



Stefan Collini

Biographical Information

Research Interests:

The relation between literature and intellectual history from the early 20th century to the present. Current research focusses on the cultural role of, and the historical assumptions expressed in, literary criticism in Britain from c.1920 to c.1970. Recent work has dealt with the question of intellectuals in 20th-century Britain, the relation between academic critics and 'men of letters', the role of cultural criticism, as well as individual essays on figures such as T.S. Eliot, F.R. Leavis, George Orwell, Raymond Williams, and Richard Hoggart.

Stefan Collini also works on the history and public debates about the role of universities in Britain and in 2012 published *What Are Universities For?*, (London: Penguin).



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Abstract

'Making the case: universities and their publics'

'Universities across the world find themselves in a paradoxical position. Never before in human history have they been so numerous or important, yet never before have they suffered from such a disabling lack of confidence and loss of identity. This lecture, by leading British academic, Stefan Collini, author of *What Are Universities For?* (2012), considers the different publics to which the case for universities now has to be addressed, and explores ways in which the true value and purpose of universities can most effectively be communicated.'