

The Importance of Learning: Liberal Education and Scholarship in Historical Perspective



Princeton University, 5-7 June 2013

Keynote Speakers: **William Clark** (UCSD), **Anthony Grafton** (Princeton)

Organized by **Daniel Garber**, **Howard Hotson**, **Dana Jalobeanu**, and **James Lancaster**

It is an inescapable fact of contemporary life that the idea of a liberal education, an education that aims primarily at the cultivation of the intellect and sensibility rather than at preparation for a particular vocation, is widely under attack all over the world. In country after country, the idea of learning for its own sake is being swept aside, as institutions of higher education are pressured to devote themselves primarily to preparing students for careers in practical areas. The global membership of the [International Society for Intellectual History](#) is in a unique position to illuminate these questions from a genuinely historical and cosmopolitan perspective.

Call for Papers

The first and principal form of contributions will be brief papers relating to the theme of liberal education, scholarship, and their place in society. Papers can concentrate on any period, region, tradition or discipline, including the arts, humanities, sciences, and various forms of professional learning. As well as individual papers, we welcome proposals for panels of up to three papers and a commentator. Individual papers will be twenty minutes long, followed by ten minutes of discussion. The second set of contributions will be posters designed to draw on the international scope of the Society. The purpose of the posters is to document the various attempts to reform higher education being pursued simultaneously in various countries. For more information, please see the conference [website](#).

Please submit abstracts of no more than 500 words for each paper or poster. Proposals for panels featuring a maximum of four papers should not exceed 2500 words. All proposals – for papers, panels, and posters – should be accompanied by a brief CV or biographical statement. Individual contributors are welcome to present both a paper (or panel) and a poster at the conference. All proposals are due by 4 January 2013. Decisions will be announced by 1 February. Please send proposals to James Lancaster (james.lancaster@postgrad.sas.ac.uk), to whom you should also address any queries.

<http://isih.history.ox.ac.uk/>