

JASON TODD

PCGE HISTORY LEAD,
UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

HA SECONDARY MEMBER



HISTORIANS SHOULD BE
ABLE TO REMEMBER
THINGS, SHOULDN'T
THEY? I THINK IT'S BEEN
TOO LONG FOR ME TO
REMEMBER EXACTLY
HOW LONG I'VE BEEN A
MEMBER...

WHY I JOINED

One of the reasons I became a member was because I didn't do a History PGCE - I did a Social Science PGCE - and I felt I needed somewhere that enabled me to **be in touch with history teaching and the history education community**. That was the primary reason, but as my career has developed the reasons for being a member have changed. Going to HA events and the conference for example is about the **companionship of like-minded people** and feeling energised by that fraternity. That's the main reasons I became and am still a member.

WHAT I VALUE

One of the things I value most about the HA is simply the **sheer variety of membership**, and different takes on history. Certainly for me now in my role as a history educator, having access to both primary and secondary strands is really important. You're able to talk to people from different branches and dimensions of that work.

PROFESSIONAL IMPACT

Well, I could say that I wouldn't be where I am today without the HA! In some ways membership has been **formative at different moments of my career**. As a school-based educator, initially it was about my own development, but it's also been really supportive in terms of my role as a mentor within schools. I direct trainee interns to pieces of work through the HA that we commonly discuss, and in that sense it enables **shared professional development**.



That has continued more formally into my role as a PGCE tutor, now working with other mentors and **using *Teaching History* articles to stimulate professional dialogue** about teaching rather than being didactic. It allows people to talk through the issues that they're experiencing, and since the journal has been around so long, pick up older pieces that enable you to **rethink an issue from through a different lens**. Building on the work that's been done by others – the 'shoulders of giants' – is a critical dimension of my professional life. I couldn't do what I'm doing without that wealth of experience.

MY MEMORABLE MOMENT

The first weekend I went on a residential HA course was absolutely fantastic; two days of sustained professional development that allowed you to **think through the ideas behind the ideas**. It really opened my eyes, and fifteen years on I'm still in touch with people I met there. Similarly, the HA conference is really important for me in making those connections and taking the pulse of history education.

Find out more about secondary membership