

Discussion Guide – October 28 Session (Younger scholars)

Schedule

12:00 – 12:30	Lunch
12:30 – 2:30	Moderated Discussion
2:30 – 3:00	Break
3:00 – 4:30	Open Discussion

Moderated Discussion (12:30 – 2:30)

12:30 – 12:40 Introductions and Ground Rules

Name, Institution, Year Doctorate Received, Field,
Tenured?

12:40 - 1:15 Book Publication Experiences – Successful and Unsuccessful

How did you select potential publishers for your work?

Did you meet with editors?
Did you write letters of inquiry?

What kind of initial response did you get?

If rejected prior to manuscript review, what were you told?

If you went to more than one publisher, what were your experiences with different publishers?

If your manuscript was reviewed and rejected, did you get to see the reviews or a summary of the reviews?

If you have had both successful and unsuccessful experiences with book publication, what was different about each experience?

What happened to manuscripts that were not published as books?

If published as articles or in some other format, how did this affect the scholarly integrity of the work? Did this involve compromises that altered the work in ways you considered problematic? [Open-ended: do scholars talk about how this changes the nature of their narrative, argument, and evidence used in their scholarship?]

Have you changed what you planned to write/research based on the possibilities of publication?

1:15 – 1:30 Areas of Specialization and the Prospects for Publication

Thinking about the topical area in which you specialize, how do you assess the prospects for publication in this area?

Are there recognized outlets (publishers) for work in your area? Are opportunities at these outlets changing?

Is the number of outlets for work in your area changing?

Are there particular kinds of books [focus mostly on types of publications, rather than topics of publications] that you are not seeing as many of as you would hope/expect or as used to be published? What do you think accounts for this?

Is art history getting the publications that it needs to advance as a field?

As you understand the issues affecting publication in your field, what are they?
[Open-ended: do scholars mention issues associated with illustrations, color, book dimensions, permissions costs/copyright restrictions, etc.?.]

In your experience with publishers, how do permission fees get covered? [E.g, own pocket, university, grant...]

If there are difficulties publishing books in your area of specialization, are these difficulties affecting everyone in your field more or less equally, or are they affecting people at different stages of their careers or at different institutions differently?

1:30 – 1:45 Publishers

Focusing on the major publishers in your field, what changes if any have you noticed about publishing preferences? Are publishers favoring particular types of publications over others? If so, which types are more in favor, and which are not?

Are there some publishers that used to be prominent in your field, but that are no longer publishing regularly in your field?

Have other publishers emerged recently and begun publishing in your field? What sorts of works are they publishing?

Get reactions to specific publishers – Yale, Chicago, Princeton, Penn State, Cambridge, etc.

Are there differences in the value of being published by different presses, or in publishing different types of works [wording needs help]? Is there a pecking order?

How do opportunities for publication differ among university presses, commercial presses, think tanks, museums, etc.?

1:45 – 2:00 Publication and Career Advancement

What are the requirements for tenure in your department? Is it possible to get tenure without publishing a book?

To your knowledge, have tenure requirements changed in recent years?
Are they realistic?

What is the perceived value in publishing a series of articles in scholarly journals (in comparison to publishing a book)?

What about the discipline (art history, architectural history, archaeology, etc.) you work in? How has it been changing over the past decade? What kinds of work are

encouraged/rewarded? What kinds are discouraged?

2:00 – 2:15 Digital publishing

Is digital publishing an option?

Experiences with digital publishing? Books? Journals?
[Listen for examples of hybrid approaches to publication.]

Do you teach digitally? Use digital journals/other
resources in your research?

Digital publishing is becoming the norm in the so-called
hard sciences; to what extent, if at all, is this model
applicable to the kind of work that is done in art history
and related field?

2:15 – 2:30 Final Comments

What else do we need to know about the issues associated
with publication in your field? What didn't we ask about
that we should have asked about?

What is the most important point you'd want to make sure
we took away from today's discussion?

What would you want to ask publishers, if you could ask
them one question?

Break (2:30 – 3:00)

Open Discussion (3:00 – 4:30)

Possible topics:

1. Follow-up on particular points made during moderated session
2. How should we address the problems associated with
publication in art/architecture history and related fields?
 - 2a. Publishers and publishing options

The "big" publishers in the field
Other publishers in the field

University vs. commercial and other publishing options
E-publishing

2b. The discipline

Criteria for tenure

Types of work that are encouraged/discouraged in the field