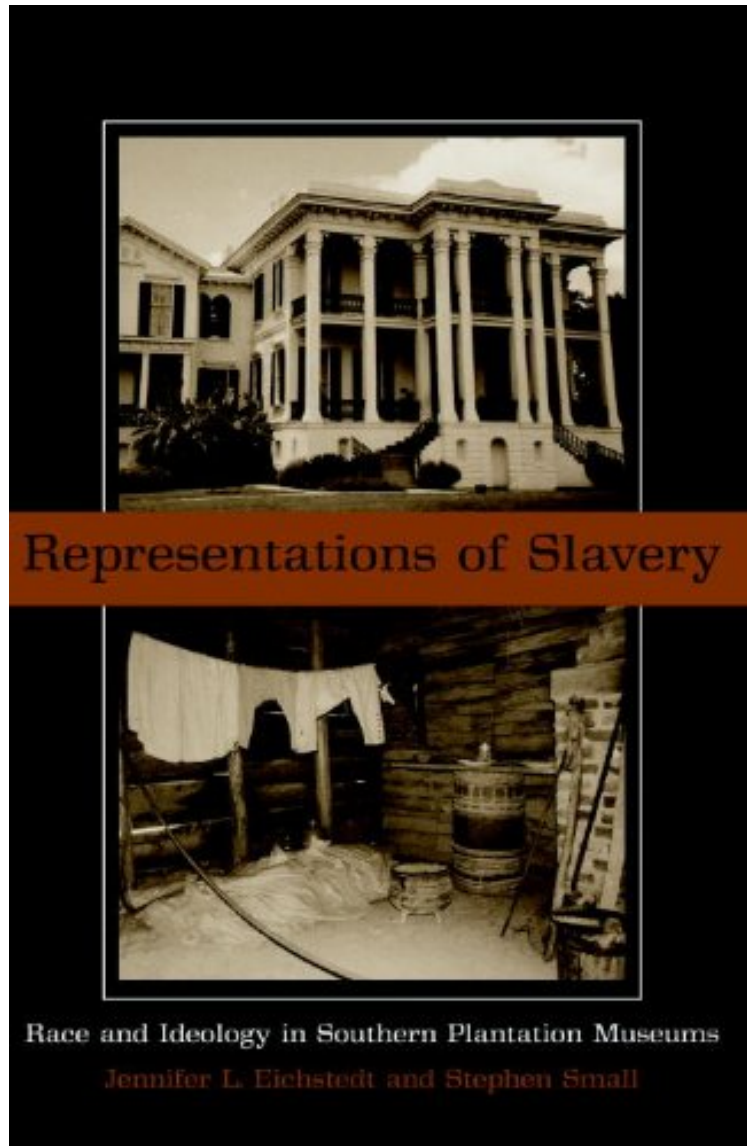


Representations of Slavery: Race and Ideology in Southern Plantation Museums

Jennifer L. Eichstedt, Stephen Small
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Jennifer L. Eichstedt, Stephen Small : Representations of Slavery: Race and Ideology in Southern Plantation Museums before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Representations of Slavery: Race and Ideology in Southern Plantation Museums:

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observations that form the basis of these studies were made, that in no way reduces the applicability of this study to contemporary problems of the representation of slavery within the metier of sites wherein these problems are being addressed today. Insightful, applicable, highly useful. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great book! I spent the summer of 2014 in ...By Morning GloryGreat book! I spent the summer of 2014 in South Carolina and this text helped to give me perspective on both the house museums and plantation museums located there. Maybe that was not the intention of the authors but I was then able to assess slavery and how it was represented at all of the museums I visited. 1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great Information, But...By The Sassy CountessThere is some fantastic information between the covers, here. However, the authors continually whine, so it can be difficult to read. Also, they have no sense of humor, so in areas where there are jokes, they take it personally and use it against the people who said it. BUT, if you can get past all of the unpalatable "Yankeeisms," then you will find information to make your site one of the greats. I definitely learned a great deal from the authors, but it made my teeth hurt at times.

How is slavery presented at the public and private plantation museums in the American South, almost 150 years after the Civil War? Jennifer L. Eichstedt and Stephen Small investigated this question in Virginia, Georgia, and Louisiana by touring more than one hundred plantation museums; twenty locations organized and run by African Americans; and eighty general history sites. Their findings indicate that the experience and legacy of slavery is still inadequately presented within the larger discourse surrounding race, racism, and national identity. The vast majority of slavery sites construct narratives of history that valorize a white elite of the pre-emancipation South and trivialize the experience of slavery for both enslaved people and their enslavers. Through systematic analysis of richly textured data, the authors of *Representations of Slavery* have developed a typology of primary representational/discursive strategies used to discuss slavery and the enslaved. They clearly demonstrate how these strategies are linked to representations and practices in the larger social and political arenas. Eichstedt and Small found counter narratives at sites organized and staffed by African Americans, and a small number of white-organized sites have made efforts to incorporate African American experiences of slavery as part of their presentations. But the predominant framework of the white-centric exhibition narrative persists, and the authors draw from contemporary literature on racialization, museums, cultural studies, and collective memory to make a case for public debate and intervention.

About the Author Jennifer L. Eichstedt is an assistant professor of sociology at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California. Stephen Small is an associate professor of African American studies at the University of California at Berkeley.