

Friends of the ANU Centre for Economic History,

We are halfway through the calendar (and academic) year in Australia and have a number of activities coming up. The Centre is helping to sponsor the History of Economic Thought Society conference, the Australasian Cliometrics Workshop, and the Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economists conference. We also have a number of conference reports such as the one held in honor of our inaugural Centre director and dear colleague Tim Hatton. As always, thanks for your support of the Centre and economic history.

John Tang, CEH Director

HattonFest 2017 Conference Summary



Tim Hatton flashing his trademark grin (British Council 2016)

Nearly 50 economists descended upon Wivenhoe House at the University of Essex on 26-27 June 2017 to celebrate Tim Hatton's illustrious career at the aptly titled conference "Labour Markets and Living Standards in Britain, 1870-1960" (aka, HattonFest). The programme revolved around three of Tim's main research interests: the measurement of well-being in terms of height and health, British labour markets in good times and bad, and the outcomes of, and attitudes towards, immigrants.

Jeff Williamson (Harvard), long-time co-author of Tim's, kicked off the conference with a paper on exceptional growth of Australian income between 1821 and 1871. Williamson showed that while Australia grew at a rapid clip, the country maintained a unique position of low inequality by European and American standards. The next session focused on British Trade, with Brian Varian (LSE) arguing that Britain's comparative advantages

between 1880 and 1900 were in labour non-intensive industries. Next, Kevin O'Rourke (Oxford) examined the trade collapse for the United Kingdom during the Great Depression, comparing and contrasting its features with the recent Global Financial Crisis.

The next session was on Poverty and Inequality in Britain, with Jonathan Chapman (NYU Abu Dhabi) using new data on regional inequality in Britain and estimating its relationship with local variation in the generosity of the poor law. Ian Gazeley (Sussex) wrapped up the day's presentations by examining trends in inequality in Britain 1900-60, using household surveys, emphasising their sensitivity to differences in survey design. The day finished with an excellent dinner at Wivenhoe House with many stories of Tim's experiences in his early days at the University of Essex; fortunately, Tim reassured everyone that while the conference was in his honour, he is nowhere near retiring and stopping his work. [*cont. p. 2*]

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HattonFest Summary (cont.)

[from p. 1] The second day of the conference started with two papers on health and height, one of Tim's current research interests. Ewout Depauw (Ghent) and Deb Oxley (Oxford) presented a paper using new Belgian height data for 1800 to 1876 birth cohorts, finding that the critical periods of growth occurred during teenage years. Vellore Arthi (Essex) presented a paper on the effect of recessions on mortality, arguing that the literature's often documented (and surprising) result that mortality falls during recessions is biased due to selective immigration away from areas with deeper recessions.



Three generations: Brian Varian (L) with his supervisor Chris Minns (C) and his supervisor Tim Hatton



Beers and cheers (Chris Minns 2017)

The next session was on

getting a job; Kris Inwood (Guelph) and Chris Minns (LSE) focused on occupational persistence between fathers and sons in different sectors in Canadian censuses. Jessica Bean (Denison), Andy Seltzer (Royal Holloway) and Jonathan Wadsworth (Royal Holloway) examined a labour market model with commuting costs using one of the only surviving historical datasets (the New Survey of London Life and Labour) that records both place of residence and place of work – a dataset that Tim helped to create.

The last session was on immigration, with Katherine Eriksson (UC-Davis) estimating the effect of ethnic enclaves on labour market assimilation in the United States. Cormac Ó Gráda (University College Dublin) followed with an analysis of different dimensions of public opinion in Ireland before and after the Global Financial Crisis. Public attitudes towards immigrants has been a keen interest of Tim's

and a topic that has gained substantial interest for the larger public in the past few years. -ZW

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**):

- 2017-02 "Australian Squatters, Convicts, and Capitalists: Dividing Up a Fast-Growing Frontier Pie 1821-1871" **Laura Panza** and **Jeffrey G. Williamson**
- 2017-03 "Co-authorship in Economic History and Economics: Are We Any Different?" **Andrew J. Seltzer** and Daniel S. Hamermesh
- 2017-04 "Upstart Industrialization and Exports, Japan 1880-1910" Christopher M. Meissner and **John P. Tang**
- 2017-05 "The Samurai Bond: Credit Supply and Economic Growth in Pre-War Japan" Sergi Basco and **John P. Tang**

Centre affiliates and visitors are encouraged to submit working papers to the series. All papers are available at: <https://www.rse.anu.edu.au/research/research/ceh-working-papers/>

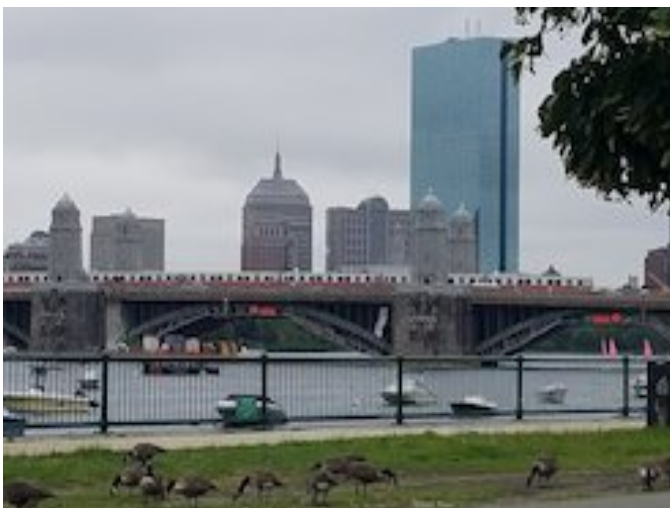
NBER Summer Institute Recap

Over 2,400 economists arrived in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for the NBER Summer Institute earlier this month, and a subset of economic historians huddled together the NBER offices at the Development of the American Economy (DAE) program.

The highlights of the four-day DAE program were many, but a few stood out. One night included a dinner which honoured Claudia Goldin's long-running running of the DAE program. Claudia told stories of the starting days of the DAE program when it was led by Bob Fogel; apparently, the group would meet on New Years Day in restaurants and record their meetings, although these recorded tapes are useless since only the sound of clinking silverware came through.

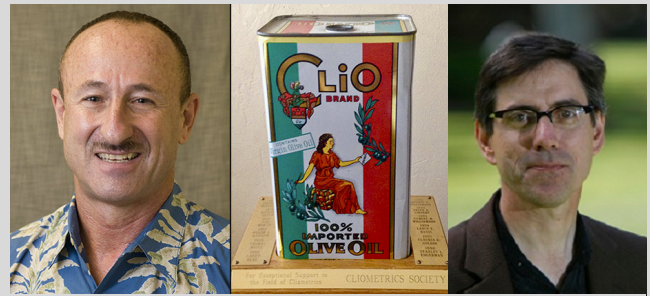
Another highlight included a methods lecture by Joe Ferrie (Northwestern) and Martha Bailey (University of Michigan) on the potential benefits and pitfalls of linking digitized Census data. Linking datasets is a growing trend in the economic history literature, and fortunately their lectures will be posted online at the NBER website for interested economic historians.

A final highlight was a lunch talk given by Doug Irwin (Dartmouth) on his forthcoming book "Clashing over Commerce: A history of U.S. Trade Policy," a book which covers United States history from the Boston Tea Party to Trump. -ZW



Balmy Boston (Dina Pomeranz 2017)

World Clio Summary



Clio Can-sters, old and new

The 8th World Congress of Cliometrics took place in the warm heart of Europe, the picturesque city of Strasbourg. Over four days from 4th to 7th July a total of 88 papers were presented in four parallel sessions. The papers were debated according to time honoured Clio rules, with a short introduction by the author, who was then interrogated at length by members of the audience. Having read the papers in advance, those present gave thoughtful and constructive comments in a friendly but lively environment that has become the hallmark of Clio. Participants agreed that the standard of the papers was high and the organisers commented that the number of submissions had far exceeded the number of available slots. The ANU Centre for Economic History was represented by Tim Hatton and Zach Ward, both of whom received valuable feedback on their papers.

The conference was hosted by Claude Diebolt who, with his team of helpers, put on a truly splendid event. This included a canal-boat trip around historic Strasbourg with a commentary on its development, past and present. Dinner on the last evening was peppered with the usual entertaining repartee, led by Clio stalwarts Sumner La Croix and Michael Hauptert. Both of them are standing down after long and valuable service as executive director and conference organiser for the Cliometric Society and were thanked profusely for their tremendous contribution. The occasion also witnessed the induction of three new Fellows of the Cliometric Society, Lee Alston, Gary Libecap and Paul Rhode. Last but not least, the Clio Can was ceremonially passed by last year's holder, Sumner La Croix, to Greg Clark, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Cliometrics. -TH

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

Conference Announcements

HETSA Conference: The annual History of Economic Thought Society of Australia Conference will be held in Canberra from **26-27 September 2017**. For more information, please visit the conference website: hetsa2017.com.

Highlights of the upcoming conference include:

- Keynote speaker Professor John Creedy, "A journey with the early neoclassicals"
- Special speaker Jeremy Sheamur, "Hayek's intellectual development: is it relevant to today's problem-situation?"
- Contributed papers on the topics of Joseph Schumpeter, John M. Keynes, Joan Robinson, and Trevor Swan

AusClio Workshop: The 4th Australasian Cliometrics Workshop will be held on **6 November 2017** at the Research School of Economics (ANU). Per the format of previous years, there is no workshop theme, and accepted papers will be distributed advance to participants to encourage active discussion. A complete program will be attached in the next issue of the newsletter. For more information, please contact RSE.CEH@anu.edu.au.

AASLE Conference: The inaugural conference of the Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economics will be held in Canberra from **7-9 December 2017**. Keynote and special speakers include Nobel Prize winner James Heckman (Chicago), David Card (Berkeley), Swati Dhingra (LSE), Edward Lazear (Stanford), Thomas Lemieux (Vancouver), Justin Yifu Lin (Peking), Stephen Machin (LSE), and Yasuyuki Sawada (ADB). Early registration is available until 20 August, and late registration until 20 September. For more information, please visit www.aasle2017.org

Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History Conference:

History from Below: Ordinary lives in historical and comparative perspective

Papers and proposals for sessions are invited for the APEBH 2018 conference to be held in Hobart, Tasmania on **15-17 February 2018**. The organisers welcome proposals for contributions on any topic in economic, social, and business history, including proposals for complete sessions on particular themes. A particular interest is in contributions to the main conference theme as approached by economists, business and economic historians, theorists, demographers, archaeologists, anthropologists, and social and family historians.

This theme encompasses information describing everyday events, which is increasingly available due to the digital revolution and access to archival materials. These materials include newspaper notices; birth, death, and marriage registrations; passenger lists; and hospital and prison admission records. Renewed interest in what might be termed "history from below" and covers work exploring the impact of events on life course, intergenerational outcomes, and studies of geographical and social mobility as well as adaptation to change in worker organization and consumption patterns.

Researchers across a broad range of disciplines are warmly welcomed. Early career researchers are encouraged to participate. The conference organisers are also particularly interested in attracting papers that examine topics in the context of the Asia-Pacific region and papers that provide an international comparative perspective, especially in relation to pre-contact and settler economies such as Australia, New Zealand, and the wider Pacific. The conference keynote, the Noel Butlin lecture, will be given by Sumner La Croix (Hawaii).

Abstracts, session proposals, or papers for refereeing should be emailed to apebh2018@outlook.com by **17 November 2017**, with advanced review for early submissions. The conference website is <https://apebh2018.wordpress.com>.