**Postgraduate history training session 4: historiography**

1. **Getting to grips with historiography: the dreaded ‘literature review’**

[Boyne, S. (2009) The phd literature review: its structure and contribution, in Jolly, M. and Wong, P. K. (eds) The Proceedings of the Plymouth Postgraduate Symposium 2009, University of Plymouth, UK, pp 299-315](http://www.academia.edu/413909/Boyne_S._2009_The_phd_literature_review_its_structure_and_contribution_in_Jolly_M._and_Wong_P._K._eds_The_Proceedings_of_the_Plymouth_Postgraduate_Symposium_2009_University_of_Plymouth_UK_pp_299-315)

**Why?**

C. Hart, *Doing a Literature Review* (London, Sage, 1998)



**How?**

<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/onlib/litrev2.html>



R Carnwell and W Daily, ‘Strategies for the construction of a critical review of the literature’, Nurse Education in Practice, 1: 2 (2001)





1. **Historiographical trends:**
2. **Whig History**

T. B. Macaulay, *History of England* (1866)

* Progression thesis – gradual development to the better - Liberal democracy as the goal
* Structural – especially the state, constitutional high politics, economy
* Anglo-centric

Revival in state-centred works – e.g. John Brewer, *The Sinews of Power: War, Money and the English State, 1688-1783* (1990) and J. C. D. Clark, *English Society, 1660-1832* (1985).

1. **Gender history**

From feminist history – ‘herstory’ – often influenced by Marxist historiography, emphasis on patriarchal control of women in history and patriarchal view by historians

To gender history – history of femininity and masculinity, ‘separate spheres’ question

History of sexuality moved from queer history with an agenda to more ‘neutral’ history

The curse of Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble* (1990)

EVANS, Mary, 'Doing gender: Gender and women's studies in the twenty first century', *Women's Studies International Forum,* 34:6 (2011) 603-610

1. **from economic/high political to social/cultural history**



In *Practicing History: New Directions In Historical Writing After The**Linguistic Turn,*  edited by Gabrielle M. Spiegel (2005), p. 38 -



1. **‘turns’ – linguistic, cultural, material, spatial**

**Key elements:**

* ‘we are all cultural historians now’
* Semiotics and symbolism
* Post-structuralism – focus on agency or power of text/culture/space rather than big structures of economics/state/politics, avoid teleology or ‘progressive’ narratives
* Relativist – no one narrative

**Linguistic turn:**

* Is all the world a text?
* Begun by a non-postmodernist, Gareth Stedman Jones, *Languages of Class* (1983)
* Agency of language – language as power
* Debate in *Social History* and *Past & Present* in late 1980s/early 1990s
* Post-structuralist – relativism – no truth
* Burned out by late 1990s

**Cultural turn:**

* Is all the world culture?
* Agency of culture – culture as power

Hunt, L., *The New Cultural History* (1989)

WALTON, John K., 'New Directions in British Historiography : the Emergence of Cultural History', *Revue française de civilisation britannique*, 14:4 (2007) 33-44

**Material turn:**

* Is all the world material?
* Emphasis on material culture and objects
* From ‘history of stuff’ to the semiotics of ‘stuff’

**Spatial turn:**

* Is all the world a space?
* Semiotics of space; space as power and agency
* Influenced by Edward Soja, Lefebvre, Michel De Certeau, David Harvey, and other philosophers/sociologists as well as by cultural geography

We will be returning to these turns in a later session, but see my ‘Why I am tired of turning’ <http://www.historyworkingpapers.org/?page_id=225>

1. **the 'memory boom'**
* especially WWI and WWII studies, but also genocide studies etc.
* focus on memory of survivors but also on commemoration – heritage
* oral histories
* some post-structuralism: memory is constructed as a cultural representation rather than as an objective ‘store’ of past ‘reality’
* shaped and constructed by ritual and commemoration
* shaping of memory in and after wars was a crucial part of government attempts to formulate new national identities,
* but constructed memories could be contested from below

memory fatigue? – as argued by Jay Winter, critic of the memory boom

Stefan Goebel, *The Great War and Medieval Memory: War, Remembrance and Medievalism in Britain and Germany, 1914–1940* (Cambridge, 2007)

Iain Robertson and Tim Hall, ‘Memory, Identity and the Memorialisation of Conflict in the Scottish Highlands’, in Niamh Moore and Yvonne Whelan, eds, *Heritage, Memory and the Politics of Identity* (Aldershot, 2007), pp. 19-36.

Eric Langenbacher and Friederike Eigler, ‘Memory Boom or Memory Fatigue in 21st Century Germany?’ *German Politics and Society* 23: 3 (Fall 2005), 1-15

Jay Winter, *Remembering War: the Great War Between Memory and History in the Twentieth Century* (New Haven, 2006)

*Journal of Social History,* special issue, Vol. 44, No. 4 (summer 2011)

Susannah Radstone, 'Reconceiving Binaries: the Limits of Memory', *History Workshop Journal* 59(1) (Spring 2005)