

The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities
The Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies

Contextualizing the Self: Creating and Recreating the First Person

An Interdisciplinary Workshop 2018 – 2019

Tuesday, January 08, 2019

16:15 - 17:45

Gilman Building, room 449

Chairman: Prof. Aviad Kleinberg

Lecture by:

Miri Rubin

University of London

"Does Cultural History Contextualize the Self?"

The last half century has seen am ambitious growth in the subjects of history. A variety of ethical commitments has led historians to attempts at inclusion of those who had been 'hidden from history': women, the poor, criminals, heretics, peasants and artisans. During those very decades humanities scholars have also learned to consider the textual properties of the sources for historical studies in new ways, often left with the nagging questions: is anything knowable beyond the text, can the text tell us what we need to know as we search for subjects, subjectivities - selves - in the past? The procedures of cultural history aim at rich and meaningful contextualization of subjects and the events they form. Yet it is hardly clear of what such context provides, what its boundaries and purposes are to be. Working through a number of examples of recent historical practice, this lecture will aim to set out some interesting questions, which will be of interest not only to historians, or scholars of the pre modern past, but for all humanities scholars.