The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) passed in 1990 established procedures for Tribes to reclaim human remains and funerary objects from federally funded institutions. However, the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Davis (UCD) still stores approximately 236 Indigenous remains. The catalyst for the Uneasy Remains Film Project was a 2009 protest led by UCD Native American students frustrated about the lack of dialogue between university officials, the Department of Anthropology, and Native communities concerning these remains.

With the goal of including tribal voices on the subjects of treatment of human remains and solutions for repatriation of ancestors to their communities, community members will screen Uneasy Remains during all phases of production to assure that the film respectfully presents their stories. The project will result in a feature length film, curriculum materials, geo-referenced maps of indigenous remains and lands, and an archive database of research materials for use by tribes, schools, and other organizations. Ultimately, the Uneasy Remains Film Project attempts to reconcile and reprioritize the need for Indigenous participation and voices in matters of repatriation. You can watch the 11-minute film trailer at https://youtu.be/fascMZSAYVU.