Comparative History: Historiography

Graduate students interested in exploring comparative historical approaches have the option of mastering literature in one of four sub-fields: “Historiography,” “Comparative Ethnicity and Nationalism,” “Comparative Gender,” and “Comparative Colonialisms.” Each of these fields allows graduate students to situate their own focused research in broadly conceived historiographies.

Historiography

Historiography has two related definitions: the writing of history and the study of the history of historical writing. Both aspects are the subjects of fields offered by historians whose fields range in time from antiquity to the present and in place from the Mediterranean to the southeast Pacific. Students in these seminars examine techniques and assumptions employed in historical research, studying the relationship between history and other scholarly disciplines as well as the uses of social science methodology and literary theory in the interpretation of historical sources. Specific topics vary with the individual offerings. They can include the nature of oral tradition, the reckoning of time, and the significance of historicism, Marxism, poststructuralism, feminism, and globalization for historical research. Students build their reading lists in consultation with their field advisors.

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