

# CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC HISTORY

## RESEARCH SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

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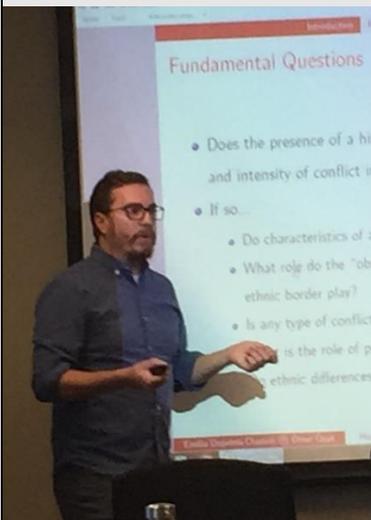
Friends of the ANU Centre for Economic History,

Welcome to this issue of the CEH newsletter. It includes a report on the Aus Clio conference held at University of New South Wales. We are also pleased to announce that registration for presenters at the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History conference will be absolutely free of charge! Once again, thanks for your interest in the Centre for Economic History.

Tim Hatton, CEH Director

## ***Conference Report: Aus Clio at UNSW***

The sixth AusClio Workshop was hosted by Pauline Grosjean and Federico Masera at the UNSW Business School's School of Economics. Following the traditional approach of a cliometric meeting, seven participants each stuck to short ten minute presentations of their papers, followed by a discussant and questions.



Emilio Depetris-Chauvin --  
with fundamental questions

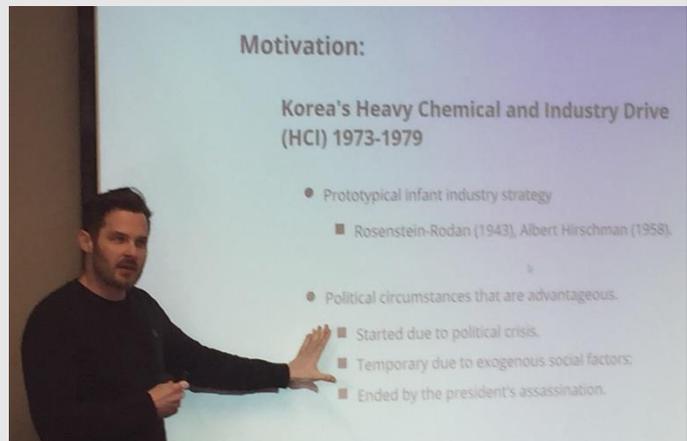
Emilio Depetris-Chauvin (Universidad Católica de Chile) began with a discussion on the role of historical ethnic boundaries on recent conflict in Africa, co-authored with Ömer Özak. In their comprehensive study they show that contemporary conflict in Africa is concentrated close to historical ethnic boundaries. Their argument is that conflict for agricultural land among culturally similar groups is the main mechanism through which this result operates. Participants were concerned with the origin of the boundary data and to what extent the data suggests static boundaries that may have been fluid over time.

New Monash hire Weijia Li followed with a theory of the importance of meritocracy, decentralization and local dual leadership in China. Weijia supplemented his theory with 1,300 years of data from *Twenty-Five Histories*, the official historical record of Imperial China. Weijia shows that by separating economic and political powers across two bureaucrats, the Chinese central government was able to maintain loyalty from both bureaucrats, neither would have an incentive to revolt. The paper is well-argued and almost provides a blue-print for autocracies and even democratically elected governments that are sure to maintain a very high share of the vote in the near future on how best to decentralise.

### ***Aus Clio, continued***

Fernando Arteaga (UPenn) took us to the role of pre-colonial institutions in the economic performance of modern day Mexican counties. Counties encompassing more historical pueblos are likely to be more developed, to have less poverty but more inequality today. The work contributes to the literature that looks at within country changes in inequality over time to test the Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson reversal of fortune hypothesis.

After a sumptuous vegetarian lunch, we commenced with second Monash new hire, Nathan Lane presenting on industrial policy and networks in South Korea. Despite the relatively short length of time the Heavy Chemical and Industry drive was implemented, the policy had persistent effects even after the withdrawal of the policy.



Nathan Lane provides some motivation



Sarah Walker in expressive mode

Sarah Walker (UNSW) presented on women's labour force participation and the impact on the adoption of household technology, co-authored with Gautam Bose and Tarun Jain. Their argument is that contrary to the commonly accepted view that household technology adoption enabled women to enter the workforce, it is women's entry into the workforce that spurs household adoption of labour saving technology. Given the reverse causality concerns with this argument, they instrument with World War Two factories and local draft rates. They find that middle class households adopt more technology while richer households employ more domestic labour.



Maxim Ananyev presents elegantly

We resumed after tea for two more sessions. The first was Maxim Ananyev from the Melbourne Institute presenting on the impact of Christian missionaries on attitudes to homosexuality in Africa, co-authored with Michael Poyker. They show that while pre-colonial societies in Africa were fairly tolerant of homosexuality, this tolerance declined in response to missionary teachings to the extent that current proximity to a historical mission leads to more intolerance toward homosexuality. In contrast to work on the persistence of norms, this paper shows that norms can change over time.

## *Aus Clio, continued*



Fine dining---Clio style!

The final paper of the day was by Martine Mariotti (ANU) looking at South African settler fertility and the change in the length of birth intervals before and during the settler fertility transition, co-authored with Jeanne Cilliers. They find little evidence of control of family size in response to long run socio-economic conditions before the fertility transition. They find though with the advent of the fertility transition a difference in family size in response to these same conditions.

After seven intense hours we adjourned to The Lounge on UNSW's campus for an elegant dinner. Thanks to the discussants for valuable insights and suggestions that led to some very animated discussions. Thanks also to Pauline and Felipe for a great event. Aus Clio is beginning to play an important role in bringing together economic historians in Australia. The next meeting will be held at Monash University, look out for the next call for papers early in 2020. -- MM

## 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:

2019-09 "Extreme Weather and Long-term Health: Evidence from Two Millennia of Chinese Elites" by Wang-Sheng Lee & Ben G. Li

Centre affiliates and visitors are encouraged to submit working papers to the series. All papers are available at: <https://ideas.repec.org/s/auu/hpaper.html>



***APEBH Conference 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020:  
Colonization and Indigenous Populations  
Research School of Economics, Australian National University***

The Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand (EHSANZ) invites papers and proposals for sessions for the Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History (APEBH) Conference to be held at the Australian National University on February 13-15, 2020. The organizers welcome proposals for contributions on the conference theme, "Colonization and Indigenous Populations," from any aspect 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.

***Announcement: Conference registration will be free for presenters!***

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.

All abstracts, proposals for sessions, or papers for refereeing should be emailed to [apebh2020@anu.edu.au](mailto:apebh2020@anu.edu.au) by 30th November 2019.

***Conference events:***

A *Plenary Lecture* will be given by Professor Richard Steckel (Ohio State University) on the evening of the 12<sup>th</sup> February. Title TBA.

The Keynote *Noel Butlin Lecture* will be given by Professor Deborah Oxley (University of Oxford), on the evening of the 13<sup>th</sup> February. The theme will be: The Impact of colonization on Indigenous populations. This will be followed by a cocktail reception.

A Book Launch of: *Historical Perspectives on Sports Economics*, edited by Richard Pomfret and John Wilson. This will take place after the sessions on the 14<sup>th</sup> February.

*Conference Dinner*, on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> February.

***Conference website:***

Further details of the conference including directions to the venue, information on accommodation, and the conference programme will appear on the conference website at:

<https://www.rse.anu.edu.au/seminars-events/conferences/asia-pacific-economic-and-business-history-conference/>

**Conference Programme:*****Demythologising Australia's Federation Episode***

The conference will take place on Friday 22 November 2019 at the Fremantle campus of the University of Notre Dame, Australia. It will gather scholars and thinkers to challenge the uncritically laudatory stance of almost all historiography of Australia's Federation episode of 1889-1914. It aspires to voice a 'new history of Australian Federation' by airing criticisms, doubts, and disappointments about this foundational chapter.

*Presentations*

William Coleman:

"The Myth of 1901. And the Reality"

Peter Phelps:

"Federation: Liberalism Triumphant? Or Liberalism Thwarted?"

Greg Melleuish:

"Was the Federation Movement ever truly about Federalism?"

Zach Gorman:

"Birthplace of a Nation? Why Sydney Voted No to Federation"

Henry Ergas:

"Can Theories of Nationalism Explain Australia's Federation Episode?"

Richard Pomfret:

"Australia's Federation Event in International Context"

The conference is specifically designed for undergraduate, honours and postgraduate students, but all interested parties are very welcome. More information is available at:

<https://www.notredame.edu.au/about/schools/fremantle/business/freedom-to-choose>

Please register with Angela Ifkovich (Conference Administration): [angela.ifkovich@nd.edu.au](mailto:angela.ifkovich@nd.edu.au)

For further queries, please contact the organisers: William Coleman:

[william.coleman@anu.edu.au](mailto:william.coleman@anu.edu.au) or Gregory Moore: [greg.moore@nd.edu.au](mailto:greg.moore@nd.edu.au).

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

**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](mailto: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>**