



MHPG844

Making Histories Public

S1 External 2015

Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Tanya Evans

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Tanya Evans

tanya.evans@mq.edu.au

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

(12cp in MHIS or AHST or POL units at 300 level) or admission to MA in (History or Modern History) or PGDipArts in Modern History or PGCertArts in Modern History

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Researchers in Australia, Britain and the US have revealed that 'ordinary people' don't learn history through formal teaching or scholarly monographs but mostly through consuming historical television, radio and film productions, when creating family trees and visiting museums. This unit will examine how and why academic historians make public history and the tensions and opportunities that are produced by the decision to appeal to a wide audience. We will explore the way histories are represented in television and radio production, family history, museums, historic houses, exhibition curation, social policy and political debate. In so doing, we will investigate the social and political functions of the acquisition of historical knowledge and training. At its core, the unit will question whether this process democratises historical knowledge and thus enfranchises new authors and audiences. After considering some of the theoretical and historiographical issues that characterise this practice, students will develop their own proposal for a public history project related to their field of historical interest.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- Read and analyze different kinds of historical writing and demonstrate an awareness of the benefits and limitations of particular approaches to the past
- Understand the practice and function of public history in a variety of different contexts
- Communicate effectively in oral forms, and in a range of written forms
- Engage effectively in group work with your peers
- Participate actively in group discussions
- Analyze why and how some academic historians engage with public history
- Evaluate the social and political functions of historical knowledge and whether public history democratises historical research and knowledge
- Learn how to begin to produce history in non-academic forms

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Review</u>	20%	12.3.15
<u>Object label</u>	10%	26.3.15
<u>Essay</u>	20%	20.4.15
<u>Pitch</u>	30%	4.6.15
<u>Tutorial participation</u>	20%	ongoing

Review

Due: **12.3.15**

Weighting: **20%**

Review of an exhibition/museum/historical documentary

800 words

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Read and analyze different kinds of historical writing and demonstrate an awareness of the benefits and limitations of particular approaches to the past
- Understand the practice and function of public history in a variety of different contexts
- Communicate effectively in oral forms, and in a range of written forms

- Analyze why and how some academic historians engage with public history
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Object label

Due: **26.3.15**

Weighting: **10%**

Exhibition Object Label

200 words

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Essay

Due: **20.4.15**

Weighting: **20%**

Essay: What is public history?

1000 words

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Read and analyze different kinds of historical writing and demonstrate an awareness of the benefits and limitations of particular approaches to the past
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Pitch

Due: **4.6.15**

Weighting: **30%**

Public History Proposal Pitch

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Read and analyze different kinds of historical writing and demonstrate an awareness of the benefits and limitations of particular approaches to the past
- Understand the practice and function of public history in a variety of different contexts
- Communicate effectively in oral forms, and in a range of written forms
- Engage effectively in group work with your peers
- Participate actively in group discussions
- Analyze why and how some academic historians engage with public history
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- Learn how to begin to produce history in non-academic forms

Tutorial participation

Due: **ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

Tutorial participation

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Read and analyze different kinds of historical writing and demonstrate an awareness of the benefits and limitations of particular approaches to the past
- Understand the practice and function of public history in a variety of different contexts
- Communicate effectively in oral forms, and in a range of written forms
- Engage effectively in group work with your peers
- Participate actively in group discussions
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Delivery and Resources

This unit has an on-line presence on I-Learn. You will require access to a computer and fast

broadband.

You are expected to read all the essential readings. These are available in the 2 volume unit reader which can be bought from the Co-Op bookstore on campus. Copies are also available in the reserve section of the library.

You are encouraged to search for an object from the Australian History Museum database for the object label task.

All assessments must be submitted via I-Learn.

In order to complete the unit you need to pass all the assessment tasks. You are also expected to contribute to all the weekly discussions. If you are unable to do so you need to contact me and tell me why.

This unit is a revised unit. Please contact the convenor for more details if you need them.

Unit Schedule

Week 1:	Introduction: What is Public History? How does public history differ in Australia, NZ, Britain and the US?
Week 2:	Historic houses and museums
Week 3:	Approaches and controversies in public history – the Museum Wars – NMA and Smithsonian.
Week 4:	Exhibitions and labels
Week 5:	Local histories and commissioned histories.
Week 6:	Professional Historians Association and heritage
	Semester Break
	Semester Break
Week 7:	History and the Media: part 1: Radio and print

Week 8:	History and the Media: part 2: Television and film
Week 9:	Family History
Week 10:	History, politics and social policy.
Week 11:	History games and re-enactment
Week 12:	Reading Week
Week 13:	Writing and presenting to non-specialist audiences: Pitching your proposals.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](#).

Written work submitted late may not be marked. Work that is submitted late will incur a penalty.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Read and analyze different kinds of historical writing and demonstrate an awareness of the benefits and limitations of particular approaches to the past
- Understand the practice and function of public history in a variety of different contexts
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- Learn how to begin to produce history in non-academic forms

Assessment tasks

- Review
- Object label
- Essay
- Pitch
- Tutorial participation

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Read and analyze different kinds of historical writing and demonstrate an awareness of the benefits and limitations of particular approaches to the past
- Understand the practice and function of public history in a variety of different contexts
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- Review
- Object label

- Essay
- Pitch
- Tutorial participation

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Read and analyze different kinds of historical writing and demonstrate an awareness of the benefits and limitations of particular approaches to the past
- Understand the practice and function of public history in a variety of different contexts
- Engage effectively in group work with your peers
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PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Read and analyze different kinds of historical writing and demonstrate an awareness of the benefits and limitations of particular approaches to the past

- Understand the practice and function of public history in a variety of different contexts
- Engage effectively in group work with your peers
- Analyze why and how some academic historians engage with public history
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Assessment tasks

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- Object label
- Essay
- Pitch
- Tutorial participation

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Communicate effectively in oral forms, and in a range of written forms
- Engage effectively in group work with your peers
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- Evaluate the social and political functions of historical knowledge and whether public history democratises historical research and knowledge
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PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in

relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Communicate effectively in oral forms, and in a range of written forms
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