This chapter traces the history of U.S. public policy since 1978. It first considers the professional development of public historians before discussing the arguments that policy historians make regarding the value of their research to policymaking. In particular, it looks at the scholarship of university professors and describes five categories of historical research: Institutional and Cultural Persistence, Lost Alternatives, Historical Correctives, Political Culture, and Process Evolution. These categories of research offer work that is distinct from the emphasis of mainstream policy analysts and can provide guidance to policymakers without becoming advocates. The chapter situates recent research within these categories and explains their analytic value, arguing that historians should be speaking with greater authority in the world of governance so that policy history will not continue to be “Clio's lost tribe.”

This chapter compares and contrasts various historical research sources and their appropriate uses. Although effective research requires significant use of primary sources, secondary sources will help contextualize, explicate, and defend the study’s hypothesis. The sources for historical research are many and varied, and their geographic spread varies with the scope of the study. The study’s hypothesis guides
researchers as they decide on their prospective sources including primary, secondary, interview subjects, and collections of realia. The best project includes as wide a sampling of sources as possible — not just the oldest or best-known, but anyone and anything that helps formulate a reasoned response to the historical problem.

Historical Research Forms and Resources
Elizabeth Ann Danto

in Historical Research

This chapter presents samples of historical research forms and sample letters to prospective subjects. It also includes an up-to-date directory of social work archives and special collections.

Fifty Years of Prosopography
Averil Cameron (ed.)

This book presents an interdisciplinary discussion of the important methodological tool known as prosopography — the collection of all known information about individuals within a given period. With the advent of computer technology it is now possible to gather and store such information in increasingly sophisticated and searchable databases, which can bring a new dimension to traditional historical research. The book surveys the transition in prosopographical research from more traditional methods to the new technology, and discusses the central role of the British Academy, as well as that of French, German and Austrian academic institutions, in developing prosopographical research on the Later Roman Empire, Byzantium and now Anglo-Saxon and other periods. The chapters discuss both national histories of the discipline and its potential for future research. The book demonstrates mutual benefits and complementarity in such studies between the use of new technology and the highest standards of traditional scholarship, and in doing so it sets forth new perspectives and methodologies for future work.
This book provides an insight to the teaching and writing of history in postcolonial India. It traces the different events that shaped postcolonial Indian historiography like the textbook controversies from 1970s to the present day; the historical perspectives surrounding the Babri Masjid; flaring up of religious sentiments over ‘beef-eating’; and the debate over the existence of Ram Sethu. The book also explores how Indian historians attempted to decolonize history and ‘reclaim’ Indian history from its colonial past. It outlines how history is used as means to forge national identity and shape notions of citizenship in independent India. Discussing diverse areas — such as methodological research and the public use of history; nationalism and communalism; cultural identity and diversity; social movements; and the role of women, Adivasis, and Dalits in a multicultural society — this book explores how politics and history have shaped each other in independent India.

Introduction
Elizabeth Ann Danto

in Historical Research

This introductory chapter begins with a review of historiography in social work. It then discusses the significance of the method in social work research. Some of the important works on social work and social welfare history mentioned in the subsequent chapters are described.

The Tosefta and Its Value for Historical Research: Questioning the Historical Reliability of Case Stories
RONEN REICHMAN

in Rabbinic Texts and the History of Late-Roman Palestine
This chapter examines the reliability of using the tosefta for historical research. It explains that the tosefta is a compilation of early rabbinic legal traditions which date from the first to the early third century CE. It discusses the different manuscripts, editions and translations of the tosefta. It concludes that the narratives or case stories in the tosefta possess significance for historical research and their relevance ranges from an increased understanding of the daily life of the Jews in Palestine and the activity of the rabbis in society to the more precise determination of their power and position within society.

Mombasa, the Swahili, and the Making of the Mijikenda
Justin Willis

Published in print: 1993 Published Online: October 2011
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780198203209.001.0001
Item type: book

This is a history of the Kenyan city of Mombasa and its surrounding settlements from the mid-19th century to the height of colonial rule in the 1930s. The book places the island and town of Mombasa in its African context, incorporating the findings of historical and anthropological research. It examines the institutions and social networks that simultaneously united and divided the people of the region before the colonial period, demonstrating both their interdependence and the creation of distinct population categories. The book traces the development of these institutions under British rule, when the demands of the colonial economy caused officials to attempt far-reaching changes to the social structure and to physically remake the town of Mombasa. This is a re-interpretation of the history of Mombasa and its hinterland, based on archival research. It offers insights into the nature of ethnic identity.

Data Analysis
Elizabeth Ann Danto
in Historical Research

Published in print: 2008 Published Online: January 2009
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195333060.003.0005
Item type: chapter

This chapter provides illustrated guidelines for analyzing historical data in social work and social welfare. It argues that the analysis of historical data is really an interpretation, or a reinterpretation, of obtainable materials. In looking at history, researchers do not develop new data, but
rather rearrange existing data according to a new hypothesis; the study’s hypothesis is the core of the analysis.

Sahelian frameworks
Anne Haour

in Rulers, Warriors, Traders, Clerics: The Central Sahel and the North Sea, 800-1500

This chapter provides an overview of the current state of archaeological research in the central Sahel. Archaeological research on the central Sahel is still in its infancy while historical research is a little better advanced, focusing on the local dynastic lists and on their critique. Most of the published archaeological work about Sahel is still descriptive in nature rather than synthetic, highlighting the need for further research. This chapter describes some key areas in central Sahel based on available data including Darfur, Kanem-Borno, and southern Niger.

Introduction: Pursuing Democracy
JOHN NORTH

in Representations of Empire: Rome and the Mediterranean World

This introductory chapter draws attention to Fergus Millar's uncompromising desire for fairness and cooperation in all the societies and all the activities that concern him, and to the generosity with his time, energy, and intellectual force from which all his contemporaries have benefited, and still benefit, so much. The discussion is also intended to raise some issues of intellectual history: the question of how political commitments on current issues intersect with historical research, even though there seems to be no strictly logical correlation between the two; and also the problems of making a comparison between two historical situations, profoundly different in most respects, which seem all the same to echo one another in quite tangible and, at least theoretically, interesting ways.
Understanding Historical Methods in Organization Studies
JoAnne Yates

This chapter introduces business historical methods to organizational scholars by comparing them to qualitative methods in organization studies. After describing the split between qualitative and quantitative methods in organizational and historical studies, the chapter discusses similarities and differences in data sampling and access, explicitness of methods, temporality, varieties of and preferences for data types, and genres of publication. It ends with recommendations for how historical scholars can make their research more visible in management journals: incorporate oral interviews and retrospective analyses to triangulate with the contemporaneous documentary record, leverage the view from the future allowed by historical research, shift more emphasis to article writing while also working to convince management scholars of the value of scholarly books, and adapt the historical article genre to better fit with that followed in organizational journals, including making methods more explicit.

Ireland: A New Economic History 1780–1939
Cormac Gráda Ó

This book offers a fresh, comprehensive economic history of Ireland between 1780 and 1939. Its methodology is mould breaking, and it is unparalleled in its broad scope and comparative focus. The book unites historical research with economic theory in this book.

The Practice of Archaeo-Historicism
ROBERT D. HUME

in Reconstructing Contexts: The Aims and Principles of Archaeo-Historicism
Archaeo–Historicism offers a very clear sense of purpose. It aims to reconstruct past events and viewpoints and to use constructions in aid of contextual interpretation. However, the theoretical and practical problems in carrying out those purposes present considerable difficulties. This chapter presents a survey of the sort of things archaeo-historicists do, with practical commentary on assumptions, objectives, and pitfalls. The survey includes arriving at questions, acquiring evidence, reconstructing contexts, entering a foreign horizon of expectations, historical reader-response paradigms, analysis of texts in context, and testing results. The commentary also restates and defends a crucial principle, that the historicist's primary commitment is to the recreation of the viewpoints of the people he or she studies.

Foundations of Human Sociality
Joseph Henrich, Robert Boyd, Samuel Bowles, Colin Camerer, Ernst Fehr, and Herbert Gintis (eds)

This book is the result of a collaborative effort by eleven anthropologists and six economists, and questions the motives that underlie the ways that humans interact socially, and whether these are the same for all societies, and are part of our nature, or are influenced by our environments. Over the past decade, research in experimental economics has emphatically falsified the textbook representation of Homo economicus, with hundreds of experiments that have suggested that people care not only about their own material payoffs but also about such things as fairness, equity, and reciprocity. However, this research has left fundamental questions unanswered: are such social preferences stable components of human nature; or, are they modulated by economic, social, and cultural environments? Until now, experimental research could not address this question because virtually all subjects had been university students, and while there are cultural differences among student populations throughout the world, these differences are small compared with the full range of human social and cultural environments. A vast amount of ethnographic and historical research suggests that people's motives are influenced by economic, social, and cultural environments, yet such methods can only yield circumstantial evidence about human motives. In combining ethnographic and experimental approaches to fill this gap, this book breaks new ground in reporting the results of a large cross-cultural study aimed at determining the sources of social (non-selfish) preferences that underlie the diversity of human sociality. The same experiments that provided evidence for
social preferences among university students were performed in fifteen small-scale societies exhibiting a wide variety of social, economic, and cultural conditions by experienced field researchers who had also done long-term ethnographic field work in these societies. The results, which are given in chs. 4 to 14, demonstrated no society in which experimental behaviour is consistent with the canonical model of self-interest, and showed that variation in behaviour is far greater than previously thought, and that the differences between societies in market integration and the importance of cooperation explain a substantial portion of the variation found (which individual-level economic and demographic variables could not). The results also trace the extent to which experimental play mirrors the patterns of interaction found in everyday life. The book has three introductory chapters that include a succinct but substantive introduction to the use of game theory as an analytical tool, and to its use in the social sciences for the rigorous testing of hypotheses about fundamental aspects of social behaviour outside artificially constructed laboratories, and an overview and summary of the results of the fifteen case studies.

Unsettling Accounts: Methodological Issues within the Reconstruction of the Role of a US Intelligence Agency within the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials

Michael Salter

in Law and History: Current legal Issues 2003 Volume 6

Published in print: 2004 Published Online: March 2012
Item type: chapter

This chapter assesses possible methodological approaches to the analysis of a newly available archival collection at the Law School of Cornell University. The collection consists of the personal files of General William Donovan, the successful Wall Street lawyer who led US intelligence during the Second World War, and acted as first deputy to the head of the dominant American prosecution team at the Nuremberg war crimes trials. The chapter is organised as follows. Section 2 discusses the important but limited role that should be afforded to methodological discussions in historical research. Section 3 considers the potential significance and value of Donovan's Nuremberg files. Section 4 reviews arguments justifying the importance of adopting a historical approach to this archive. The next two sections discuss the capacity of methodologies commonly associated with the sub-disciplines of international criminal law and intelligence studies to interpret the contents of this archive. The chapter concludes with criticisms of the prevailing state of relevant
methodological discussion, which indicates possibilities for improving both the level of debate and, ultimately, empirical analysis.

How can historical knowledge help us to make sense of communities like Rotherham?

Elizabeth Pente and Paul Ward

in Re-Imagining Contested Communities: Connecting Rotherham through Research

Published in print: 2018 Published Online: September 2018
Item type: chapter

This chapter addresses the question of how historical knowledge can help one to make sense of communities like Rotherham. It first considers what counts as ‘historical knowledge’, and examines the limitations of historiography in producing histories at a local level, where issues of class, gender, and ethnicity are played out in people's everyday lives. The chapter then explores how historians are expanding what counts for historical knowledge — in particular, the co-production of research, which can be defined as research with people rather than on people. It also provides some real-world examples of co-production in action. Finally, the chapter provides some arguments as to why historical knowledge matters.

Resistance Justified

Owen Chadwick

in The Early Reformation on the Continent

Published in print: 2001 Published Online: November 2003
Item type: chapter

Politics made it essential for Reformers to provide justifications for war and resistance in certain circumstances against the rulers of the state. The pacifism of Erasmus and Luther's early condemnation of rebellion during the social unrest of the 1520s gradually gave way to a theory of a right of resistance, not by the people but by responsible magistrates. The War of the Schmalkand League forced both Luther and Melanchthon to rethink their ideas. Luther's death in 1546 and Melanchthon's in 1560 created posthumous images and reputation for the Reformers, and the first biographies of Luther created Protestant and Catholic images of him that were to last for centuries. At the same time, the appeal of both sides
to history stimulated historical scholarship, including the collection and publication of ancient documents.

**Anglo-Saxon England**
Loyn Henry

in *A Century of British Medieval Studies*

This chapter examines British research on the history of Anglo-Saxon England. There are about two hundred significant books and a thousand or so significant articles wholly or partly devoted to the history of England between c. 450 and 1066 written by British scholars. One of the most pioneering works was *Anglo-Saxon England* by F.M. Stenton which covers the period from 500 to 1087. Other notable British publications during the twentieth century include *The History of England from the Earliest Times to the Norman Conquest* by Thomas Hodgkin and *England before the Norman Conquest* by Sir Charles Oman.

**Debating Research**
Dipesh Chakrabarty

in *The Calling of History: Sir Jadunath Sarkar and His Empire of Truth*

This chapter tracks the history of the practice of “historical research” in India. From the seventeenth-century origins of the word “research,” which assumed different meanings at different times long before it became a particular form of activity undertaken by specialized personnel in particular institutions, the chapter discusses the significance of historical writing to early modern Indian historians of India. It also discusses how European writers on India and Indian history used the word “research” in the eighteenth century, then documents how the word took on very different meanings for Indian researchers in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when Ranke’s name and ideas became popular. It mines the Sarkar-Sardesai correspondence to document debates between Indian historians about what constituted research, historical truth, and proper methods of investigation. It shows how, to Sarkar, Sardesai, and many others of their generation, research
in history came to be associated with certain youthful ideals: hard physical labor in discovering sources; capacity to verify authenticity by comparing and contrasting diverse sources; the acquisition of necessary linguistic competence; and a spirit of disinterested judgment. But, above all, research came to mean the process of reconstructing the past on the basis of “unassailable facts.”