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