

REFLECTIONS III: IMPACTS

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? REFLECTIONS ON THE IDEA OF PROGRESS IN THE HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHY

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In this paper I reflect on my recent experience of writing three progress reports on the history and philosophy of geography for Progress in Human Geography. I do so in order to consider how we might identify coherence and narrate progress in a sub-disciplinary specialism that is often defined by diversity in its empirical and epistemological foci. I go on to propose five possible priorities for future research in the history of geography: 1) promoting inclusivity of voice by building on existing work on the gendered and hidden histories of geography; 2) making connections across scale that link local and global histories of geography; 3) rupturing the disciplinary silo by incorporating non-academic and public histories of geography; 4) employing the technologies of the digital humanities to investigate and narrate new histories of geography; 5) identifying novel mechanisms of archival preservation that are equipped to capture the disciplinary present. I argue that these priorities, taken together, are a helpful basis to defining the progress that we might wish to make as we consider the future of the history of geography.

40 Years of HPGRG – Looking back and looking forward

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