The Changing History Job Market

Council of Graduate Schools
Washington, D.C.
February 18, 2009
Figure 1: History Degrees as a Proportion of All Degrees Conferred at Level, 1970–71 to 2005–06

Figure 2: Number of New History PhDs and Advertised Job Openings, 1970–71 to 2007–08

Source: Data on PhD recipients from annual Doctorate Recipients from United States Universities: Summary Report, supplemented for last year by estimate based on the latest reportings to the annual Directory of History Departments. Data on job openings is a simple count of the first listings of jobs in Perspectives (which eliminates duplicates but includes senior, public history, and one-year fellowships).
Figure 3: Where Do History PhDs Find Jobs?

Research University, 26.4%

Comprehensive University, 26.9%

Other, 4.5%
Postdoctoral fellowships, 5.3%
Other Business, 1.0%
Publishing, 0.3%
Government, 2.4%
Non-profit, 0.5%
Film, 0.2%
History Editing, 0.6%
Historic Preservation, 0.2%
Consulting, 0.5%
Museum, 2.1%
Archive, 1.8%
Academic Administration, 1.8%
Secondary School, 2.6%
Liberal Arts College, 14.2%
Community College, 9.0%

Source: Information collected in AHA survey of Directors of Graduate Studies in PhD-granting programs at 78 departments, 2000-01.
Academic Job Market Pipeline: From Graduate School to Mid-Career

**Training**
- U.S. History PhD Programs
  - Status of program (elite, middling, marginal)
  - Support for research and professionalization
  - Demographics of student population
- Non-History PhD programs
- Foreign PhD programs

**Threshold Stage**
- Fellowships/Postdocs
- Part-time/Adjunct Positions
- Visiting/Nontenure track Positions

**Early Career**
- Institution type (teaching/research oriented)
- Starting salary
- Heavy course load
- Tenure expectations

**Mid Career**
- Salary
- Promotion potential
- Research support (leave, library holdings, financial support)
- Career mobility

**Nonacademic Employment**
- Public History
- Other Teaching
- Other Research
- Other Employment (AHA, business, etc.)
For additional data and information,
see the AHA website

at http://www.historians.org/info/AHA_Data.cfm