

Why History Matters

12–13 February 2007



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Why is history important to education and national life in the early twenty-first century? This conference aims to enable a dialogue between policy makers, educationalists and practitioners at all levels and suggest answers to current debates on what history should be taught and how.

Speakers comprise representatives from schools, universities and OFSTED, including:

Paul Armitage
Ros Ashby
Justin Champion
Linda Colley
Madge Dresser
Roy Foster
Stuart Foster
Penelope Harnett
Don Henson
Chris Husbands
Séan Lang
Peter Lee
Jon Nichol
Jonathan Howson
Michael Riley
Rachel Ward



Institute of Historical Research
School of Advanced Study
University of London



Monday 12 February 2007

- 09.30-10.00 Registration and coffee
- 10.00-10.20 Linda Colley (Princeton University)
Opening remarks
- 10.20-11.05 Paul Armitage (OFSTED)
The history curriculum: past, present and future
- Chris Husbands (University of East Anglia)
The policy context
- 11.05-11.20 Break (please proceed to the next session)
- 11.20-12.35 Justin Champion (Royal Holloway, University of London)
Roy Foster (University of Oxford)
Why history matters: two historians' perspectives
- 12.35-13.35 Lunch (please make your own arrangements)
- 13.35-14.35 Ros Ashby and Stuart Foster (Institute of Education)
What is a history education for?
- Peter Lee and Jonothan Howson (Institute of Education)
Students' historical knowledge: what research tells us
- 14.35-14.50 Break (please progress to the next session)
- 14.50-16.15 **First meeting of break-out groups**
The groups will each tackle one of the following themes and consider the following questions:
- i. **History and *Every Child Matters*: The pupil-centred approach and the historical discipline**
 - ii. **How can history be made significant to all ages and abilities?**
 - iii. **School history and academic history**
How should they relate?
How can progression from school history to HE be achieved?
 - iv. **The teaching of 'Britishness' and 'citizenship'**
Can they be taught?
Should they be taught?
How should they be taught?

The groups should use this first meeting to set agendas and start work towards reports to be presented at the concluding plenary session.

- 16.15-16.45 Tea
- 16.45-17.45 **Break-out groups reconvene**
- 17.45 Reception
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Tuesday 13 February 2007

- 09.30-11.00 **Jon Nichol (University of Exeter)**
Penelope Harnett (University of the West of England)
Michael Riley (Bath Spa University)
Rachel Ward (King Edward VI High School, Bury St Edmunds)
Creating a curriculum that will help all young people in Britain understand the world in which they live
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee
- 11.30-12.20 **Madge Dresser (University of the West of England)**
Don Henson (British Council for Archaeology)
Why history matters: further perspectives from a historian and an archaeologist
- 12.20-12.40 **Séan Lang (Anglia Ruskin University/Historical Association 14-19 Curriculum Project)**
How did we let history get so dull?
- 12.40-13.10 **Break-out groups reconvene**
- 13.10-14.00 Lunch (please make your own arrangements)
- 14.00-16.00 **Break-out groups reconvene**
The groups should use this session to prepare their reports for the concluding plenary session
- 16.00-16.30 Tea
- 16.30-17.30 **Concluding plenary session: preparation of the conference report**

Delegate packs should be collected at registration between 09.30 and 10.15 on Monday 12 February and thereafter from the IHR's reception desk.

Morning coffee and afternoon tea are included in the delegate fee. Lunch will not be provided. A list of venues for lunch will be included in the delegate pack.

For a copy of this programme in an alternative format please contact Samantha Jordan using the details below. If you have particular access requirements please contact us to discuss your needs in advance of the conference.

Registration forms should be returned to the address below by 8 January 2007.

For more information, or for further copies of the programme and registration form, please contact:

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