER





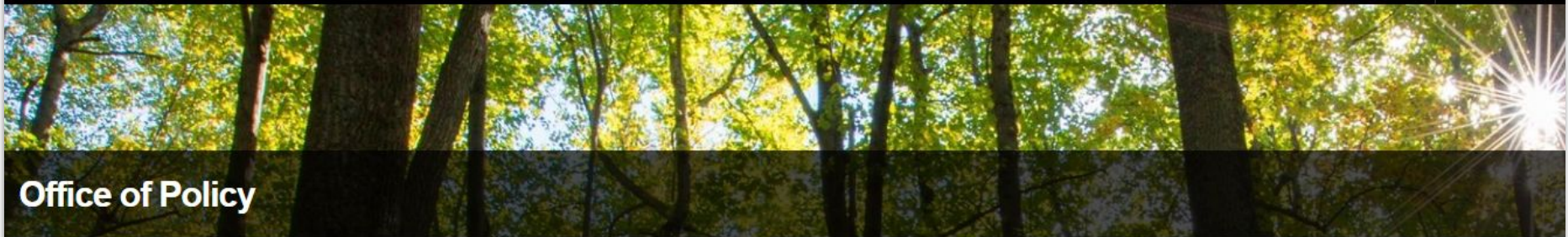
Thomas Herman



Daniel Oto



Derek Alderman



Office of Policy

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Reconciliation in Place Names Committee

On November 19, 2021, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland signed [Secretary's Order No. 3405 \(Addressing Derogatory Place Names\)](#), which directed the National Park Service to establish a new Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names on behalf of the Department of the Interior.

On August 9, 2022, [Secretary Haaland announced the members of the Advisory Committee](#).

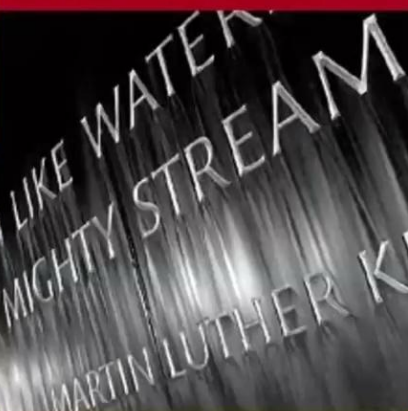
<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1892/advisory-committee-on-reconciliation-in-place-names.htm>



Civil Rights Memorials and the Geography of Memory

“Where” it all started for me

Critical Place Naming & Studies



BY OWEN J. DWYER & DEREK B. ALDERMAN





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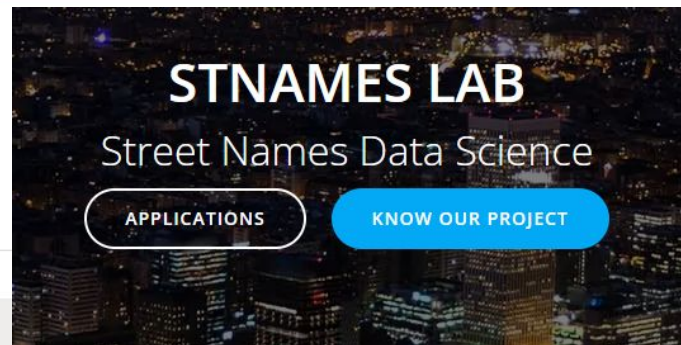
E-mail: [✉ dotoper@upo.es](mailto:dotoper@upo.es)

[Personal web](#)

BIO

Daniel joined the Department of Economics in September 2018. Prior to that, he was Assistant Professor at the University of St Andrews' Management School. He holds university degrees in Management and Business Administration and in Law, and has conducted postgraduate studies in economics and politics. He received his PhD from Pablo de Olavide University (Spain) in June 2014.

His research focuses on the fields of economic development, economic history, and economic geography, particularly on the role played by inequality and institutions in economic activity and welfare, paying special attention to the historical processes involved. Daniel has contributed to many economics conferences and has published articles in prestigious economic journals such as the *Journal of the European Economic Association*, the *Journal of Economic Growth*, and the *Journal of Law and Economics*.



Secretary Haaland Announces Members of the Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names

08/09/2022

Last edited 02/07/2024



Thomas Hermán






Daniel Oto



Derek Alderman

North American street names search app

 Choose a country ▼ Enter one or more names separated by ; 

 Choose a country ▼ Enter one or more names separated by ;

SUBMIT



Thomas Herman



Daniel Oto



Derek Alderman

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An uncut version of the interview can be found [here](#)
with additional content addressing:

- Dr. Alderman's research on place names related to the Civil Rights Movement
- The influence of Black community advocates on Dr. Alderman's scholarship
- The connection between place names and the "[sociospatial dialectic](#)"
- Ideas for importing results from the place names app into Google Earth

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QUESTIONS OR FEEDBACK?

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What you can do

Read about the issue, tools for research and action, and pathways to reconciliation

Reflect on your experiences and potential biases, and learn from open discussions with others

Collect information about your community to raise awareness and inform actions



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