

Maguire, Fidelma, 2001, *The Historical text and the teaching of History. An Investigation of Student and teacher Perceptions of the Different Uses of Primary Historical Documents in the Senior Cycle.*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

Chapter 1 set out the aims and the essential background of this research, its focus, and terms of reference which relate to the documents-based study envisaged in the new proposed draft syllabus for Leaving Certificate history. The school, where student perceptions are measured, is profiled as is the researcher.

Chapter 2 reviews Irish and European discussions on History, as a discipline in schools, and examines the Irish and European background to curriculum change and curriculum making in the subject, and the literature in the field. The Council for Cultural Cooperation, of the Council of Europe has funded research on aspects of history teaching in different European countries and has published extensive findings, the most significant of which are reviewed.

Chapter 3 examines research methodologies, and discusses the key research questions, the research instruments used, and sampling issues. Chapter 4 compares and contrasts the findings from teachers' questionnaire, students' questionnaires and the case study. The results of the research are discussed and both quantitative and qualitative analyses of the findings are provided.

Chapter 5 sets out the conclusions reached on the research questions and on the teaching of documents to senior-cycle students. It also indicates directions for further research and makes recommendations for a better practice of history in schools.