

Mission Statement for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Department of History & Art History Program

The Discipline

One cannot understand the past without examining its diverse peoples. We also recognize that our disciplines have histories that have repressed and concealed that diversity. Therefore, the History Department and Art History Program vigorously affirm our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

In both teaching and scholarship, we confront issues of identity, inequality, and difference as keys to understand and appreciate diversity, and as a means to critically investigate power dynamics in societies. Specifically, we explore inclusions and exclusions as well as complicity and resistance. We believe it important to investigate those in power and those who are excluded from power. Thus, it is essential to consider the interactions between norms and centers, minorities and margins.

The Department

We respect and celebrate the diverse identities of our faculty, students, and staff, and we strive to create an inclusive environment where we learn from one another and from our differences and the perspectives they provide.

Our commitment to diversity shapes our historical investigations of gender, sexuality, class, and race throughout Asia, the Americas, Africa, and Europe. This global focus is also expressed and embodied through our faculty and the diverse languages and cultures we speak and study. This intellectual commitment requires sustained engagement with power as it is experienced and represented, including the critical analysis of visual representations, which is a particular focus of the Art History Program.

Our Intellectual and Pedagogical Focus

Diversity rests at the heart of history as a scholarly discipline. It motivates our department's intellectual enterprise and informs our research and teaching:

All Core History courses address more than the European and North American world. They employ a “thematic or topical approach (as opposed to a survey) to a relatively broad period of time covering more than a century involving the interactions of several different cultures.” Our core course offerings each year typically include topics such as:

- Black Catholic Experience
- Islam and the West
- Atlantic Slavery
- Soccer and the Making of the Modern World
- British Empire
- Philadelphia Global City

- Global Africa
- Commodities and Global Capitalism

The Department's general course offerings build on the intellectual and methodological perspectives introduced by these Core classes and seek to equip students with the tools to better understand the present. Our graduate courses similarly explore and interrogate power, identity, and difference in societies at different times and places.