Subject Specialization and Subject Dispersion in Historical Scholarship: Qualitative Preliminary Explorations in Disciplinary Cultures

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Since monographs constitute the gold standard for historians, this cursory examination explores various history fields of specialization as found within book reviews triaged from the American Historical Review and Journal of Modern History. JSTOR was used for gathering data within decennial years to discern ossification as well as evolution of sample fields, establishing growth, decline, or stability. Periodization’s and geographical dispersion, as well as subdisciplinary fields were explored. Interdisciplinary and emerging theoretical innovations are clearly profiled. Substantive disciplinary and historiographical knowledge is employed to analyse tabulated data.

Keywords: Subject Dispersion, Historical Scholarship, Qualitative Explorations, Disciplinary Cultures

1. Introduction

Academic history is responsible for the totality of the examination of the human past. Whether discrete in focus, or larger-themed studies, historians attempt to examine the past as they entertain various subjects or topics, situating them within the body of knowledge. Perforce able to entertain political, diplomatic, economic, and national orientations, academic history casts it intellectual interest beyond