

Dear Friend of the ANU Centre for Economic History,

The southern summer has arrived, but there is no rest for the scholarly. The past year has been eventful for the Centre, most recently with a junior economic historian workshop (below), and a number of accolades awarded to Centre Director Tim Hatton. Also included in this issue of the newsletter is Martine Mariotti's moving tribute to fellow South African, Nelson Mandela. We will start the new year with a one-day workshop on Asian development in January (program attached), with more events forthcoming. Thanks again for your interest.

Best,  
John Tang (Acting CEH Director)

## CEH Junior Economic Historian Workshop Report

"Intimidating" was one word used to describe the workshop held on the 15th November. The intensive, one-day event was held in the Arndt Suite and formatted to maximize the amount of feedback to each of the six speakers. Similar in spirit to the American Cliometrics Society meetings, the speakers were given ten minutes to present their early-stage research, followed by fifty minutes of discussion by a designated discussant and other participants. All presenters and attendees were expected to read the six papers and provide constructive (if frank) criticism.

The program opened with Raj Banerjee's (UniSA) paper on



*Raj Banerjee (center left) and Florian Ploeckl (centre right) have their minds blown by Martine Mariotti's presentation. Meanwhile, Lyndon Moore (far right) grapples with deep thoughts and both Trevor Kollmann and Laura Panza are at a loss for words.*

Australian productivity in the early 1900s. Unlike other studies on Australian development, Raj and co-author Martin Shanahan explicitly introduce land as a factor of production and also include technological innovation in their analysis. They find that land did not contribute substantively to productivity due to population growth.

Lyndon Moore's (Melbourne) paper on British initial public offerings (IPOs) at the turn of the twentieth century followed, which looks at whether investor information affected the allocation of shares. Lyndon finds that well-informed individual investors, through their occupation or location, received larger allocations of higher performing IPO shares, in contrast to institutional investors.

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## Tim Hatton wins ARC grant and SJE best article prize

Congratulations to CEH director Tim Hatton, who was awarded an Australian Research Council Discovery Project grant starting in 2014. Tim, along with project co-investigators Xin Meng and Daniel Suryadarma, will study trends in Asian heights and body mass and their relationship to fertility and urbanization.



This news was soon followed with an announcement by the *Scandinavian Journal of Economics* that Tim and co-author Michele Belot's paper "Immigrant Selection in the OECD" (volume 114, issue 4, December 2012) was awarded the best article prize for papers published in the past year. The SJE prize (formerly the David Davidson prize) is awarded annually as judged by the SJE editors.

These awards cap a great year for Tim, who is also the current holder of the Clio Can (announced in the previous issue), which recognizes individuals who provide exceptional support to the field of cliometrics.

## CEH Junior Workshop (cont.)

The next session had presentations by Laura Panza (Melbourne) and Trevor Kollmann (La Trobe). Laura's paper explored the Egyptian and Syrian commodity markets following the collapse of the Ottoman empire. She finds that their integration with world markets was incomplete, applying to barley but not other products.

Trevor's paper on American public housing in the 1930s examined the economic and political factors that may have influenced neighborhood selection. He finds that housing projects tended to locate in lower rent and more densely populated areas while politics did not play a statistically significant role.

The final session had papers by Martine Mariotti (ANU) and Florian Ploeckl (Adelaide). Martine's paper looked at the impact of migrant labor flows on children's education from the sending country, Malawi. She finds that international labor migration is associated with greater schooling, possibly through the role of remittances.

Last but not least, Florian's paper analyzed the efficiency of the German postal system in the late 1800s. He finds that regional differences were small, suggesting high uniformity in service provision even allowing for variation in scale.



*A well-deserved post-workshop drink!*

## Centre for Economic History Discussion Paper Series

The CEH website hosts a discussion paper series on a variety of topics in economic history. Recent additions include the following (CEH affiliate in **bold**):

2013-10 "Australian's Major Terms of Trade and Commodity Shocks, 1800-2013: Sources and Impacts" by **Nigel Stapledon**

2013-11 "Asia's Role in the Global Economy in Historical Perspective" by Angus Maddison and **Pierre van der Eng**

Older papers are also available at <http://rse.anu.edu.au/CEH/>

## Featured Economic Historian: Deirdre McCloskey

In December, the Economic Society of Australia (Canberra Branch) and the ANU Crawford School of Public Policy hosted Deirdre McCloskey, who gave a lecture on "Why economics can't explain the modern world." Like her similarly-titled book, *Bourgeois Dignity: Why Economics Can't Explain the Modern World*, she discusses the roles of ideology and institutions (as opposed to production inputs) in helping to enrich the modern world.

Deirdre, who is the Distinguished Professor of Economics, History, English, and Communication at the University of Illinois at Chicago, is a highly prolific scholar, thus far producing 16 books and over 400 articles and other written works. A widely-sought after speaker, Deirdre is known for her candor and iconoclasm, typified by her Twitter biography: "Postmodern, quantitative, literary, ex-Marxist, economist, historian, progressive Episcopalian, coastie-bred Chicagoan woman who was once not."



### Upcoming Conferences

#### Asia Pacific Economic and Business History Conference

*Economic Consequences of War and Conflict*

13-15 February 2014

University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand

#### Economic History Society Annual Conference

28-30 March 2014

University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom

#### Economic History Association Annual Meeting

12-14 September 2014

Columbus, Ohio, USA

**\*\*Call for papers:** <http://eh.net/eha/call-for-papers>

#### Asian Historical Economics Conference

19-20 September 2014

Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey

**\*\*Call for papers:** <http://www.ata.boun.edu.tr/ahec/istanbul.htm>

### News from the Noel Butlin Archives Centre

The Noel Butlin Archives Centre, located at the ANU, contains records for Australian companies, associations, trade unions, and other organizations dating back to the early 1800s. In addition to the physical collection of documents, many items have been or are in the process of being digitized.

More information about the NBAC as well as current news and events can be found at <http://archives.anu.edu.au/collections>

*The CEH welcomes courtesy announcements from Centre affiliates for inclusion in the newsletter. Please send news and/or conference information (subject to editing) to [CEH.RSE@anu.edu.au](mailto:CEH.RSE@anu.edu.au)*





### **Reflections on Nelson Mandela**

Nelson Mandela passed away on 5 December 2013 at the age of 95. He will leave a profound legacy of peace and forgiveness for South Africans and the world. Following his death I had the opportunity to talk about his impact on South Africans on ABC News Radio. Nelson Mandela is revered by black and white South Africans alike. For blacks he is the liberator, a man who was willing to die if it would help achieve his ideals of equality of the races. For whites he is the peacemaker and the forgiver, a man who was willing to look forward for the good of all races in the community rather than look backward with resentment. And he had every right to feel resentful after spending 27 years of his life in prison. Yet upon his release he worked tirelessly moving the country towards its first free and democratic elections in 1994 and encouraging black South Africans to be like him, to forgive and to work towards a better future. I was asked whether he did indeed manage to achieve a better future for all South Africans. My answer is that he has done great work smoothing the transition from white rule to majority rule, all South Africans now have equal political rights. However many South Africans still live in poverty and have no expectation of a better life. As economists we know that raising such a large group of people from poverty can be a difficult task. Mr Mandela was in a position to advocate a transfer of wealth from whites to blacks, he was in a position to support nationalizing the economy. Indeed, he had close ties to the labour movement and to the South African communist party. Yet, the African National Congress's approach was to adhere to the principles of the free market, these economic principles successfully led to several years of high growth in the late 1990s and early 2000s. There is clearly a long road ahead on the journey to poverty alleviation, Mr Mandela helped put South Africans on the right path, it is now up to the next generations to help fulfill his vision of both political and economic equality for all.

**-Dr. Martine Mariotti (ANU RSE)**

**One-Day CEH Workshop:**

## **Topics on Asian Development, Past and Present**

Friday, 31 January 2014

Arndt Suite, Arndt Building, ANU, Building 25A

### **Programme**

10:00-10:30: Morning Coffee

10:30-12:00: Session 1

Russell Toth (USyd), "Experience Does Matter: Managerial Capital and the Dynamics of Entrepreneurship"

John Tang (ANU), "A Tale of Two SICs: Industrial Development in Japan and the United States in the Late Nineteenth Century"

12:00-13:00: Light lunch

13:00-14:30: Session 2

Se Yan (Peking), "The Long-Term Effects of Protestant Activities in China"

Xin Meng (ANU), "The Intergenerational Effect of the Chinese Cultural Revolution on Education"

14:30-15:00: Afternoon tea

15:00-16:30: Session 3

Paul Burke (ANU), "China's Coal Demand is Becoming More Price Elastic"

Cameron Gordon (Canberra), "Agglomeration Economies and Rail Investment: Prospects for Asian Development"

16:30: Close

*Please register interest in attending at [CEH.RSE@anu.edu.au](mailto:CEH.RSE@anu.edu.au)*

The logo for the Centre for Economic History (CEH) is a dark blue square with the letters "CEH" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

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