Recent Developments in Intellectual History

Intellectual history is currently resurgent in the humanities and social sciences. This is partly due to a consolidation of gains made from the 1970s onwards, particularly in such areas as literary new historicism, Cambridge school history of political thought, and various kinds of socio-cultural history. But it may also be due to a perceived exhaustion of late-twentieth century ‘high theory’ in the humanities. The upshot of this is that intellectual-historical perspectives are finding their way into a variety of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences — literary and cultural studies, philosophy, political theory, psychology, sociology — as a means of reflecting on the historical emergence of their objects and, to this degree, on the emergence of the disciplines themselves. This seminar will offer postgraduate students from diverse disciplines the opportunity to discuss this ‘historical turn’ in the humanities by participating in a series of targeted workshops.

Depending on demand, it is proposed to offer workshops on:

- the history of sexuality
- the history of political thought
- the history of philosophy
- literary history
- cultural history
- the history of religion

Particular workshops will be led by CHED researchers, including Philip Almond, Peter Cryle and Ian Hunter. Each workshop will explore the significance of intellectual-historical perspectives for a particular disciplinary area. The aim of the workshops will be to allow participants to situate their own projects and methods in relation to some of the central substantive and methodological debates in the field. To this end, participants will be asked to prepare comments on a brief array of questions to be circulated in advance.

Participants are asked to Register their interests with CHED by Friday August 31, 2007, indicating which strand they wish to attend.

For further details, please contact
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