The Future of the Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences PhD at Berkeley

PhD training in the humanities and humanistic social sciences has strained to keep pace with accelerating changes in technology and the workforce, both within and beyond academia. Led by Anthony Cascardi, Dean of Arts and Humanities at UC Berkeley, and Claudia von Vacano, Executive Director and Academic Coordinator of D-Lab and the Digital Humanities at Berkeley, this year-long Matrix Project Team aims to examine liberal arts doctoral preparation, with an eye toward engaging Berkeley PhDs with concerns beyond the university while encouraging their traditional focus on critical analysis.

This comprehensive reform effort is the first of its kind at UC Berkeley, as past initiatives to revamp the PhD programs have failed to integrate sufficiently diverse perspectives and methodologies.

RESEARCH GOALS

- Evaluate and develop evidence-driven reforms of humanities and humanistic social sciences graduate apprenticeship at UC Berkeley.
- Draw upon diverse perspectives from within and outside UC Berkeley to identify new ways to position graduates to become successful in their chosen professional fields.
- Disseminate findings, foster further dialogue, and generate funding to support reforms to PhD programs in the Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences at UC Berkeley.

This work is funded both by the National Endowment for the Humanities and Social Science Matrix. With the help of current graduate students, as well as professionals from non-academic institutions, the team is working to identify new ways to position graduates to become successful in whatever careers they choose.

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