

History Department Areas of Inquiry

In the spring of 2007, History Department faculty identified the three emerging areas of inquiry as important intersections of the research and teaching interests for the future. As depicted in the linked schematic, these three categories represent important meeting points between the scholarship of current faculty as well as collaborative relationships with other programs and identifying promising opportunities to new faculty appointments in coming years.

These areas represent both the current strengths of the History Department and anticipated directions for future development.

- **Identity, Politics, and Power** integrates cultural theories of subjectivity with approaches that examine the operation and contestation of power in multiple locations and relations.
- **Science, Technology, and the Environment** examines the development and deployment of scientific ideas, institutions and practices and the changing relationship of humans to nature and animals over time.
- **Knowledge Production and Transmission** is the study of institutional structures and of the human agents and ideas that give them meaning and significance.

This schema recognizes the distinctiveness of each of these areas of inquiry, but also their important points of intersection, while also recognizing how these areas connect with other programs and projects within and beyond the Virginia Tech university community.