

Title:

The University in Public Life: Some Vignettes from Germany and the United States

Abstract:

In contemporary public discourse, academia is often described as socially and politically removed from the real world, a sentiment best captured in the common metaphor of the Ivory Tower. The modern history of the research university, however, is deeply intertwined with the history of the modern public sphere. This talk will begin by examining the links between German universities and civil society in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and then will conclude with some comparative thoughts on current challenges faced by American state universities.

Short bio:

Denise Phillips teaches German history and the history of science as Associate Professor of history at the University of Tennessee. Her research focusses on intersections between science and civil society, as well as on interconnections between expert and lay knowledge.