

History Is Not a Useless Major: Fighting Myths with Data

Paul B. Sturtevant, April 2017 <https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/april-2017/history-is-not-a-useless-major-fighting-myths-with-data#>

Fig. 1. Data source: ACS 2010 14 5-

of Arts and Sciences Humanities Indicators, table III-4a. Available at <http://www.humanitiesindicators.org/content/indicatordoc.aspx?i=287>.

Fig. 3. Data source: American Academy

Again, we start with a kernel of truth. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences Humanities Indicators project released an analysis of ACS data showing that those with degrees in the humanities earn less (in terms of median

better educated than the average person, filling roles in a wider range of careers than holders of many other degrees. The worst that can be said of this situation is that many of those careers are socially undervalued. But that does not mean that a degree in history is any less valuable.

Methodological note: All ACS data cited in this article include only those individuals between the ages of 25 and 64 who were in full-

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<https://ncesdata.nsf.gov/webcaspar>.

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