

CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC HISTORY

RESEARCH SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

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Friends of the ANU Centre for Economic History,

Welcome to a jam-packed autumn newsletter. This issue includes reports on our conference on Fertility Transitions and the APEBH-All UC conference in Pasadena, as well as a preliminary programme for our upcoming conference on India. As usual there are details of other conferences, lectures and events as well as recent discussion papers. Once again, thanks for your interest in the Centre and Economic History.

Tim Hatton, CEH Director

Conference Report: Fertility Transitions, Past and Present

The CEH ran a two-day conference on 28th February and 1st March in collaboration with the ANU School of Demography on “Fertility Transitions: Past and Present”. George Alter (Michigan) kicked off by using the CURE model to study fertility transitions in different settings. In German villages in the 19th Century stopping dominated whereas more recently in Malawi there was evidence of increased spacing of births. Tomas Sobotka followed with a focus on Europe in the 20th century. He found that differences in the incidence of sub-replacement fertility across Europe (particularly between East and West) could be linked back to marriage and fertility patterns early in the century.

Turning the spotlight on Australia, Rebecca Kippen (Monash) presented evidence that in Tasmania female convicts and aboriginal women often fell into prostitution and frequently contracted sexually transmitted diseases resulting in low fertility and premature death. Focusing on the later nineteenth century, Helen Moyle (Melbourne) examined the diffusion of information on birth control, arguing that family limitation was not influenced mainly by husbands but that women exercised considerable agency in controlling their fertility.



Ann Evans

Ann Evans (ANU) showed that teenage fertility in Australia rose from 1941 to 1971 and then declined steeply as access to contraception improved and female education levels increased. She also identified strong spatial concentrations across neighbourhoods in contemporary Australia. Chung Tran (ANU) noted that low fertility and high life expectancy is creating unsustainable increases in public debt in many countries. Using a behavioural macro model he suggested that the crisis could be averted by applying the Australian system of means-tested benefits but making it adjust to demographic trends.

Fertility Transitions continued

James Raymer (ANU) compared the birth rates of immigrant women with those of Australian-born women, illustrating that the former were not vastly higher. Although Sydney alone accounts for 45 percent of total births to immigrant mothers, fertility *rates* are higher outside the capital cities. Shifting to the United States, Bastien Chabé-Ferret (Essex) found econometric support for the hypothesis that economic uncertainty reduces fertility. This could explain much of the difference between the low birth rates of the 1930s and 40s and the higher baby boom fertility but not the subsequent baby bust.

The keynote address was given by Alice Reid (Cambridge) as a Goldsmith Public Lecture. Drawing on a wealth of research, she presented a range of findings that have modified and enriched our understanding of fertility during the British demographic transition. While the influence of the fall in infant and child mortality, the use of contraceptive methods, and the rise in female education have been explored, the decision making-process and the effects of changing family circumstances are still not well understood. She highlighted the transition from fertility control by later marriage to fertility control within marriage. New evidence for 1881-1911 showed little evidence of parity-specific spacing or stopping, suggesting the importance of family-specific changes in circumstances, and varying responses to them.

The following day's proceedings were opened by David Reher (Complutense, Madrid) who gave a sweeping overview of fertility trends once infant mortality rates had fallen below 50 per thousand. Two key influences were shifts in societal values and historical legacies. Countries with strong familistic values now have lower fertility than countries with traditionally individualistic values. Drawing on his work for the United Nations, Peter McDonald (Melbourne) reviewed world trends since 1970, classifying countries by their total fertility rates and looking at fertility intentions. He concluded that it is not inevitable that world fertility will fall to or below replacement level.



David Reher

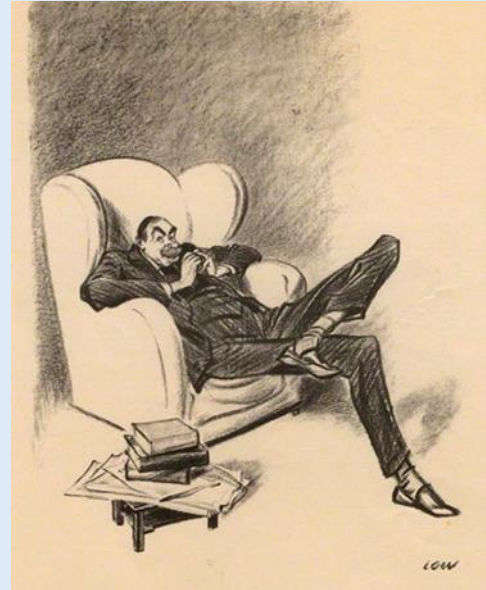


Martine Mariotti

Shifting to the micro-level Tom Moultrie (Cape Town) used data from 317 surveys in 83 countries to study different dimensions of stopping and delaying childbirth. Regression analysis revealed sharply different pathways through the fertility transition in the developing world, as revealed by differences in the spacing, postponing, limiting and curtailing of births. Using a rich dataset for settler South Africa Martine Mariotti (ANU) presented econometric analysis of fertility for cohorts of women born from 1800 to 1910. Fertility decline began with those born after 1850, with evidence of longer delays and greater birth spacing, but very little indication that socioeconomic circumstances had any effect. – *contd. p. 7.*

Great Books: Keynes' General Theory

The ANU's Bob Gregory gave a public lecture to a packed house in the series on "Books that Changed the World." He began a bravura performance by remembering how Keynes' influence dominated his own student days, when Keynes was thought to have saved the economic world. But Keynes himself was arrogant and middle-class, and the *General Theory* (1936) was complicated and opaque, so how come it became so influential? Bob argued that one of the key background conditions was the persistence of mass unemployment in Great Depression, which did not fit with classical economics. But just as important was the Second World War, which changed the thinking about government intervention and economic planning. Keynesianism declined in popularity from the 1960s, not only because of challenges to the theory, but because the pressing economic issues of the day were not those that Keynes had sought to address in the *General Theory*.



In answer to questions from the floor he noted that Keynesian policies had come back into vogue during aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis, when many saw mass unemployment looming once more. --TH

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:

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| 2019-02 | "The Intergenerational Behavioural Consequences of a Socio-Political Upheaval" by Alison Booth & Xin Meng & Elliott Fan & Dandan Zhang |
| 2019-03 | "Signalling Quality in a Developing Capital Market: Underwriting, Security Choice and Disclosure in Australian Equity Issuances, 1920-1939" by Grant Fleming, Zhangxin (Frank) Liu, David Merrett and Simon Ville |
| 2019-04 | "Internal Migration, Education and Upward Rank Mobility: Evidence from American History" by Zachary Ward |

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>

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

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>

Winter Institute at ANU

The ANU's Australian Studies Institute hosted, for the first time in the southern hemisphere, the annual Winter Institute in January 2019. The Winter Institute is an annual collaboration between ANU, New York University / Peking University, and the University of Tokyo. Professors Takahiro Nakajima (UTokyo), Xudong Zhang (NYU/PKU) and Paul Pickering (ANU) convened this year's event. The interdisciplinary conference ran over five days with speakers from a range of disciplines situated mainly in the humanities and social sciences. Speakers were both faculty and an outstanding group of PhD students from all four institutions. We began with a beautiful day at the ANU's Stromlo facility overlooking Canberra where Professor Masashi Haneda (UTokyo) led a discussion of alternative approaches to the Euro-centric approach of documenting world history. Subsequent days took place on the ANU's Acton campus.

Economic history and history at the ANU were represented by Martine Mariotti and Frank Bongiorno. Martine documented changes to women's fertility in South Africa in the nineteenth century in the context of the first demographic transition. The main takeaway of the talk was that women in settler South Africa were no different to their European and other settler sisters, embracing a rapid decline in fertility in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Frank and co-author Darren Pennay of the Social Research Centre discussed the observations that arise in the "Life in Australia" Historic Events Survey. The Historic Events Survey asks respondents to rank the most important national and international events that have happened during their lifetimes. Frank and Darren find large generational and gender differences in the importance of historical events with World War II, the moon landing and the Vietnam War being most significant for the 'Silent Generation' and the same sex marriage vote, September 11 and The Apology ranking most highly for 'Generation Z'. More on the survey can be found at: http://cdn.srcentre.com.au/le2017/documents/SRC_HES_Topline_Report.pdf . -- MM

ANU Historian Honoured



Prof Frank Bongiorno

Professor Frank Bongiorno, Head of the ANU School of History and CEH affiliate, was made a Member of the Order of Australia in the latest Australia Day Honours in recognition of his significant contribution to the tertiary education sector. His first monograph concerned the emergence of the Labour Party in Victoria in the late 19th and early 20th century. More recently he has considered the various dimensions of economic, social and political change in 1980s Australia. In the past, Bongiorno has co-taught the successful economic history course 'The Australian Economy' with CEH affiliate Professor Nicholas Brown and has been involved in the deepening ties between the RSE and the School of History. We offer him our warmest congratulations on this well-deserved honour! -- AB

Upcoming CEH Conference: Progress and Change in India

Preliminary Programme, ANU, 11th and 12th July

Thursday 11th July: Gruen Suite, Arndt Building

- 10.00-10.30: Welcome & Tea/coffee
- 10.30-12.00: Chinmay Tumbe (Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad): "Urbanization, Demographic Transition and the Growth of Cities in India"
Manoj Pandey (ANU): "Poverty Reduction in Post-Independence India"
- 12.00 -1.00: Light Lunch
- 1.00 – 2.30: Sutanuka Roy (ANU): "British Colonial Gender Laws and Gender Differential Human Capital Investment in India"
Priya Mukherjee (William and Mary College): "Pricing Private Education in Urban India: Demand, Use, and Impact"
- 2.30 - 3.00: Tea/coffee
- 3.00 – 4.30: Dan Bogart (UC Irvine): "The Growth Contribution of Colonial Indian Railways in Comparative Perspective"
Sam Asher (World Bank): "The Varied Impacts of Rural Roads: Evidence from 3 Studies in India"
- 5.30-7.00: *F. H. G. Gruen Public Lecture: Hedley Bull Lecture Theatre 1*
Bishnupriya Gupta (University of Warwick): "The Myth of the Market: The Fall and Rise of the Indian economy"

Friday 12th July: Gruen Suite, Arndt Building

- 9.15-10.00: Yusuf Neggars (U of Michigan): "Having it at Hand: How Small Search Frictions Impact Bureaucratic Efficiency"
- 10.00-10.30: Tea/coffee
- 10.30-12.00: Gaurav Kanna (UC Dan Diego): "Political Punishment and Financial Safety Nets: Evidence from India's Demonetization"
Aditya Balasubramanian (ANU): "The Origins of Hindu Nationalist Economic Thought"
- 12.00 -1.00: Light Lunch
- 1.00-2.30: Anand Swamy (Williams College): "A Policy of Credit Disruption: The Punjab Land Alienation Act of 1900"
Pushkar Maitra (Monash University): "Decentralized Targeting of Agricultural Credit Programs: Private versus Political Intermediaries"
- 2.30 – 3.00: Tea/coffee
- 3.00 – 4.30: Lakshmi Iyer (Notre Dame): "Liberté, Parité, Sécurité: Political Representation, Gender Parity and Crime"
Umair Khalil (Monash University): "Political Favouritism by Powerful Politicians: Evidence from Chief Ministers in India"
- 4.30: Conference close

Jetlog (1): APEBH-All-UC Conference Report

The Australia Pacific Economic History Conference was combined with the All-University of California Economic History Group. The conference was hosted in Pasadena by Caltech and the programme was organised by Greg Clark and Florian Ploeckl. 27 papers were presented in single and parallel sessions.

The conference opened with two papers on China. James Lee (Caltech) examined continuity and change in Chinese universities over the 20th century, stressing the persistence in regional concentration. Yang Xie (UC Riverside) linked current measures of human capital and productivity by locality with historic access to bamboo forests as a source of paper. Railways were next up with Ting Chen finding that a combination of railways and the telegraph facilitated the adoption of American cotton in early 20th century China. Examining data on the financing of Indian railways, Dan Bogart (UC Riverside) found little evidence that this channel was an extractive element of colonialism.

Ahmed Rahman (Lehigh) presented an ambitious global simulation model with trade, demography and technological transfer as key building blocks to explain both North-South divergence in the nineteenth century and East-West convergence in the late 20th century. Back to the micro-level, Karen Clay (Carnegie Mellon) found that the notorious boll weevil that infested cotton had differential long term effects on the health and education of whites and African Americans in the US South. Studying the growth trajectories of school children in Japan, Eric Schneider (LSE) showed that while World War II was a serious setback there was remarkable subsequent catch up.

The Noel Butlin Lecture was given by Philip Hoffman (Caltech) who provided a critical overview of the literature on the Great Divergence in order to shine a spotlight on an older question: why Britain industrialised first. He canvassed a range of explanations, dismissing the relative factor price explanation and favouring instead, 'useful knowledge', transport infrastructure and absence of disruptive war. Britain's wars were fought offshore, it had a much larger pool of qualified mechanics, as well as better roads and canals than elsewhere in north west Europe. Participants digested these insights along with an excellent dinner.

The next day saw renewed focus on China. Florian Ploeckl (Adelaide) presented a model to explain the interlinkage of banks in the 1930s through interlocking directorates. Adopting a large canvas and a broad

historical brush Stephen Morgan (Nottingham) argued that China will not escape the middle income trap without greater openness to contrarian discourse. This was followed by two papers on Australia's frontier settlement. Sumner La Croix (Hawai'i) described the somewhat chaotic founding of the colony of South Australia, in spite of which investors profited and real wages were



Keynote: Prof Philip Hoffman

remarkably high. Lionel Frost (Monash) provided evidence on the relationship between the spread of railways and land use in Victoria.

For the last two sessions the conference divided into parallel sessions covering a wide range of topics that included early aircraft patents, Haitian refugees, long run fertility decline, and the lasting effects of the Vietnam War. Participants departed with a drink and much food for thought.



Conference participants: Florian Ploeckl, Greg Clark, Rowena Gray and Ahmed Rahman

Fertility Transitions contd.

Anthropologist Clare McFadden (ANU) provided a completely different perspective by analysing skeletal remains in the Pacific island since first settlement. Inferred patterns of fertility followed a ‘U’ shape over the millennia as the natural bounty became extinct and societies gradually rebuilt on the basis of cultivation. Turning abruptly to present-day Japan, Minchung Zhu noted the links between below-replacement fertility and insecure employment contracts. But behavioural model simulations indicated that reducing insecure employment would have countervailing effects on husbands and wives, with only limited effects on overall fertility.

In the final session Zhongwei Zhao (ANU) argued that low fertility has a long history in China. He argued that the total fertility rate was not especially high in the 19th century and earlier, in comparison with other countries, and he cited a range of literature supporting the presence of family limitation and discussing methods from infanticide to contraception. Adrian Hayes (ANU) wrapped up the proceedings by arguing that fertility transitions in Asia are marked by deviations from the norm. He drew attention to the effectiveness and competence of the state in implementing fertility control and influencing behaviour. After two intensive but rewarding days of insights, explanations and puzzles, the conference concluded. – *TH*



Zhongwei Zhao

Jetlog (2): Conference for Professor Nick Crafts

A two-day conference at the University of Warwick, UK, celebrated the career of Professor Nick Crafts on the occasion of his 70th birthday. He has been a leading light in British economic history for four decades and has changed our view of the timing, tempo and causes of economic growth and development since the 18th century. Along the way he has accumulated a large and influential set of publications and has been recognised with a number of honours including the award of the CBE in the 2014 Queen's birthday honours. The audience and presenters included a glittering array of colleagues and friends, past and present, including a number of Nick's former graduate students who have since become leading scholars.



Professor Nick Crafts

Joel Mokyr (Northwestern) opened the proceedings with a spirited rendition of the debate on why Britain was the first country to industrialise. A range of features contributed, including the institutional and social structure, geographical endowments and the diffusion of technological and scientific ideas. But he gave a special place to upper tail human capital and in particular the 'useful skills' of the artisanal class. He argued that, in comparison to other European countries such as France, there was an abundant supply of practical skills. These were created by the flourishing apprenticeship system which, while it created contractual issues, broke the reliance on transmission of skill from father to son. The preindustrial setting was important and Mokyr revived the notion of proto-industrialisation as a key precondition.

Barry Eichengreen (UC Berkeley) gave a special lecture inspired by the recent debate about the underpinnings of Trump and Brexit. He drew parallels with the interwar period when the industrial heartlands of Britain suffered protracted decline. On that occasion the radical solution was adopting tariff protection and leaving the gold standard, but the rising exchange rate undid whatever positive effects on employment the tariff may have brought. He stressed that turning inwards and providing protection from competition can slow productivity growth, a point stressed by Nick Crafts in his work on the early postwar period, and an important lesson for today.

The following day the keynote was given by Gavin Wright (Stanford) who pointed out that a century of economic convergence among US states and regions had come to an end in about 1980. He argued that this was not due to declining mobility, faltering technological transfer or institutional rigidities. Rather there were number of specific shocks mostly connected with trade globalisation. In the great lakes region, the metal based industries declined with depletion of iron ore deposits and competition from Japan; later the end of the multi-fibre agreement decimated textiles in the South. On the other hand, government-led research and development stimulated growth in the West while hi-tech industry boosted the New England economy.

Other speakers presented their latest research findings, often related to, or stimulated by, Nick's work. The topics included skills, technology, growth and standards of living from preindustrial times to the 1930s as well as railways, urbanisation and regional integration in Europe. At the conference dinner Mark Thomas (Virginia) led a range of tributes to Nick's influence, both academic and personal, to which Nick modestly replied that his career had turned out somewhat better than he had anticipated. –TH

Call for Papers: 6th Australian Cliometrics Workshop, 2019

The 6th Australasian Cliometrics Workshop will be held on Friday, 4th October 2019, at the University of New South Wales. Following the established Clio format of short presentations, discussant comments and substantial discussion by the audience, accepted papers will be distributed in advance to participants with the expectation of an engaged contribution.

There is no workshop theme, submissions to all topics in Economic History are welcomed. The workshop is supported and hosted by the School of Economics at the University of New South Wales and the ANU Centre for Economic History.

Extended abstracts or full papers will be accepted now through 15th June 2019. Notifications will be made during July, and full papers will be due by 5th September. To submit an abstract or paper as well as to RSVP to attend (including willingness to serve as a discussant), please send an email to p.grosjean@unsw.edu.au. Early career scholars and graduate students are particularly encouraged to apply.

Registration is free and catering will be provided. Participants will be expected to bear remaining travel and accommodation costs. Travel funding for graduate students might be available, please let us know any needs with your submission.

We look forward to welcoming you to Sydney.

Conference Announcement:

APEBH 2020

We are pleased to announce that the Centre for Economic History will be hosting the 2020 Asia Pacific Economic and Business History Conference at the ANU on 13th-15th February. Details and call for papers will follow later in the year.



View over North Canberra, home of the ANU