Contents

List of figures viii
Acknowledgements ix

Introduction: the bonfire of the humanities? 1
1 Going forward by looking back: the rise of the longue durée 14
2 The short past: or, the retreat of the longue durée 38
3 The long and the short: climate change, governance, and inequality since the 1970s 61
4 Big questions, big data 88
   Conclusion: the public future of the past 117

Notes 126
Index 161