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"The Future of the Environmental Humanities Is Not in the Seminar Room"

Gioielli, Rob



One of the first formal "seminars" in US academia. Herbert Baxter Adams, John Hopkins University's first professor of history, speaking to students and faculty, ca. 1895.

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> Don't get me wrong. I love a good seminar room discussion. Properly structured, with the right group of students or colleagues, a good text or topic to discuss, and a patient discussion leader, the seminar can be the wellspring of humanities knowledge that we all often romanticize. But it is, by

its nature, a closed space. Not necessarily an elitist space. The pursuit of complex and challenging forms of knowledge should be open and available to all, and a truly democratic education system can also be intellectually rigorous. A good seminar is usually based on a common set of assumptions or understandings, background information, and generally cohesive orientation. It is a space for a certain group, at a certain time. (From the article)

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