

Abstract: What is public history for?

This presentation will provide a reflection on the question 'what is public history for?'. It will address the assumptions and debates about why increased participation of academic historians with the public is significant for civic society as a whole. It will also briefly outline the types of responsibilities incumbent on professional historians given current dimensions of public funding. The talk will showcase how the History Department at Royal Holloway has attempted to increase public participation in 'history' through the use of the media and the launch of a new MA in Public History (www.doingpublichistory.org).