



Friends of the ANU Centre for Economic History,

It is already halfway through the first semester of the Australian academic year, and the Centre has kept busy with a number of visitors and events. More activities are planned in the coming months, which we describe in this issue. We are also gratified that the ANU's economic history research leads the nation (and eighth globally) in a recent league table ranking. Finally, this will be my last issue as Centre director; it has been a pleasure to serve in this role and to share all the exciting developments happening in our discipline and region. Thanks again for your support for the Centre and economic history.

Best,
John Tang, CEH Director

Featured economic historian: Timothy Guinnane



The Centre was pleased to welcome Professor Tim Guinnane (Yale) for a short visit in early March. While visiting, Tim presented a seminar on "Nuptuality, Martial Fertility, and Social Insurance: Bismarck's Program in Prussia, 1880-1895" and was an active participant in our workshop on international trade history (see next article).

Tim graduated with a PhD from Stanford and, after a few years at Princeton, moved to Yale where he is now the Philip Golden Bartlett Professor of Economic History. Along the way, he has served as director of the Yale Economic Growth Centre and as the visiting Pitt Professor at Cambridge University, UK. [cont. p. 2]

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

**Email: CEH.RSE@anu.edu.au
Tel: +61 2 6125 3627
Acton ACT 2601 Australia**

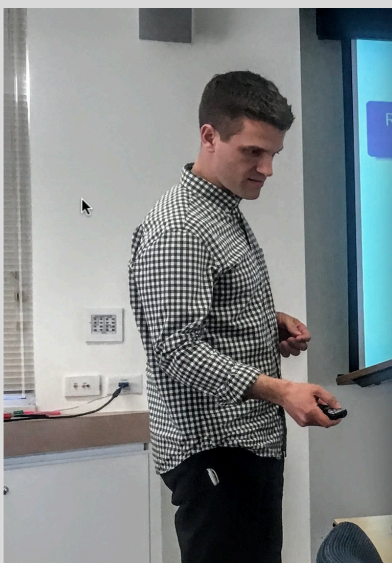
News and working papers at:
<https://www.rse.anu.edu.au/research/centres-projects/centre-for-economic-history/>

Featured economic historian: Timothy Guinnane (cont.)

[from p. 1] Tim is well-known for important contributions to a variety of topics in economic history. The hallmark of his work is the thoughtful application of theory and quantitative methods to important historical questions. Some of his early work focused on reinterpreting the demographic history of Ireland after the Great Famine. His research also includes the emergence and performance of cooperative banks and corporate governance in a range of European countries.

Some of the major insights from this body of scholarship can be found in two books: *The Vanishing Irish* (Princeton University Press, 1997) and *History Matters* (Stanford University Press, 2003). Recently he has turned his attention to critical analysis of heights, death, disability, and social insurance. -TH

Conference recap: workshop on international trade history



Great insights from presenters Peter Bent (L), Marcela Sabate (M), and Wolf-Fabian Hungerland

On 10 March, the Centre hosted a workshop entitled "Trade Policy and Diverse Paths of Globalization: Tariffs, Market Integration, and Political Economy in Europe, America, and Asia, 1870-1939." The purpose of the workshop was to allow participants from the same session, organized by Peter Bent and Toshiki Kawashima, in the upcoming World Economic History Congress later this year to discuss their work in more detail. Papers from the workshop are available in the Centre's discussion paper series.

The morning session comprised two papers by Peter Bent (UMass Amherst) and Wolf-Fabian Hungerland (Humboldt), respectively. Peter's paper "Recovery from Financial Crises in Peripheral Economies, 1870-1913" looked at the drivers of financial crises across countries and how terms of trade and tariff policy affected subsequent recoveries. He finds that the two had offsetting effects, with tariff shocks positively impacting GDP and TOT somewhat negatively, giving government intervention a more prominent role in economic activity. Fabian's paper, "German Export Survival in the First Globalization", focused on the length of exporting periods for detailed German exports. Median duration was approximately 2 years with severe attrition after the third, and both search costs and previous export experience were also influential. [cont. p. 3]

Conference recap: CEH trade history workshop

[from p. 2] The early afternoon session had presentations from Toshiki Kawashima (Penn) and Agustina Rayes (Universidad Nacional del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires). Toshiki's paper "A European Political-Economic Space that Embraced Japan: The International Context of the Conventional Tariff Network, ca. 1892-1914" examined Japanese treaty relationships in a network-style framework. His research raises questions about whether these treaties were promoting or diverting for trade and possible determinants for successful renegotiation. Agustina's paper "The Trade Policy of Argentina, 1870-1913. An Approach through Customs Laws" proposed a re-evaluation of commercial policy using new detailed data. Her research is motivated in part due to the variability of policy during this period, alternating between liberal and protectionist (or both).

The last session had presentations by Marcela Sabate (Zaragoza) and John Tang (ANU). Marcela's joint work with Jose Maria Serrano on "Beyond Interests: The Spanish Fight for Free Trade, 1879-c.1903" looks at archival materials on the establishment of the Spanish free trade association and its role in maintaining open trade during a period of increased protectionism in continental Europe. John's joint paper with Chris Meissner "Upstart Industrialization and Exports: Evidence from Japan, 1880-1910" presents new disaggregated export data for Japan following its opening to the global economy, and finds that the extensive margin (new markets, new goods) represented nearly a third of total export growth. The analysis also shows that market entry was associated with standard gravity trade model predictions, fixed costs, and demand conditions.

Many of the presenters were first time visitors to Australia and were fortunate to have warm sunny weather during their visit. Thanks to them and other participants for making the (long) trip and engaging actively throughout the day. -JT

ANU Economic History Leads Australian Universities

The Sydney-based data analytics firm League of Scholars recently released a ranking of different business topics using research outputs for over 1.4 million international researchers and their peers working at the same institutions. As reported in the *Australian Financial Review* on 6 April 2018, the analysis showed that Australian universities performed well globally in a number of business topics, and the ANU was ranked first for economic history in Australia and eighth in the world based on total citations for authors in that field over the past five years and the number of authors in that field, respectively. -JT & GW



Random post conference group selfie (with strictly non-alcoholic beverages)

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

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

Conference Announcements

Middle Eastern Economic History Workshop: The ANU CEH and University of Melbourne are jointly sponsoring a conference on new research on Middle Eastern economic history topics. The conference will take place on **1-2 June 2018** at the ANU in Canberra and will bring together scholars presenting work on the long-run role of institutions on the region's development, the impact of income inequality on growth, and the effect of ethno-linguistic segregation. Invited speakers include Murat Iyigun (Colorado), Metin Cosgel (Connecticut), Laura Panza (Melbourne), Ulas Karakoc (Humboldt), Cihan Artunc (Arizona), and others.

Attendance is free and open to the public. For more information and registration to attend, please visit our website and sign up via **Eventbrite** for catering purposes: <https://www.rse.anu.edu.au/seminars-events/conferences/middle-eastern-economic-history-workshop/>

Australian History Association Conference: The AHA conference with the theme "The Scale of History" will be held at the ANU in Canberra on **2-6 July 2018**. Speakers include Clare Anderson, Mark McKenna, Mary D. Lewis, Lynette Russell, Katherine Butler Schofield, and others. The ANU CEH will be sponsoring sessions in the conference.

Early-bird registrations end on 7 May 2018. For more information and to register to attend, please visit the conference website: http://history.cass.anu.edu.au/aha2018#acton-tabs-link--qt-aha2018_quicktabs-ui-tabs1



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**):

- 2018-03 "Age at Arrival and Assimilation during the Age of Mass Migration" Rohan Alexander and **Zachary Ward**
- 2018-04 "German Export Survival in the First Globalisation" Wolf-Fabian Hungerland
- 2018-05 "Between Ideas and Interests: The Spanish Fight for Free Trade, 1879-C.1903" Marcela Sabate and Jose Maria Serrano
- 2018-06 "The Trade Policy of Argentina, 1870-1913. A Study through Customs Legislation" Agustina Rayes
- 2018-07 "Recovery from Financial Crises in Peripheral Economies, 1870-1913" Peter H. Bent
- 2018-08 "A European Political-Economic Space that Embraced Japan: The International Context of the Conventional Tariff Network, ca. 1892-1914" Toshiki Kawashima

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/>

Call for Papers

Australasian Cliometrics Workshop Adelaide:

This year's AusClio will be held on Friday, **2 November 2018** at the University of Adelaide. Per the format of previous years, there is no workshop theme and accepted papers will be distributed in advance to participants for active discussion. The workshop is supported and hosted by the School of Economics at the University of Adelaide.

Extended abstracts or full papers will be accepted now through **30 June 2018**. Notification will be made by the end of July and full papers due by 5 October. To submit or to RSVP to attend (with willingness to be a discussant), please email Florian.Ploeckl@adelaide.edu.au. Early career scholars and graduate students are particularly encouraged to apply. Registration is free and catering is provided. Participants will be expected to bear remaining travel and accommodation costs. -FP

Special Issue in Scandinavian Economic History Review: *The quest for competitive markets: Exploring competition and collusion in theory and practice in historical perspective.*

Guest editors: Professor Susanna Fellman (Gothenburg University & University of Helsinki) & Martin Shanahan (University of South Australia, Adelaide)

Dead-line for submissions: **30 November 2018** (please do note in the cover letter that the article is submitted to this special issue)

Historical research on cartels and competition policy is experiencing a revival. (Barjot and Schroter 2013; Bertilorentzi 2016; Christophers 2016; Fellman and Shanahan 2016, Freyer 2009; Gerber 2010) One reason has been the global convergence towards legislation intolerant of restrictive business practices; a trend that has been explained as the "Americanization" of competition policy. Today, there is an increasing awareness that the history of anti-competitive regulation and national attitudes towards company collaboration is not as simple as this. Countries have followed quite different paths in their development of legislation to combat anti-competitive business practices. Competition policy is heavily embedded in the local institutional, legal and political context, while its outcomes and effectiveness is a result of its interconnectedness with other legislation. This challenges the perception that the global convergence towards non-tolerant (anti-trust) legislation is simply the "Americanization" of competition policies and/or the consequence of globalization.

The methods firms use to collude, how cartels are organized and the stability of cartels have also varied between countries and over time. Individual cartels and firms adapt to changes in the regulatory environment, to political decisions, and internal and external pressures. Firms are not only reactive but proactive. Strong cartels have been able to influence both domestic and international policies; a factor which was increasingly recognized in the interwar period and led to the first attempts to monitor and regulate their activities. Powerful cartels were also present in key industries and considered important by many governments for economic progress. As a result, national policies often tolerated both extensive collaboration and allowed some industries exemptions from overall bans. Thus in practice, firms and industries both tried to influence legislation and policy and were influenced by it.

A significant part of the more nuanced insights into cartel and competition policy development has originated from historical investigations. An historical approach, combined with theoretically and empirically informed investigations, is a fruitful approach to reaching a deeper understanding of these topics. [cont. p. 6]

Call for Papers (cont.)

Special Issue in Scandinavian Economic History Review: *The quest for competitive markets: Exploring competition and collusion in theory and practice in historical perspective.*

[from p. 5] Nonetheless, although historically-oriented competition policy and cartel research has seen a revival, historical studies of the dynamics and interplay between, on the one hand, firms and cartels, and political decision makers and government authorities on the other, are still scarce.

The goal of this SI is to add to this field and the core focus will be to address questions concerning the connections between the legal/regulatory environment and company and/or cartel behavior. The approach of the individual contributions can differ in methodology and can have either a micro and/or a macro perspective, but each contribution should be profoundly historical in approach and should address the interaction and/or interdependence between the regulatory environment and cartel/firm behavior. The SI will consist of five to six individual papers, subjected to blind peer review and will be jointly co-edited by guest editors Susanna Fellman and Martin Shanahan.

Papers with a comparative and/or transnational aspect will be prioritized. One focus will be on Nordic experiences in the 20th century, but papers dealing with other countries and areas are highly welcome. All contributions should be based on original new research and will be subject to normal peer review process.

Possible (but not limited to) topics for contributions, are papers that deal with:

- Factors explaining how and why various forms of firm/cartel collaboration and restrictive trade practices (for example, vertical or horizontal integration, cartels vs. syndicates and joint sales organizations, merger & acquisitions and their alternatives) emerged and evolved in different time, contexts and jurisdictions.
- Business-government relations and the implementation of competition legislation in practice.
- The impact from key industries and business sectors on competition or related policy formation: why, when, how.
- Collaboration across borders, especially between companies and cartels in small countries, and the effects on such collaboration on, for example, market development, profitability or technological development.
- Variations in the dimensions of collaboration (formal, informal, cartels) and how collaboration developed over time, as a result of, and in connection to, transformations in the economic and regulatory environment.
- The evolution of cartel strategies and activities, and their interplay with government policies or inside and outside political pressures
- The role of business culture, managerial traditions and the significance of business elite networks on government-business relations and how these features affected cartels or internal cartel dynamics and patterns of company collaboration.
- The effects of international economic cooperation and/or trade agreements on competition regulation and/or on company collaboration/restrictive practices.
- The spread of antitrust attitudes and changes in policy regimes and their impact on cartel behavior or related forms of collaboration. And vice versa, forms of collaboration on government action. -MS