

Contents

Preface — V

Author Biography — XIII

Introduction: Complex Public History — 1

What is Public History? — 2

Complex Public History — 4

Seeing History in China Now — 9

Part I: The Origin of Modern Public History in China

Mapping the Landscape — 19

Tracing the Origins — 33

Part II: Past Making in the Present: Presentations
and Patterns

Chapter 1

Chinese and the Pasts: Exploring Historical Consciousness of Ordinary
Chinese — 45

History, Memory, and Historical Consciousness — 47

The Project: Chinese and the Pasts — 49

Initial Findings: A Statistical Overview — 51

Preliminary Patterns of Public History Making — 60

Chapter 2

Oral History: History, Memory, and Identity — 62

Where We Were and Where We are Now: Oral History as a Source in
Chinese History (A Concise Review of the First Three Thousand Years) — 64

National History, Memory, and Tradition — 68

Women's History, Local History, and Histories of Professions — 75

Family History and the Medical Humanities — 79

Going Public: The Past is not a Foreign Country — 80

The Popularity of Oral History — 83

Historical Consciousness: Doing Deeper — 87

Chapter 3

Family Narrative, Personal Memory, and Public History — 93

- Family History in China: A Brief History — 94
- A Changing Landscape: Family History from Below — 102
- A Blurring Boundary between the Private and the Public — 103
- A Professional and Amateur Divide — 110
- A New Quest for the Old Question — 111
- Family Stories and Public History — 113

Chapter 4

Museums and the Public — 118

- Genealogy — 118
- The “Museums and the Public” Project — 124
- Issues and Analysis — 131
- Visions for Museums in China — 140

Chapter 5

When Environmental History Goes Public — 144

- Nature as Material Culture: The Dredging History of West Lake — 147
- A Story of Nature by Design — 151
- The Rhetorical Power of Nature — 154
- Presenting Environmental History as Public Memory — 157
- An Oral History and Public Memory Project — 162
- Place-Based Narratives and Insights — 163
- A Communicative Space: Environmental History as Public Memory — 166

Chapter 6

Performing History: Cultural Memory in the Present — 169

- Performing History in China: Snapshots — 170
- Reenacting History, Performing Identity: An Illustrative Case — 173
- Nationalism from Below? — 177
- Cultural Memory: Reenacted and Remediated — 179
- Shaping Historical Consciousness — 189

Chapter 7

Playing the Past: Historical Video Games as Participatory Public History — 193

- Video Games in China — 193
- Historical Video Games: Feeling, Touching, and Playing the Past — 196

The Power of Historical Video Games — 205
An Emergent Form of Public History — 215

Chapter 8

Public History: The Future of Teaching the Past — 219

When Traditional History Education is Challenged — 219

How Can Public History Contribute? — 221

Educating the Educators: National Public History Faculty Training
Programs — 228

Part III: Prosuming History: A Paradigm Shift

Prosuming History — 241

An Uncommon Ground — 244

Deep Fundamentals — 247

Two Caveats — 252

Epilogue: The Future of China's Past

Glossary (Chinese Characters) — 265

Permissions — 269

Bibliography — 271

Index — 287

