

Share It Now or Save It for Later: Making Choices about Dissertations and Publishing

Event Sponsors: Office of Career Planning and Professional Development, Graduate Center Library, LACUNY Scholarly Communications Roundtable, and Just Publics @ 365.

Panelists:

- **Kathleen Fitzpatrick**, Director of Scholarly Communication, Modern Language Association
- **Philip Leventhal**, Editor for Literary Studies, Journalism, and U.S. History, Columbia University Press
- **Jerome Singerman**, Senior Humanities Editor, University of Pennsylvania Press
- **Gregory Donovan**, GC Alum and Assistant Professor, Sociology and Urban Studies, Saint Peter's University
- **Colleen Eren**, GC Alum and Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice, LaGuardia Community College
- **Polly Thistlethwaite**, Chief Librarian, Graduate Center (Moderator)

Related Readings & Key Quotations:

“American Historical Association Statement on Policies Regarding the Embargoing of Completed History PhD Dissertations”

(*AHA Blog*, July 22, 2013)

<http://blog.historians.org/2013/07/american-historical-association-statement-on-policies-regarding-the-embargoing-of-completed-history-phd-dissertations/>

“The American Historical Association strongly encourages graduate programs and university libraries to adopt a policy that allows the embargoing of completed history PhD dissertations in digital form for as many as six years.”

“History has been and remains a book-based discipline, and the requirement that dissertations be published online poses a tangible threat to the interests and careers of junior scholars in particular.”

“Do Open Access Electronic Theses and Dissertations Diminish Publishing Opportunities in the Social Sciences and Humanities? Findings from a 2011 Survey of Academic Publishers.”

(*College & Research Libraries*, July 2013)

<http://crl.acrl.org/content/74/4/368.full.pdf>

“The findings indicate that manuscripts that are revisions of openly accessible ETDs are always welcome for submission or considered on a case-by-case basis by 82.8 percent of journal editors and 53.7 percent of university press directors polled.”

“Historians Seek a Delay in Posting Dissertations”

(*New York Times*, July 28, 2013)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/29/business/media/historians-seek-a-delay-in-posting-dissertations.html>

“[Peter M. Berkery Jr., the executive director of the Association of American University Presses,] said he spoke to 15 heads of university presses, and ‘I haven’t found one person who has said if it is available open access, we won’t publish it.’ Citing his own experience at Oxford University Press, he said that a book was necessarily an entirely different work from the dissertation that laid its groundwork, and is judged on its own terms.”

“Scholarly Group Seeks Up to 6-Year Embargoes on Digital Dissertations”

(*Chronicle of Higher Education*, July 24, 2013)

<https://chronicle.com/article/Scholarly-Group-Seeks-Up-to/140515/>

“The critics also argue that, by putting the printed book on a pedestal at a time when research is taking many other forms, the association is marginalizing historical research. Meanwhile, there’s a standoff between the competing priorities of university presses, libraries, and hiring, tenure, and promotion committees. Graduate students are caught in the middle or are being used as proxies in debates over scholarly publishing, they say.”

“Embargoes for Dissertations?”

(*Inside Higher Ed*, July 24, 2013)

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2013/07/24/historians-association-faces-criticism-proposal-embargo-dissertations>

“The statement contains some phrases — such as ‘history has been and remains a book-based discipline’ — that were infuriating to those trying to promote digital scholarship and nontraditional forms of disseminating knowledge.”

“Can't Find It, Can't Sign It: On Dissertation Embargoes”

(Harvard University Press Blog, July 26, 2013)

http://harvardpress.typepad.com/hup_publicity/2013/07/cant-find-it-cant-sign-it-on-dissertation-embargoes.html

“HUP Assistant Editor Brian Distelberg, for instance, notes how a project’s discoverability can be the means by which his interest is sparked: ‘I’m always looking out for exciting new scholarship that might make for a good book, whether in formally published journal articles and conference programs, or in the conversation on Twitter and in the history blogosphere, or in conversations with scholars I meet. And so, to whatever extent open access to a dissertation increases the odds of its ideas being read and discussed more widely, I tend to think it increases the odds of my hearing about them.’”

Round-up of Opinions:

“What We’re Reading: #AHAGate”

(*Michigan Publishing Blog*, July 24, 2013)

<http://www.publishing.umich.edu/2013/07/24/what-were-reading-ahagate/>

Already Deposited? Want to Change Your Embargo?

A Note about Databases and Embargoes

Dissertations and theses go into **two** databases: the ProQuest Dissertations and Theses database (available on the library's list of databases) and the Graduate Center's open access institutional repository, Academic Works (<http://works.gc.cuny.edu/>).

You can embargo (temporarily block access) to your dissertation/thesis in **neither, either, or both** databases — it's up to you. (If you embargo in both databases, you can select the same embargo length for both or choose different embargo lengths.) For both databases, your initial embargo options are:

- no embargo
- six-month embargo
- one-year embargo
- two-year embargo

Graduated Already?

If you've already graduated, you must contact ProQuest and the Graduate Center Library separately to change your embargo settings.

- **ProQuest:** Contact ProQuest's Author and School Relations group at disspub@proquest.com or 1-800-521-0600 x77020 to change your embargo settings at no cost. Provide your name, your dissertation/thesis title, your school, and, if possible, the publication number assigned by ProQuest to your dissertation/thesis. (You should have received this by email.)
- **Graduate Center Library:** Email Jill Cirasella, Associate Librarian for Public Services and Scholarly Communication, at jcirasella@gc.cuny.edu to change your embargo settings for the Graduate Center's institutional repository. Again, your initial choices are no embargo, a six-month embargo, a one-year embargo, and a two-year embargo. (As your embargo nears expiration, you can contact the library again to extend your embargo, if you wish.)