

What is the Future of the History of the Humanities?

International Reflections and Swedish Contributions

Digital Symposium via Zoom. Registration is required.

Please contact hampus.osthgustafsson@idehist.uu.se for registration and Zoom link.

Time: 8 December 2021, 15.00–18:30 (CET)

Hosted by LUCK (Lund Centre for the History of Knowledge)

INTRODUCTION AND REFLECTIONS ON THE CURRENT STATE OF THE FIELD (15.00–16.30)

Isak Hammar (Stockholm University) & Hampus Östh Gustafsson (Uppsala University)
Introduction

Rens Bod (University of Amsterdam)

Going Global: Why We Need a Polycentric History of Humanities Scholarship

Herman Paul (Leiden University)

A Palimpsestic Heritage: Towards a Multi-Layered History of the Humanities

Suzanne Marchand (Louisiana State University)

What the History of the Humanities Can, and Cannot, Learn from the History of Science

Discussion

SWEDISH EXAMPLES AND NEW APPROACHES (16.45–18.30)

Johan Östling (Lund University), Anton Jansson (Gothenburg University) & Ragni Svensson
(Stockholm University)

The Humanities and the Postwar Public Sphere

Kirsti Niskanen (Stockholm University)

When Does the Genius do the Chores? Knowledge Making, Everyday Life, and Gendered Scholarly Personae

Linus Salö (Stockholm University)

Cat Flaps, Traveling Ideas, and Other Thinking-Tools for Projecting Unnoticed Impact

Tobias Dalberg (Uppsala University)

An Ivory Tower in the Service of Society?

Klara Müller (Royal Institute of Technology)

Grasping Quality Articulations in and about the Swedish Humanities

Discussion

While the writing of the history of the humanities is an old practice, it is only in the last decade that it has been formalized as a coherent field of research. After a period of rapid expansion, including numerous studies, a string of successful conferences, a new journal, and several professorships at various universities, the time seems ripe to reflect on the state and direction of this new field. Indeed, such efforts are already underway, as evidenced by the new series of theme issues in *History of Humanities* called 'Classics of the Humanities' as well as the upcoming volume *Writing the History of the Humanities* (Bloomsbury 2022).

At this symposium, we will tackle the question of where the history of the humanities is headed. What is the future potential of the field? Which lines of inquiry have proved particularly successful, and which ones are hitherto underdeveloped? Is it possible to distinguish any theoretical or empirical core of this multifaceted field that explicitly aims to enhance global and post-disciplinary perspectives? How does it relate to the history of science, or the history of the social sciences? And in what ways may the history of the humanities be interpreted as part of a more general history of knowledge?

These and related issues will be explored at this symposium at the Lund Centre for the History of Knowledge (LUCK). The session will be introduced by general reflections on the current prospects of the field by Rens Bod (Professor in digital humanities and the history of the humanities as well as founder of *History of Humanities*), Herman Paul (Professor of history of humanities and editor of *Writing the History of the Humanities*), and Suzanne Marchand (Boyd Professor of European Intellectual History and a regular contributor to the ongoing conversation on the formation of both history of humanities and history of knowledge). These presentations will be followed by a session providing concrete examples from the Swedish context, where a wide number of publications on the history and societal legitimacy of the humanities are currently under way; including questions regarding gender and scholarly personae, public arenas and circulation of knowledge, and the impact and evaluation of humanistic research and education. In what ways can these approaches turn the history of the humanities into new directions?

