

People and their Pasts Public History Today

Edited by Paul Ashton and Hilda Kean

'This important and imaginative book explores the myriad ways in which the past is represented and remembered, remade and contested. Starting from the premise that 'we are all historians', *People and their Pasts* uses rich case studies from around the world to examine the aims, approaches and impacts of public history and the pivotal role of the public historian.'

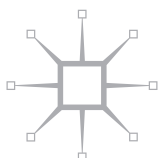
- Alistair Thomson, Monash University, Australia

This international collection draws together museum professionals, family and local historians, re-enactors, archivists and a range of public history contributors to discuss and explore particular forms of public history. Here, people's experience and understanding of their personal, national and local pasts are central to the creation of different histories. Different understandings of the past are interrogated, analysed – and valued. Everyday experience alongside the moments of larger narratives are juxtaposed and subjected to scrutiny. For some scholars, public history is simply the presentation of history by professional historians to 'the public', but in this original collection people are seen as active agents in the development of innovative and dynamic ways of understanding the past and creating histories for the present and future.

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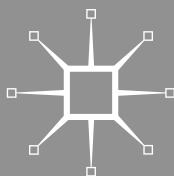
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