

CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC HISTORY

RESEARCH SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

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Australian
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University

Friends of the ANU Centre for Economic History,

It is my pleasure to present the July newsletter, having taken over as CEH Director from John Tang. It gives me the opportunity to thank John for his tireless and inspirational leadership over the last four years. Aside from his work as a first class economic historian John shouldered the bulk of the administrative work for the CEH. Along the way he introduced initiatives such as the annual AusClio meeting, oversaw and organized a string of themed workshops, and welcomed range of stimulating economic historians as visitors to the Research School of Economics at the ANU. Under his guidance the newsletter became more interesting and more frequent, and the CEH established an international reputation as a centre of excellence for economic history. He will be a hard act to follow.

Tim Hatton, CEH Director

Middle East Economic History Workshop

On 1 June, the Centre hosted a conference on new research in Middle Eastern economic history. Co-sponsored by the University of Melbourne, the conference brought together eminent international scholars and early career researchers to discuss topics ranging from urban development, industrial growth, and local labor policies in the region.



Middle East Economic History Workshop (contd.)

The first speaker was Metin Cosgel (University of Connecticut), who presented an analysis of the impact of political history on urban growth. Using population density as a measure of development, Metin compared the two empires based in the Anatolian and Iranian plateaus between 1500 and 2000 and found the former had higher population density and larger cities throughout the period. This he credits to the longer duration of Ottoman rule in Anatolia and the institutions associated with the administration.

The second speaker, Ulas Karakoc (Humboldt University), provided estimates of industrial growth in interwar Turkey. He finds that import prices were associated more closely with growth in that sector compared to domestic price levels, which he interprets as suggesting a lack of impact from tariff policies.

On the broader question of the role of religion in development, Murat Iyigun (University of Colorado Boulder) used Markov modeling to examine how culture evolves. Comparing different world religions, Murat finds that Abrahamic monotheistic traditions are associated with long term social advantages. This is due to their increased tolerance over time and their relative success in converting populations to their belief systems.

Laura Panza (University of Melbourne) presented her paper on conflict intensification in British Mandate Palestine and its relationship with income inequality. She finds that Jew-Arab income inequality corresponded with greater conflict, with adverse rainfall shocks associated with a displacement from agricultural work to violence.

The final presentation was given by Manal Shehabi (University of Western Australia), who described the localization laws in Kuwait. She finds political objectives account for differences in labor shares of Kuwaitis between the public and private sectors, and that limiting the foreign supply of labor in the private sector was seen as a way to reduce the size of the public sector. ---JT

Comings and Goings

Changes are underway at the CEH as we mark departures and arrivals



Departing: Zach Ward

It is with sadness that we note the departure from the ANU of Zach Ward. Zach joined the Research School of Economics from his graduate studies at the University of Colorado. He made an immediate impact as a fine teacher and a great colleague and he became a highly respected member of the School. His excellence in research was reflected in the stream of innovative papers on immigration to the USA in the 19th and 20th centuries, which are now appearing in leading journals. His thoughtful comments and insights won him many friends and admirers. Zach contributed widely to the activities of the CEH, always willingly and with the best of humour. He will be sorely missed.

Comings and Goings (contd.)**Arriving: Sutanuka Roy**

We warmly welcome Sutanuka Roy who is joining the Research School of Economics at the ANU. Sutanuka specialises in development economics and economic history. She did her PhD at the London School of Economics on inequality, with a special focus on India. In one of her papers (with H. F. Tam) she examines the long-term impact of colonial legal reforms of matrimonial law introduced by the British in India in British provinces, particularly the Child Marriage Abolition Act of 1931. Using large-scale microdata, they find that the reforms had a positive impact on female education and reduced underage marriages in post-Independent India. Sutanuka will be spending much of the coming year visiting the University of Chicago but we look forward to her involvement in the activities of the CEH.

**Arriving: Aditya Balasubramanian**

We are also very pleased to welcome Aditya Balasubramanian who is joining the ANU history department and will be involved in the activities of the CEH. Aditya did his PhD at Trinity College Cambridge on the history of economic thought, examining ideas of free economy across various social strata in India, c. 1940-70. His research on India and the Bretton Woods Conference (with Srinath Raghavan) was recently published in the *Journal of World History*. Aditya previously worked as a research associate at the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab in New Delhi and in 2017-8 was an associate of the Center for the History of Political Economy at Duke University. We look forward to working with him at the CEH.



Just released: AusClio Programme:

Australasian Cliometrics Workshop

To be held at the School of Economics, University of Adelaide

Friday, 2 November 2018, BankSA Room, Majoribanks Wing

Preliminary Program

9:30 – 10:00 Arrival and Welcome

10:00 – 12:00 Pauline Grosjean (USNW): TBC

Andreas Ferrara (Warwick) *"Fatherless: The Long-Term Effects of Losing a Father in the U.S. Civil War"*

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

13:00 – 15:00 Laura Panza (Melbourne) *"Does Trade Promote Peace? Evidence from 250 years of Conflict and Market Integration Data"*

Federico Masera (UNSW) *"Economic Incentives, Cultural and Institutional Change : the evolution of slavery in the Antebellum South"*

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee Break

15:30 – 17:30 Lingyu Kong (Adelaide) *"Binding & Loosening: The Evolution of the Interlocking Directorate Network of Chinese Banks in the Republican Era"*

Edwyna Harris (Monash) & Sumner La Croix (Hawaii) *"Did Speculation in Land Pay Off for British Investors? Buying and Selecting Land in South Australia, 1835-1850"*

Workshop Dinner

Discussants to be confirmed

To attend please contact Florian Ploeckl (florian.ploeckl@adelaide.edu.au)

Conference Announcement:

The Australia-Pacific Economic and Business History Conference joins with the All-University of California Group

Decline and Rise: Asia since the Industrial Revolution

California Institute of Technology

8-9 February 2019

Call for Papers

Papers and proposals for sessions are invited for the joint APEBH 2019 and All-UC Group in Economic History conference. The organisers welcome proposals for contributions on the conference theme: "Decline and Rise: Asia since the Industrial Revolution" from any perspective in economic history. While submissions for papers or panels on the conference topic will be given preference, submissions on all topics in economic history are welcome.

Asia and the wider Asia-Pacific region has seen over the last three centuries a decline and rise of its economic fortunes. The Industrial Revolution in Europe is associated with a divergence in economic development and living standards between core countries in Europe and their Asian counterparts. The emergence of settler economies around the Pacific further highlighted these development trends. The latter half of the 20th century, however, saw a reversal of this dynamic with strong growth in emerging market economies and the advent of economic changes in communist economies. This decline and rise of Asia's economic position in the world still is not fully understood and offers many potential lessons for our understanding of large, overarching economic trends.

The conference keynote, the Noel Butlin Lecture, will be given by Philip Hoffman from the California Institute of Technology.

Researchers across a broad range of related disciplines, including business and social history, are warmly welcomed. The conference organisers would especially like to encourage the submission of conference papers for publication in the *Australian Economic History Review* with its focus on the wider Asia-Pacific Region.

Early career researchers and especially graduate students are particularly encouraged to attend. Limited financial support may be available, so please mention your graduate student status in your submission.

All abstracts, papers and proposals for sessions should be emailed by 31 October to: Florian Ploeckl (florian.ploeckl@adelaide.edu.au) and Greg Clark (gclark@ucdavis.edu).

Australian Historical Association Conference

The Annual Conference of the Australian Historical Association took place at the ANU on 2nd to 6th July. It featured the theme “Exploring the Economic Past”. On show was a mix of papers dealing with aspects of colonial investment and financial speculation (Edwina Harris, Sumner La Croix and William Peart), economic ideas (Ben Huf), the development and institutionalisation of economic advice (Nicholas Brown), and the impact of Australian federation on intra- and international trade (William Coleman). Other sessions included papers focusing on business history, entrepreneurship (Claire Wright and Catherine Bishop) and technological change (Andre Brett) which offered fresh perspectives on questions of method in mapping networks as well as comparative analysis and interpretation (such as Miesje de Vogel’s paper on Lend Lease). The presence of economic history within the program of this major gathering of Australian historians should be extended at the next AHA conference. – NB/TH



Centre for Economic History, Research School of Economics, College of Business and Economics, Australian National University

The CEH website hosts a discussion paper series on a variety of topics in economic history. Centre affiliates and visitors are encouraged to submit research papers to the series. All papers are available at: <https://www.rse.anu.edu.au/research/research/ceh-working-papers/>

The CEH welcomes courtesy announcements from affiliates and interested parties for inclusion in our newsletter (subject to editing). Please send news items to: CEH.RSE@anu.edu.au

All CEH affiliates who are registered with RePEc are invited to add the Centre as an affiliation on IDEAS: <https://edirc.repec.org/data/cpanuau.html>