

Dear Friend of the ANU Centre for Economic History,

We are halfway through our (southern hemisphere) academic year, and have a few items to share with you. These include summaries of some recent meetings; a visit from Professor Loren Brandt; and the exciting conclusion to the overview of economic history at the ANU by Pierre van der Eng. We are also planning another intensive workshop later in the year, hosted by the University of Melbourne. Thanks again for your support and interest in economic history.

Best,
John Tang (CEH Director)

Australasian Cliometrics Workshop Report, University of Adelaide



*Participants paying close attention to Trevor Kollmann's paper.
L-R: John Wilson, Raj Banerjee, Jonathan Pincus, Martin
Shanahan, William Coleman*

On 20 June, the University of Adelaide hosted the second instalment of the Australasian Cliometrics Workshop (aka, AusClio), a workshop designed to provide in-depth, targeted feedback for a small group of economic historians. The format of AusClio allows 10 minutes for the presenter, 20 minutes for the discussant, and the final 30 minutes for general questions. As all participants are expected to read the papers prior to the workshop, this format provides a healthy discussion of each paper.

AusClio featured four diverse papers in economic history by William Coleman (Australian National University), Trevor Kollmann (RMIT University), Laura Panza (University of Melbourne), and Florian Ploeckl (University of Adelaide). The discussants for each paper, respectively, included Martin Shanahan (University of South Australia), John Tang (Australian National University), Lyndon Moore (University of Melbourne), and Neil Barnwell (University of Technology, Sydney).

Featured Economic Historian: Professor Loren Brandt

Professor Loren Brandt (University of Toronto) visited the ANU for a few weeks in June, culminating in his FH Gruen Public Lecture "The Chinese Renewables Sectors: A Case of Wilting Greens?" on 12 June.



A specialist in the historical and modern Chinese economy, Brandt is a distinguished and prolific scholar who has published extensively in leading international journals, including his recent article "From Divergence to Convergence: Reevaluating the History Behind China's Economic Boom" in the *Journal of Economic Literature* (March 2014). Brandt is also an editor for the *Encyclopedia of Economic History* (Oxford University Press, 2003) and *China's Great Economic Transformation* (Cambridge University Press, 2008). -JT

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

Tel: +61 2 6125 3627
Canberra ACT 0200 Australia

Discussion papers available at:
<http://rse.anu.edu.au/CEH/>

(cont. page 2)

AusClio Adelaide Report (cont.)



Photo courtesy of helpful professional staff at Uni Adelaide.
L-R: Trevor Kollman, Neil Barnwell, Raj Banerjee, Florian Ploeckl, Laura Panza, Lyndon Moore, John Tang, Martin Shanahan, William Coleman

William Coleman presented his paper, "Was the First World War Disturbing or Reinforcing of Australia's Economic Model?" The paper explores whether there was evidence that the World War I quickened or slowed the economic development and links to the United Kingdom. Building a historical narrative and data from several sources to create stylized facts, the paper finds evidence to suggest that rather than being a catalyst to change, World War 1 may have reinforced the pre-existing model of economic governance.

A joint paper with Price Fishback, Trevor Kollmann presented, "Hedonic Housing Indexes during the Great Depression." This paper uses a newly constructed dataset from 106 cities to construct a national-level hedonic housing price index from 1929 through 1940.

The index found that housing prices fell nearly 40 percent (nominal dollars) in the United States between 1929 and 1932 and there was little recovery throughout the rest of the decade.

Laura Panza presented a joint paper with David Merrett that seeks to discover how banks settled cross border financial claims in the 1930s. The paper, "Cross-border banking services in the 1930s: branches versus correspondents" uses bilateral foreign banking and trade data for 101 countries in 1935 to create gravity models to see understand the political, institutional, and cultural relationships between countries and the choice to build a multinational bank and/or establish a correspondent relationship with local banks. The paper finds that bilateral trade and presence of strong financial centres played primary roles in the choice of both modes of operations.

Florian Ploeckl delivered the last presentation on "Delivering the Mail Everywhere: Public Service expansion and the diffusion of the Postal Service." The paper uses data from Germany, focusing on the state of Saxony to delve into the factors that led to the diffusion of the postal service between the 17th and 19th centuries. His preliminary results suggest that population size was the governing factor in determining the timing of the postal service.

Building on the successful inauguration last November at the ANU, AusClio Adelaide was attended by economic historians throughout Australia while even attracting a few economists outside the field. All the participants agreed that the continuation of AusClio, starting with the next meeting in November 2014 at the University of Melbourne will continue to strengthen the network of economic historians throughout Australasia. The Centre of Economic History is proud to support this activity. -TK

"Short Poppies" and other headlines for research by Tim Hatton

CEH affiliate (and inaugural director) Professor Tim Hatton (ANU/Essex) has recently received considerable press coverage for his paper "How Have Europeans Grown So Tall?" in *Oxford Economic Papers* (2014). Media outlets include blogs like *Vox* and *The Conversation* as well as mainstream press include *The Atlantic* (links to coverage below).



The research, which uses data on soldiers in their early twenties during World War I, shows that average heights increased four inches (10 cm) in the past century, with considerable variation among European populations. Contributing factors include nutrition, socio-economic background, disease, and the urban environment such as water treatment and housing quality. -JT

Link to paper (restricted): [OEP](#)

Links to press coverage: [Vox](#), [The Conversation](#), [The Atlantic](#)

Economic History at the ANU

Part 2: There from the Outset in 1930

[This is the second part of the "Economic History at the ANU" article printed in the previous newsletter]



First Australian economic historian: Sir Timothy Coghlan

Economic History at The Faculty

In the 1950s, economic historians Noel Butlin, Alan Hall and Alan Barnard in the ANU Research School of Social Sciences (RSSH) contributed part-time to the teaching of economic history courses at the Canberra University College (CUC). In 1958, Colin Forster was appointed lecturer in economic history in 1958 at CUC, where Burton was joined as Professor of Economic History by Graham S.L. Tucker in 1961. Tucker's appointment marked the establishment of the Department of Economic History in the then former CUC.

The CUC and the ANU had been merged in 1960. Nevertheless, the two departments of Economic History at the ANU – at RSSH and at what became the Faculty of Economics – evolved largely independently due to their different institutional embedding. One focused on research and graduate training, the other on undergraduate teaching. Both maintained collegial relations, occasionally resulting in joint research as well as in a joint seminar series.

The growing number of full-time students in the BEc degree in the 1960s and 1970s resulted in further appointments in what later became the Faculty of Economics and Commerce: Neville Cain, Selwyn Cornish, R.V. 'Bob' Jackson, Alan Martina, John Gage and Mac Boot. Even 1968-73 ANU Vice Chancellor Sir John Crawford occasionally lectured in economic history, particularly on Australian trade policy. Forster succeeded Tucker as Head of Department in 1979 and as Professor of Economic History in 1986.

Economic history was a popular major in the ANU's BEc degree. Despite the Department's significant commitment to teaching growing numbers of undergraduate students, it sustained research interests. Forster and Cain researched several aspects of Australian economic history. Forster focused on prewar industrialisation, unemployment and minimum wages. With Melbourne colleague Gus Sinclair, he published the classic anthology *Australian Economic Development in the Twentieth Century* (1970), which was used as an economic history textbook at Australian universities.



History of economic thought: Selwyn Cornish

ANU announces four senior appointments

Four senior academic appointments, including the first to a new chair of economic history, have been announced by the Australian National University.

Professor Graeme Snooks is the first appointee to the Coghlan chair in the Research School of Social Sciences.

The chair was set up by the school's foundation professor of economic history, Professor Noel Butlin, in honour of the late NSW statistician and "founding father of the Australian tradition in economic history", Timothy Coghlan.

Professor Snooks was a PhD student in the research school and has been a reader in economic history for the past 17 years at Flinders University.

Sir Timothy Coghlan Chair: Graeme Snooks appointed (The Canberra Times, 13 Dec 1989)

Cain published on 19th century pastoral finance, using company records that are now in NBAC. He also researched Australian economic policy in the 1930s, an interest he continued after his return to RSSH in 1968. Tucker's research interests were in British history of economic thought and in demographic history of England and the UK. The latter he shared with Jackson and Boot. Jackson also published on Australian demographic history, as did Forster. Other research interests existed as well. For example, Boot researched public policy and institutions in the Australian economic history. Cornish focused on the history of economic thought in Australia.

1980s-1990s at RSSH

At RSSH, Butlin retired in 1986. His successor as Professor of Economic History was Graeme Snooks, who in 1989 (*cont. p. 4*)

Jetlog: A Report on the 2014 EHS Meeting



Britain's Economic History Society held its annual conference this year from March 28th to March 30th at the University of Warwick near the city of Coventry. Over 200 economic historians, drawn mostly from the UK and Europe but also North America and even Australia, participated in this general conference, featuring sessions and plenary talks about a wide range of issues and methods. Competently and efficiently organized as usual the meeting was well run and attendees participated strongly during the whole weekend.

The first major set of sessions on Friday afternoon was dedicated to presentations by 'New Researchers', featuring graduate students and early career researchers. Although the papers were split over 8 parallel sessions the attendance, in particular of senior faculty, was notable, leading to helpful and supportive discussions. Close to 50 presentations with a diverse set of topics and methods bode well for the future of the discipline, interested readers should peruse the conference program published on the website of the EHS (www.ehs.org.uk) and can find all the papers underlying these particular presentations in the conference booklet, again on the website of the society.

Friday evening was crowned by Mark Harrison's keynote on 'The Myths of the Great War'. In his usual methodical, thorough and very poignant way he presented three major, widely held conceptions about the First World War and then dispatched them one by one, showing how they were clearly misleading and wrong. The conference was also followed by another meeting in honour of Mark Harrison. The attending scholars and researchers focused their presentations on the major themes of his distinguished record and career, in particular also World Wars, the Soviet Union and Communism. (*cont. page 6*)

Economic History at the ANU *Part 2: There from the Outset in 1930 (cont.)*

took up the Sir Timothy Coghlan chair in Economic History. Butlin had established the endowed chair to honour Coghlan, a former NSW Statistician and arguably the first economic historian of Australia. Snooks pursued innovative new research projects, such as the integration and analysis of the value of household services in estimates of Australian national income since 1788.

In the late-1980s and 1990s, the RSSS Department of Economic History employed several research fellows and postdocs on fixed-term contracts, while others were employed elsewhere at RSSS but strongly associated with the Department. For example, David Pope, Paul Johnson, Kosmas Tsokhas, Katrina Alford, Pamela Statham, Richard Grove, Stephen Nicholas, Glenn Withers and Gary Magee all contributed to the research output of the Department.



Sir Timothy Coghlan Chair: Graeme Snooks

They researched and published on a range of topics in Australia's past, such as the financial sector and migration, environmental history, the convict economy and anthropometrics, human capital and labour markets, and technological change in manufacturing. Together with research outcomes from the Department of History in the Faculty, the research results of RSSS academics, associates and visitors was included in the 200-odd issues of the Working Papers in Economic History series the RSSS Department issued during 1982-1997.

The Department's visitor program saw a steady stream of prominent colleagues from Australia, New Zealand, Western Europe and North America spend fruitful research time at the ANU. In the 1980s and 1990s, they included Deirdre McCloskey, Paul David, Angus Maddison, Stanley Engerman, Jeffrey Williamson, Mary McKinnon, Lee Alston and Tim Hatton. (*cont. p. 5*)

Economic History at the ANU

Part 2: There from the Outset in 1930 (cont.)



1980s repeat visitor: Tim Hatton

This interaction triggered comparative research involving Australia, such as research on settler economies, as well as themed workshops and conferences. However, in 1997, new research priorities and budget cuts in RSSS forced the Department of Economic History to be absorbed by the Department of Economics. Snooks sustained his prolific research interests, but the RSSS economic history program unfortunately withered.

Economic History at the rest of the ANU

The ANU was undoubtedly unique in the world for having two Economic History departments for more than 30 years. But the university also engaged economic historians in its other parts. For example, Keith Hancock and John La Nauze in the RSSS Department of History, where Bob Gollan and later also Barry Higman conducted research related to economic history. At the RSSS Department of Demography, Reg Appleyard published on British migration to Australia before leaving for a

Chair in Economic History in Western Australia.

In the Department of History in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies (RSPAS), Sydney Cawcours, Mark Elvin and Tony Reid long maintained research interests in the economic history of respectively Japan, China, and Southeast Asia. Economist Anne Booth in RSPAS researched the economic history of Indonesia. Together with Tony Reid she established the Economic History of Southeast Asia Project (1989-2000).

1990s-2000s at the Faculty

In the Faculty of Economics and Commerce, Forster retired as Professor of Economic History in 1991. His chair was not filled. Instead, Simon Ville, Grant Fleming and Pierre van der Eng were appointed as lecturers to contribute to the department's course offerings in Asian economic history and diversify course offerings to include business and financial history. This was part of the department's response to declining enrolments in Economic History courses at that time as students were increasingly attracted to the BCom rather than the BEc degree.



Department head and business history: Simon Ville



Coghlan Prize Winner: Pierre van der Eng

Diversification of economic history courses, as well as teaching courses into the BCom curriculum offered respite. The appointments also added to the department's research activities in the 1990s. Nevertheless, in 2001 the Department of Economic History merged with the Department of Economics to form the School of Economics. In subsequent years, economic historians left the School or retired from it.

At RSSS, the Department of Economics was forced to consider its options in 2008, when the ANU embarked on the amalgamation of its Research Schools and Faculties. The Department decided to split from RSSS and join the School of Economics in the ANU College of Business and Economics, starting in 2010.

Thus, Graeme Snooks – briefly, until his retirement from the ANU (*cont. p. 6*)



Old-school (but transformative) technology

Jetlog: A Report on the 2014 EHS Meeting (cont.)

Saturday brought the main bulk of the research sessions of the conference. Organized in three rounds of eight parallel sessions the program contained a wide range of diverse topics.

The day was brought to a close with the main conference dinner. Besides a sumptuous meal the attendants enjoyed a welcome by the Vice-Chancellor of Warwick University (?), comments by the president of the Economic History Society, Richard Trainor, and the recognition of this year's prize winners of the various society prizes.

The evening also had its sad moment when Jane Humphries gave a moving tribute to Francesca Carnivalli, an Economic Historian from the University of Birmingham who had died in the last year.

Sunday, the final day of the conference, again started with another round of research sessions and although the previous evening had a lasting effects, energetic presenters and participants made for a lively exchange of ideas.

This spirited atmosphere was also present during the Tawney Lecture, given this year by Pat Hudson from Cardiff University & LSE. Speaking on "Industrialisation, global history and the ghost of Rostow" her talk was a, at points fairly provocative, tour de force through the discipline's methods and views about long-term economic growth and development, resulting in lively conversations and discussions during the departure following the conclusion of the conference.

The program including the conference booklet with all New Researcher papers as well as links to the regular papers are available on the website of the EHS, www.ehs.org.uk. -FP



Post-flight coffee with charming tourists

Economic History at the ANU Part 2: There from the Outset in 1930 (cont.)

in 2010 – and Tim Hatton became Professors of Economic History in what is now the Research School of Economics. They were joined by newly recruited economic historians Martine Mariotti and John Tang. Hatton took the initiative to establish the ANU's Centre for Economic History in 2012, which now continues the ANU's significant legacy of research in business and economic history since 1930. -PvdE

The sources used for both instalments are:

- ANU Oral History Archive, Interview with Noel Butlin, http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/ohp/interviews/noel_butlin.html
- *Bulletin of the Business Archives Council of Australia* (1956-61), continued as *Business Archives and History* (1962-66) and *Australian Economic History Review* (1967-2014).
- Discussions with Peter Yule (Melbourne), author of the commissioned history of the ANU College of Business and Economics.
- *Economic Record* (1925-2014).
- Entries in the Australian Dictionary of Biography (<http://adb.anu.edu.au>) and Obituaries Australia (<http://oa.anu.edu.au>).
- Foster, Stephen and Varghese, Margaret (2009) *The Making of The Australian National University 1946-1996*. Canberra: ANUPress.
- *The Canberra Times* (1930-1995, via Trove).