



PRACTICING HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

Teaching and Research in Historical Geography: A Survey of U.S. Practitioners

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This article analyzes and discusses the results of a survey sent to historical geographers teaching in the United States during the 2003-2004 academic year. The survey asked about teaching and research trends within the subdiscipline. Specifically, this study seeks to answer how many historical geography courses are regularly taught, which textbooks are most frequently used, who are the leading historical geography practitioners, which publication outlets are held in highest regard, and whether historical geography's recent status within the discipline has improved or deteriorated.

These topics are timely because many historical geographers approach retirement or have recently retired, historical geography jobs in academia are sparse (Figure 1), and recruiting students to historical geography (and geography in general) is of utmost importance to departments at many institutions.¹ Moreover, surveying and assessing the attitudes, opinions, and viewpoints of practitioners is of value for clarifying the issues and challenges facing human geographers and practitioners of other subdisciplines.² Finally, the deaths of prominent historical geographers Carville Earle and Terry Jordan-Bychkov in 2003 served to refocus debate over historical geography's present and future.

Many current practitioners characterize historical geography as a specialty with aging scholars engaged in traditional research, a reduced number of undergraduate and graduate classes, and a severely limited number of jobs in academia.³ Meanwhile, other historical geographers have increasingly incorporated different perspectives into their work at the same time more geographers are including historical components in their research, bringing positive notoriety to the subdiscipline.

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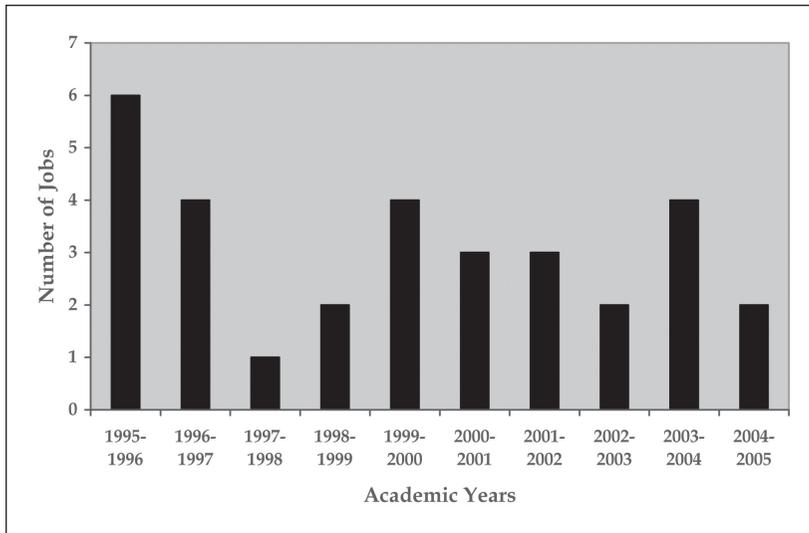


Figure 1. Historical geography jobs at U.S. institutions. Only tenure/tenure-track positions at universities and colleges that listed historical geography as a primary or secondary preferred specialty were tabulated (n=31). Source: AAG Newsletter, 1994-2004.

American historical geography has maintained a long-standing distinct status within geography but has been characterized by diverse topics, divergent approaches, and practitioners with assorted interests.⁴ Emphasis on archival research has distinguished historical geography from other types of geographic investigation.⁵ Due in part to its diversity, research in historical geography often lacks conceptual common ground, and practitioners regularly deliberate the status of and trends in American historical geography.

One of the most notable debates occurred in the 1970s when Wilbur Zelinsky, claiming that all geography is temporal and spatial in nature, questioned if historical geography was a legitimate subfield.⁶ Although several geographers issued strong rejoinders, a degree of uncertainty has since commonly characterized discussions about historical geography's status and place within the discipline.⁷ Another significant round of deliberations occurred in the late 1980s and early 1990s when D.W. Meinig suggested that historical geography was an important but "dangerously weak field" since it was underrepresented in American higher education and frequently ignored or marginalized by geographers who often promoted ahistorical research.⁸ At that time, critics of Meinig's call for additional historical geography jobs and incorporation of historical perspectives into geographic thought categorized contemporary historical geography as having a "bleak" future, being "antiquarian in its purpose," and serving as a refuge from prevailing quantitative, technical, and theoretical trends in geography.⁹ While these criticisms are often repeated, historical geography has rapidly evolved in the past several decades.

Methods

To help assess the existing condition of historical geography, a two-page survey was sent to geographers holding a Ph.D., specializing in historical geography (or similar specialties like historic preservation), and teaching at U.S. universities or colleges. Part-time instructors and emeriti faculty were excluded. Contact information was gathered from the *Guide to Geography Programs in North America 2003-2004* and a July 2003 list of Historical Geography Specialty Group members acquired from the Association of American Geographers (AAG).¹⁰

The survey instrument contained four sections. Two questions queried information about professional status. Six questions asked about historical geography teaching. They included:

- How often do you teach a historical geography course(s)?
- What is its title(s)?
- Is it an undergraduate or graduate level course?
- How many students typically enroll in each class?
- What book(s) is required?
- Is the class required (for majors, general education, etc.)?

Five questions inquired into research specialties and opinions. They asked:

- What are your historical geography research interests? Please list the general place(s) and period(s).
- List the top five most outstanding living historical geographers.
- List the top five journals for historical geographers.
- What are the three most important books and/or articles written by historical geographers?
- List the top five North American departments you feel offer the strongest historical geography programs.

Finally, three questions regarded overall trends in the field. They consisted of:

- Is historical geography a distinct specialty from cultural geography? Why or why not?
- Do you think historical geography's status within geography has improved or deteriorated over the past decade? Why?
- When you leave your current position due to retirement or resignation, do you expect to be replaced with a person specializing in historical geography?

Before administering the survey, necessary paperwork was filed to fulfill requirements of the campus Research with Human Subjects Committee. The survey was then mailed to historical geographers and a self-addressed stamped envelope was included in order to increase the return

Table 1. Profile of historical geography survey respondents.

	Number of Survey Respondents
Current rank:	
Full Professor	37
Associate Professor	15
Assistant Professor	15
Visiting Professor	1
Period when Ph.D. was granted:	
2000 or after	5
1990-1999	24
1980-1989	11
1970-1979	22
1969 or before	6

Source: 2004 survey of historical geographers (n=68).

rate. Of the 186 mailed surveys, 68 were returned for a response rate of 36.5 percent. The respondents tended to be experienced scholars with 37 of 68 respondents (54 percent) holding the rank of Full Professor (Table 1). As well, 39 practitioners (57 percent) earned their Ph.D. before 1990. Although the respondent profile conforms to the perception that historical geographers are older members of the academy, a significant minority of respondents (29; 42 percent) received their Ph.D. after 1990.

Results

Assessing geography's most respected scholars, leading departments, and influential publication outlets has been a regular occurrence in the discipline.¹¹ Typically, these studies have discussed geography as a whole, although recent publications have delved into the unique characteristics of subdisciplines and specialty groups.¹² While research trends are fairly well documented, little information exists on the current teaching of geographic specialties in higher education.

This section interprets the teaching trends of historical geography in the United States. Specifically, it discusses the number and types of historical geography classes, enrollment, and required books. Finally, it presents research rankings of prestigious departments, leading practitioners, influential publications, and top historical geography journals as evaluated by the survey.

Teaching Trends

As institutions of higher education increasingly emphasize instruction utilizing technology and training students in techniques, students are selecting majors and courses that offer practical skills in the most employable

subjects. Geography has benefited from booming employment options in geo-techniques and environmental specialties while less marketable areas like historical geography have witnessed diminishing enrollments and job prospects. Assessing the standing of the teaching of historical geography in higher education gives clues to the health of the field.

Although many respondents reported emphasizing historical perspectives in a majority of their courses, a surprising number do not teach historical geography classes. Of the 68 respondents, 31 scholars (45 percent) report never teaching historical geography courses. Seventeen respondents (25 percent) teach such a class only infrequently—every two or three years, 18 (26 percent) teach a historical geography course yearly, and three people (4 percent) teach historical courses every semester. Overall, 44 historical geography courses are offered by 38 different respondents. A majority of classes were designated for undergraduates or were cross-listed for undergraduate and graduate students (32 classes averaging 29 students per class) although respondents offered 12 graduate seminars (averaging 12 students per class) as well.

Surprisingly, departments rarely require historical geography courses for geography majors or minors, pre-teachers, or to meet general education requirements. Only 11 of the 44 historical geography classes (25 percent) offered by respondents were mandatory for graduation requirements. No doubt, a lack of requisite classes reduces the number of course offerings and limits enrollments in historical geography classes. Without a captive audience needing historical geography courses to graduate, respondents must offer well taught, innovative classes that are publicized to the campus community in order to attract solid enrollments. In order to increase exposure to students and to strengthen historical geography's place in higher education curriculum, specialists in this subdiscipline must dramatically increase the number of required courses or be faced with the prospect of declining enrollments and limited students specializing in historical geography.

A variety of historical geography classes are taught at U.S. institutions. The most popular listings are "Historical Geography of the United States" (8 respondents) and "Historical Geography of North America" (6 respondents) for undergraduates and "Seminar in Historical Geography" for graduate students (5 respondents). Reflecting the diverse specialties of practitioners, a great number of topics are taught including "Historical Geography of the American Environment," "Historical Geography of European Urbanization," "Historical Geography of the World System," and "Historical Geography of the Great Plains."

Due to the multiplicity of course offerings, numerous books are assigned for historical geography courses. However, article packets with readings selected by the instructor are more frequently assigned than books for both graduate and undergraduate historical geography courses. The only two texts assigned by multiple historical geographers are *North America:*

Table 2. Responses to “List the top five North American departments you feel offer the strongest historical geography programs.”

Name of Institution	Number of Votes Received
Louisiana State University	37
Syracuse University	30
University of Wisconsin-Madison	26
Pennsylvania State University	18
University of Texas-Austin	13
University of British Columbia	12
University of California-Berkeley	9
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	9
University of Kansas	6
University of Kentucky	6
Ohio University	5
University of California-Los Angeles	5
University of Toronto	5

Source: 2004 survey of historical geographers.

Note: This table shows only those departments receiving at least five votes. Total number of votes exceeds survey size (n=68) because respondents were asked to list five departments.

The Historical Geography of a Changing Continent (10 respondents) and *The Making of the American Landscape* (7 respondents).¹³ Both edited volumes have widespread appeal for classroom use, due in part to the diversity of topics covered and the readability of the texts. For example, Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group reports that 66 North American colleges and universities require *North America*.¹⁴

Research Trends

Most current indicators point to a high level of research production by historical geographers.¹⁵ Additionally, more geographers are investigating past times although they may not consider themselves solely historical geographers or may not be members of the AAG's Historical Geography Specialty Group. In an effort to more accurately gauge the state of historical geography research, productive departments, notable practitioners, influential publications, and the primary journals for historical geographers were documented.

Survey respondents listed the five strongest North American departments specializing in historical geography. They ranked Louisiana State University, Syracuse University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison as having the most vigorous historical geography departments in North America (Table 2). Other notable departments include Pennsylvania State University, the University of Texas-Austin, and the University of British Columbia. Not surprisingly, these institutions each boast several estab-

lished historical and cultural geographers and recently ranked among the top cultural geography departments as well.¹⁶

Dunbar's 1976 listing also recognized eight of the top current programs among 21 Ph.D.-granting departments specializing in historical geography. Although Dunbar did not rank them, he called the University of Wisconsin-Madison the "consensus" strongest program.¹⁷ Louisiana State, Syracuse, Pennsylvania State, British Columbia, Berkeley, UCLA, and Toronto also appeared in the 1976 and this survey. However, discontinuity is also evident as 13 of Dunbar's programs are no longer ranked.

The leading 2004 historical geography departments offer a mix of "traditional" perspectives and more critical approaches to geography that have evolved from the "new" cultural geography that has gained popularity since the 1990s. For example, programs including Louisiana State, Wisconsin, and Texas emphasize ethnographic and archival methodology that has long characterized historical geography, particularly the type of work practiced by Andrew Hill Clark and his students.¹⁸ Other top departments such as Syracuse, Pennsylvania State, and British Columbia increasingly stress theoretical methodology for geographic research. Just as programs promoting diverse types of approaches to historical geography are highly ranked, the most respected living historical geographers tend to embrace a variety of research methods.

The historical geographers currently held in highest esteem characteristically hold Ph.Ds granted from prestigious institutions, are experienced and older practitioners, and have prodigious publication records.¹⁹ Respondents were asked to list the five most outstanding living historical geographers. Donald Meinig was listed on the super majority of returned surveys while Michael Conzen, Cole Harris, and Alan Baker each garnered more than ten votes (Table 3).

The vast majority of practitioners receiving six or more votes earned their Ph.D. before 1975. Several decades of consistently visible and well-received research seems to be a prerequisite to widespread recognition within historical geography. Receiving their training before the widespread adoption of social theory in geography, many of these historical geographers have employed more "traditional" approaches to their studies or have incorporated elements of both empirical and critical geography in their research.²⁰ However, reflecting the diversity of the subdiscipline, the remaining outstanding historical geographers represent a mix of research perspectives. For example, John Hudson, Peirce Lewis, and Wilbur Zelinsky have multiple decades of experience practicing traditional historical-cultural research emphasizing themes including landscape, diffusion, and geographic change through time. Craig Colten, William Cronon, and William Wyckoff are veteran scholars in the middle of their careers who bring unique viewpoints to the study of eclectic topics including pollution, urban-environmental interfaces, and the formation and evolution of regions.

Table 3. Responses to "List the top five most outstanding living historical geographers."

Name of Scholar	Number of Votes Received	Ph.D. Institution, Year
Donald Meinig	40	Washington, 1953
Michael Conzen	18	Wisconsin, 1972
R. Cole Harris	17	Wisconsin, 1964
Alan R. H. Baker	11	London, 1963
John Hudson	8	Iowa, 1967
Peirce Lewis	8	Michigan, 1958
Wilbur Zelinsky	8	Berkeley, 1953
Craig Colten	7	Syracuse, 1984
William Cronon	7	Yale, 1990
James Shortridge	7	Kansas, 1972
William Wyckoff	7	Syracuse, 1982
David Lowenthal	6	Wisconsin, 1953

Other practitioners receiving at least three votes: Mona Domosh (5); David Harvey (5); John Jakle (5); Edward Muller (5); Michael Williams (5); Martyn Bowden (4); Karl Butzer (4); Denis Cosgrove (4); John Fraser Hart (4); Yi-Fu Tuan (4); David Wishart (4); Robert Mitchell (3); Richard Nostrand (3); Karl Raitz (3); David Ward (3).

Source: 2004 survey of historical geographers.

Note: This table shows only those scholars receiving at least three votes. Total number of votes exceeds survey size (n=68) because respondents were asked to list five practitioners.

An area of historical geography that has not changed is the gender composition of its top-ranked practitioners. Only one woman (Mona Domosh) received more than two votes in this survey. At first glance, white males who hold American citizenship have a disproportionate influence upon American historical geography years after geographers were alerted to the need for greater diversity and inclusion within the discipline.²¹ However, the number of notable women in historical geography is growing with a nucleus of participants publishing in leading journals, presenting at major conferences, and even serving as presidents of the Historical Geography Specialty Group. Future surveys will likely show greater representation by women historical geographers.

Most leading historical geographers have their research included on the list of significant scholarly work. Survey respondents were asked to list three books and/or articles that represent outstanding historical geography research. All but one work receiving two or more votes is a book, reinforcing the perception that geographical research with the most lasting impact is typically published in book form (Table 4).²²

With much consensus, historical geographers found Donald Meinig's four-volume *The Shaping of America* series the most highly regarded historical geography work.²³ This sweeping interpretation of historical spatial

Table 4. Responses to "What are the three most important books and/or articles written by historical geographers?"

Title (Author/Editor), Year Published	Number of Votes Received
<i>The Shaping of America</i> , 4 volumes (Meinig), 1986-2004	33
<i>Historical Geography of the United States</i> (Brown), 1948	7
<i>North America</i> (McIlwraith and Muller), 2001	5
<i>Nature's Metropolis</i> (Cronon), 1991	4
<i>Social Formation and Symbolic Landscape</i> (Cosgrove), 1984	4
<i>The Making of the American Landscape</i> (Conzen), 1990	4
<i>Traces on the Rhodian Shore</i> (Glacken), 1967	4
<i>Geographical Inquiry and American Historical Problems</i> (Earle), 1992	3
<i>Land and Life</i> (Leighly), 1963	3
<i>A Scholar's Guide to Geographical Writing</i> (Conzen et al.), 1993	2
"Forward to Historical Geography" (Sauer), 1941	2
<i>Geography and History</i> (Baker), 2003	2
<i>Imperial Texas</i> (Meinig), 1969	2
<i>The American Backwoods Frontier</i> (Jordan and Kaups), 1989	2
<i>The American Way</i> (Earle), 2003	2
<i>The Early Spanish Main</i> (Sauer), 1966	2

Source: 2004 survey of historical geographers.

Note: This table shows only those citations receiving at least two votes. Total number of votes exceeds survey size (n=68) because respondents were asked to list three citations.

patterns and regional development in North America has received glowing reviews from geographers and historians and is considered by some to be "the capstone of twentieth-century North American historical geography."²⁴ A distant second is Ralph Hall Brown's *Historical Geography of the United States*.²⁵ Published in 1948, this work has stood the test of time, in part, since it is a rare one-volume, single-author interpretation of U.S. historical geography. The only other work receiving more than four votes is *North America: The Historical Geography of a Changing Continent*, a widely used textbook and tightly-edited volume with 25 contributors to the second edition.²⁶ The remainder of the historical geography publication list is a pluralistic mix of approaches and older and newer publication dates. Notable are Meinig and Michael Conzen who were the only two practitioners with work listed twice and were also ranked as the top two outstanding living historical geographers.

Evolving trends and a new generation of scholars are evident too. Denis Cosgrove's *Social Formation and Symbolic Landscape* and geographer/environmental historian William Cronon's *Nature's Metropolis* are highly ranked. These fairly recently published works with contemporary methodologies and interpretations of the past blur the boundaries between

Table 5. Responses to "List the top five journals for historical geographers."

Name of Journal	Number of Votes Received	Year Founded
<i>Journal of Historical Geography</i>	49	1975
<i>Historical Geography</i>	36	1971
<i>Geographical Review</i>	27	1916
<i>Annals of the Association of American Geographers</i>	24	1911
<i>Journal of Cultural Geography</i>	9	1980
<i>Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers</i>	7	1936
<i>Cultural Geographies</i>	6	1994
<i>Environmental History</i>	6	1996
<i>Material Culture</i>	6	1969
<i>Canadian Geographer</i>	4	1950
<i>Agricultural History</i>	3	1927
<i>Environment and Planning D: Society and Space</i>	3	1983

Other journals receiving two votes: *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* (2); *Journal of Urban History* (2); *Landscape* (2); *Past Place* (2); *Progress in Human Geography* (2); *Technology and Culture* (2); *North American Geographer* (2); *Professional Geographer* (2).

Source: 2004 survey of historical geographers.

Note: This table shows only those journals receiving at least two votes. Total number of votes exceeds survey size (n=68) because respondents were asked to list five journals.

historical and cultural geography. Perhaps this type of research will characterize the future of historical geography.

In order to assess the most significant publications outlets for historical geographers, respondents were asked to list the top five journals for the subdiscipline. *The Journal of Historical Geography* was named as the most prestigious periodical (Table 5). The quarterly journal has editors located in the United Kingdom and the United States who promote a global focus and an international, interdisciplinary readership. The editors of *The Journal of Historical Geography* report approximately a 57 percent acceptance rate for manuscripts submitted since 2002.²⁷ Housed at Louisiana State University's Geoscience Publications, *Historical Geography* placed a strong second. *Historical Geography* publishes annual issues with articles, commentaries, book reviews, and special sections on topics including historical GIS, historical political ecology, and indigenous peoples. Over the past several years, manuscripts submitted to *Historical Geography* are accepted about 50 percent of the time.²⁸ These two journals specializing in historical geography research were followed by the American Geographical Society's *Geographical Review* and the Annals of the *Association of American Geographers* as the subdiscipline's top journals.

Although journals publishing solely historical geography articles, reviews, and reports received the highest rankings, journal longevity and widespread readership in the United States were also valuable assets for journals. A significant gap exists between the top four journals and the other outlets receiving two or more votes. Typically these journals appeal to a specific audience. For example, *Cultural Geographies* (formerly *Ecumene*) features modern interpretations of the material and social environments, Pioneer America Society's *Material Culture* focuses on traditional approaches to understanding the visible cultural landscape, and *Environmental History* is published by the Forest History Society and American Society for Environmental History for an interdisciplinary audience. Surprisingly, one journal with low support from historical geographers was the AAG's *Professional Geographer*, a highly ranked journal among cultural geographers.²⁹

Implications and Future Directions

In addition to illuminating teaching and research trends, the 2004 survey of historical geographers shows that the field is characterized by diverse approaches to understanding the geographic past. Although many older practitioners engage in "traditional" approaches and a growing number of younger practitioners utilize theory, historical geographers are increasingly blending elements of critical and long-established historical geography. Although the diversity of methodology is not new, it remains a significant characteristic of the subdiscipline at a time when shifting academic boundaries blur the long-standing distinctions between historical geography, cultural geography, and environmental history.³⁰ Historical geography can only prosper as its practitioners pursue eclectic new research paths along the borderlands of geography and history.

According to the survey, historical geographers hold divergent views on the status of the subdiscipline. A difference of opinion was noticeable in the answers to the question, "Do you think historical geography's status within geography has improved or deteriorated over the past decade?" Of the 52 respondents who answered the question, 34 (65 percent) believed that historical geography had declined. Often, full professors had negative views of trends in historical geography. Representative was one person who stated "within the framework...of geography, historical geography has become irrelevant and quaint at best." Another respondent added "departments increasingly regard it [historical geography] as irrelevant...which in turn discourages new students." Finally, one historical geographer who was recently hired to teach GIS and cartography added that "The only reason I could teach historical is because no one else was presently teaching it." These negative views are in stark contrast to the largely positive opinions of the status of cultural geography as summarized by Smith.³¹

Perhaps the most telling negative responses about the future of his-

torical geography were the answers to the question “when you leave your current position due to retirement or resignation, do you expect to be replaced with a person specializing in historical geography?” Overwhelmingly, respondents (43, 82 percent) believed that another historical geographer would not be hired after their departure. Many stated a historical geographer would be hired only if they were well versed in geographic techniques, social theory, or other specialties within human geography. Several respondents stated they plan to retire in the very near future and had already been told that the ability to teach or conduct research in historical geography would not be required from their replacement.

However, many practitioners held positive views of the status of historical geography. Typical was the opinion of one respondent who stated, “The past is everywhere in cultural geographic publications, perhaps suggesting that the message of history’s importance preached by historical geographers has reached other audiences.”

Another person emphasized the ties historical geographers have made with environmental historians, increased research of past times by cultural geographers, and the numerous well-reviewed books published by historical geographers during the past decade.

Like geography in general, historical geography is a diverse specialty with practitioners focusing on assorted topics and utilizing varied teaching and research strategies. Although historical geography jobs in higher education are limited, historical geography students can increase their marketability by coupling geographic techniques or perspectives from related fields like environmental history, cultural anthropology, or urban planning with their geographic training. Studying applied historical geography can create opportunities in fields including historic preservation, museum interpretation, and natural resources management.³²

Historical geographers must also aggressively promote the significance of asking historical questions and analyzing historical topics to their students. Offering additional historical geography courses, particularly at the undergraduate level, would expose more students to the geography of the past and its impact upon the present. Encouraging graduate students to blend historical geography with techniques or additional complementary qualitative skills would enable more historical geographers to receive academic positions, even as hybrid “human” or “cultural” geographers.

Problems and criticisms aside, American historical geography is “alive and well.”³³ Historical geographers regularly publish significant books and articles that are relevant to other disciplines and geographic specialties, many human geographers emphasize historical components in their research, and applied historical geographers solve real-world problems. Additionally, the subdiscipline has proven to be very resilient—weathering ahistorical trends including the Quantitative Revolution and the rise of geographic techniques. The challenge for historical geographers is to continually evolve in order to maintain a dynamic, viable field. To do so, its practitioners will

have to lead the way through effective undergraduate and graduate teaching and timely research in all aspects of the geography of past times.

Notes

1. See Patricia Gober, Amy K. Glasmeyer, James M. Goodman, David A. Plane, Howard A. Stafford, and Joseph S. Wood, "Employment Trends in Geography, Part 3: Future Demand Conditions," *Professional Geographer* 47:3 (1995): 336-346; Gary Hausladen and William Wyckoff, "Our Discipline's Demographic Future: Retirements, Vacancies, and Appointment Priorities," *Professional Geographer* 37:3 (1985): 339-343.
2. For example, see Gary L. Gaile and Cort Willmott, ed., *Geography in America* (Columbus, OH: Merrill Publishing Company, 1989); Gary L. Gaile and Cort Willmott, ed., *Geography in America at the Dawn of the 21st Century* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004); Jeffrey S. Smith, "Cultural Geography: A Survey of Perceptions Held by Cultural Geography Specialty Group Members," *Professional Geographer* 55:1 (2003): 18-30.
3. See, for example, Artimus Keiffer, "Wanted: Historical Geography, Dead or Alive?," *Past Place* 11:1 (2002): 2-3; David Robinson, "Notes from the Chair," *Past Place* 12:1 (2003-2004): 1-2.
4. Andrew H. Clark, "Historical Geography" in Preston E. James and Clarence F. Jones, ed., *American Geography: Inventory & Prospect* (Syracuse, NY: Association of American Geographers, 1954): 80-89; Carville Earle, Lary Dilsaver, David Ward, Peter J. Hugill, Robert D. Mitchell, Cole Harris, Robert C. Ostergren, James Lemon, Sean Hartnett, Peter Goheen, William Wyckoff, J.H. Galloway, Ronald Grim, Stanley W. Trimble, Ronald U. Cooke, Howard Botts, Jeanne Kay, and Craig E. Colten, "Historical Geography," in Gary L. Gaile and Cort J. Willmott, ed., *Geography in America* (Columbus, OH: Merrill Publishing Company, 1989): 156-157; Michael Conzen, "The Historical Impulse in Geographical Writing about the United States, 1850-1990," in Michael P. Conzen, Thomas A. Rumney, and Graeme Wynn, ed., *A Scholar's Guide to Geographical Writing on the American and Canadian Past* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1993): 5-6; Anne Kelly Knowles, "Historical Geography since 1987," Thomas F. McIlwraith and Edward K. Muller, ed. *North America: The Historical Geography of a Changing Continent, 2nd ed.* (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2001): 465-470; Alan R. H. Baker, *Geography and History: Bridging the Divide* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003); Craig E. Colten, Peter J. Hugill, Terrence Young, and Karen M. Morin, "Historical Geography," Gary L. Gaile and Cort J. Willmott, ed., *Geography in America at the Dawn of the 21st Century* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004): 149.
5. See Andrew Hill Clark, "Historical Geography in North America," in A.R.H. Baker, ed, *Progress in Historical Geography* (New York: Wiley-Interscience, 1972): 132-133; Earle et al., "Historical Geography," 174-175; Cole Harris, "Archival Fieldwork," *The Geographical Review* 91: 1-2 (2001): 330. Harris divides historical geography sources of data into ethnographic (the near past), archival, and archaeological (the distant past).
6. Wilbur Zelinsky, "In Pursuit of Historical Geography and Other Wild Geese," *Historical Geography Newsletter* 3:2 (1973): 1-5.
7. D.W. Moodie et al. offered perhaps the strongest reply stating that historic periods have their own distinctive qualities and questions. See D.W. Moodie, John C. Lehr, and John A. Alwin, "Zelinsky's Pursuit: Wild Goose or Canard?," *Historical Geography Newsletter* 4:2 (1974): 18-21. Not surprisingly, the majority of the respondents of this survey (41 of 57, 71 percent) believed that historical is a distinct specialty from cultural geography.
8. D.W. Meinig, "The Historical Geography Imperative," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 79:1 (1989): 79.
9. Jeanne Kay, "The Future of Historical Geography in the United States," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 80:4 (1990): 618. See also Jeanne Kay, "Landscapes of Women and Men: Rethinking the Regional Historical Geography of the United States and Canada," *Journal of Historical Geography* 17 (1991): 435-452. Criticizing American historical geography as abnormally conservative and resistant to change has been a common undertaking. At an early date, Jakle noted that historical geography was developing into "a preserve for the practitioners of humanistic thought and literary persuasion." See John A. Jakle, "Time, Space, and the Geographic Past: A Prospectus for Historical Geography," *American Historical Review* 76 (1971): 1088. For other critiques see also Cole Harris, "Theory and Synthesis in Historical Geography," *Canadian Geographer* 15:3 (1971): 157-172; R. Cole Harris, "Power, Modernity, and Historical

- Geography," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 81:4 (1991): 671-683. European historical geographers typically embrace more divergent approaches to their research. For examples see Brian Graham and Catherine Nash, ed., *Modern Historical Geographies* (London: Longman, 2000).
10. Association of American Geographers, *Guide to Geography Programs in North America 2003-2004* (Washington, DC: Association of American Geographers, 2003).
 11. For a discussion of specific works see Smith, "Cultural Geography," 20.
 12. See Gaile and Willmott, *Geography in America*; Gaile and Willmott, *Geography in America at the Dawn*; Smith, "Cultural Geography," 18-30.
 13. Thomas F. McIlwraith and Edward K. Muller, ed., *North America: The Historical Geography of a Changing Continent, 2nd ed.* (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2001); Michael P. Conzen, *The Making of the American Landscape* (New York: Routledge, 1990).
 14. Megan Churchley (Marketing Assistant for College Marketing, Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group), e-mail communication, 15 February 2005.
 15. See Colten et al., "Historical Geography," 149.
 16. Smith, "Cultural Geography," 21-24.
 17. Gary S. Dunbar, "Historical Geography: Its Status and Concerns," *Environmental History Newsletter* 3 (1976): 16.
 18. Andrew Hill Clark (1911-1975; Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley) is generally credited with establishing modern historical geography as a distinctive and productive subdiscipline. Clark was called "the father of modern North American historical geography" and practically "the fulcrum of historical geography in the English-speaking world" after his death. See R. Cole Harris, "Andrew Hill Clark, 1911-1975," *Journal of Historical Geography* 2:1 (1976): 1. See also Harris, "Power, Modernity, and Historical Geography," 671; Meinig, "The Historical Geography Imperative," 80. For a detailed look at Clark's impact upon historical geography see Conzen, "The Historical Impulse," 56-63.
 19. Holdsworth refers to these experienced practitioners as "the ancients" while emergent historical geographers more likely to embrace the "new" cultural geography and the recent (as opposed to the distant) past are labeled "the moderns." See Deryck W. Holdsworth, "Historical Geography: The Ancients and the Moderns – Generational Vitality," *Progress in Human Geography* 26:5 (2002): 671-678. Summarizing research paths is difficult because labels including "traditional" and "modern" do not capture the heterogeneity of historical geography research. In reality, research fits within a continuum as an increasing number of practitioners have fused traditional research paths with new methodology.
 20. Holdsworth notes that not all "modern" practitioners of historical geography are young. See Holdsworth, "Historical Geography: The Ancients and the Moderns," 673-677.
 21. For example, Bodman noted the paucity of women in rankings of leading scholars. See Andrew W. Bodman, "Weavers of Influence: The Structure of Contemporary Geographic Research," *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 16 (1991): 21-37.
 22. See Smith, "Cultural Geography," 25. See also Meinig, "The Historical Geography Imperative," 84 for the importance of publishing greater numbers of historical geography books.
 23. D.W. Meinig, *The Shaping of America: A Geographical Perspective on 500 Years of History, Volume 1: Atlantic America, 1492-1800* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1986); D.W. Meinig, *The Shaping of America: A Geographical Perspective on 500 Years of History, Volume 2: Continental America, 1800-1867* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1993); D.W. Meinig, *The Shaping of America: A Geographical Perspective on 500 Years of History, Volume 3: Transcontinental America, 1850-1915* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1998); D.W. Meinig, *The Shaping of America: A Geographical Perspective on 500 Years of History, Volume 4: Global America, 1915-2000* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2004).
 24. David Wishart, "Review of The Shaping of America: A Geographical Perspective on 500 Years of History, vol. 3: Transcontinental America, 1850-1915," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 90:2 (2000): 426. Wishart added, however, "given the diminishing influence of historical geography, it may also be its memorial."
 25. Ralph H. Brown, *Historical Geography of the United States* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1948).
 26. McIlwraith and Muller, *Historical Geography*.
 27. David Robinson (Co-editor, *Journal of Historical Geography*), e-mail communication, 22 February 2005.
 28. Craig Colten (Co-editor, *Historical Geography*), e-mail communication, 18 February 2005.
 29. Smith, "Cultural Geography," 26-28.

30. See Colten et al., "Historical Geography," 149; Anne Mosher, "Pre-millennial Musings on the State of Historical Geography," Paper Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Honolulu, Hawaii, 24 March 1999; Deryck W. Holdsworth, "Historical Geography: The Octopus in the Garden and in the Fields," *Progress in Human Geography* 28:4 (2004): 532-533. Holdsworth, "Historical Geography: The Ancients and the Moderns," 671-678 discusses the perceived schism between "traditional" and "modern" practitioners in North America and Europe.
31. Smith, "Cultural Geography," 28. Smith also notes the correlation between Historical and Cultural Specialty Group members which makes the positive perceptions of cultural geographers and the negative opinions of historical geographers even more interesting.
32. See Colten et al., *Geography in America at the Dawn*, 156-157.
33. Colten et al., *Geography in America at the Dawn*, 149.