



# Public History: theoretical horizons and didactic experiments

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## INTRODUCTION

- History and its teaching have progressively lost authority while, at the same time, the *question of history* remains evident: it is an essential human instinct to question oneself about one's past that manifests itself even without realizing it (just think of the family sphere). The consumption of history, despite the “epistemological crisis” that characterized it, is on the rise: the success of festivals, historical novels, fiction and video games inspired by events from our past testify to this.
- The approach of the *Public History* is multidirectional, attentive to the social and school context of reference in which the reflection on *what is done* and *how is done* follows proposals and experiments in the field.

## OBJECT OF RESEARCH

- Strengthen the range of strategies aimed at methodological renewal and the introduction of a different didactic orientation towards history, which first of all places the accent on the distinction between *history* and *memory* and enhances the approach and critical thinking

## METHODS

- Grounded theory
- Semi-structured questionnaire
- Semi-structuring interviews
- Unstructured participatory observation of an ethnographic type

## EXPERIMENTATION

- A didactic path aimed at teachers and students of a panel of upper secondary education institutions in Tuscany
- History as a central discipline for the *active and participatory construction* of our identity and citizenship, a transversal and extremely relevant subject
- Strengthen integrated teaching, laboratory and situated learning, the encounter between *knowledge* and *know-how*, dialogue and the mutual exchange between school and territory by proposing a question: *Does a Tuscan identity exist?*
- Stimulate self-reflection on the meaning of *historical and cultural identity* and how elusive it is and therefore difficult to define univocally;
- Encouraging the *co-construction of knowledge* and the *bottom-up elaboration of meanings* through the Public History practises.
- Creation of a podcast conducted by the students in which the themes proposed in the survey will be addressed

## REFERENCE

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