

# Historians' orientations and historical production: Introducing the fourfold model of historical production

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## Abstract

History is the record of events in the past over time (the “problem-solution matrix” of everyday life). In this way, the record of the past itself is also the indirect record of the outlooks and attitudes of those who kept these records in the first place. Historians, over time, have had different agendas and interests, and different levels of awareness of their object of research. Moreover, what they record and how they do this sheds light on this elusive subject matter of their attitudes and outlooks. How do we as historians approach our work as agents ourselves, and what might this reveal about the nature of the finished product in different times and places? We can think of history as facilitated by specific methods and theory, or as a discourse of conflicting ideas and experiences. We can also think of history as a true reflection or interpretation of the past, or as social, cultural, and psychological reformer. In this research the definitions about history as a ‘science’ are related to the consequences of the kind of history that is produced.