

# CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC HISTORY

## RESEARCH SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

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Australian  
National  
University

Friends of the ANU Centre for Economic History,

Welcome to this issue of the CEH newsletter. It contains details of our upcoming workshop on WW1 casualties and the launch of a special issue of the AEHR (both with Zoom links) as well as a book review and other announcements. Once again, thanks for your interest in the Centre for Economic History. We hope that you keep safe and well.

Tim Hatton, CEH Director

## ***CEH Workshop, 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021: Life and Death in the WW1 Trenches: Causes and Consequences***

Around ten million military personnel died in combat or from other causes during the First World War and another 20 million sustained what were often life-changing injuries. This epic tragedy has spawned a large literature and is seared into popular memory. But it has largely overlooked in



cliometric research. Growing access to individual-level data makes it possible to examine the incidence of death or injury and to quantitatively assess some of the implications and consequences of this epoch-defining event. These include risks associated with socioeconomic background and physical characteristics, the changing hazard of death and injury by date of enlistment and duration of service, the experience of servicemen in different branches of the military as well as some of the long run consequences.

We hope that you will join us for what we hope will be an interesting and lively event. The programme of topics and speakers is on the next page. This will be a virtual workshop and schedule has been arranged so that those located in Europe can join for at least some of the sessions. Please sign up to join us and we look forward to seeing you on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The link is:

<https://anu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUudeGhqTMqHdz7pKhpsDNTEkr9QTZHoMJb>

## ***Life and Death in the WW1 Trenches: Programme***

(Note: 40 minute sessions will be half an hour for presentations (interventions only for clarification) and 10 minutes for discussion. Times are given for Australian Eastern Standard Time (A); New Zealand Standard Time (N); British Summer Time (B); French Summer Time (F); and Canadian Eastern Daylight Time (C)).

The Zoom link will be opened 10 minutes before the start:

<https://anu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUudeGhqTMqHdz7pKhpsDNTEkr9QTZHoMJb>

Session 1: A: 2.00-3.20pm; N: 4.00-5.20pm; B: 5.00-6.20am; F: 6.00-7.20am; C: 12.00-1.20am

"The Survival of Francophone Soldiers in the Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914-1918"  
Nico Meffe (Statistics Canada)

"Australian Imperial Force Casualties in WW1"  
Hamish Maxwell Stewart (Tasmania) and John Wilson (South Australia)

20-minute break

Session 2: A: 3.40-5.00pm; N: 5.40-7.00pm; B: 6.40-8.00am; F: 7.40-9.00am; C: 1.40-3.00am

""Such a Rash Act": Wartime Experiences and Veteran Suicides after the Great War"  
Evan Roberts (Minnesota)

"The Executions of French Soldiers during the Great War: A Quantitative Study"  
Olivier Guillot (Lorraine) and Antoine Parent (Sciences Po)

40-minute break

Session 3: A: 5.40-7.00pm; N: 7.40-9.00pm; B: 8.40-10.00am; F: 9.40-11.00am; C: 3.40-5.00am

"Heroes and Villains: The Effects of Combat Heroism on Autocratic Values and Nazi  
Collaboration in France"  
Pauline Grosjean (UNSW)

"Open Discussion of New Data Initiatives and Sources"  
All welcome to contribute

20-minute break

Session 4: A: 7.20-8.40pm; N: 9.20-10.40pm; B: 10.20-11.40am; F: 11.20-12.40pm; C: 5.20-  
6.40am

"*Morts pour la France*: A Curated Database of World War I French Fatalities"  
Victor Gay (Toulouse) and Pauline Grosjean (UNSW)

"Surviving the Deluge: British Servicemen in World War I"  
Tim Hatton (ANU/Essex)

Workshop close

## ***Launch of AEHR Special Issue in Honour of Jeff Williamson, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021***

The July issue of the *Australian Economic History Review* honours the contributions of Professor Jeff Williamson to Australian and Asia-Pacific economic history. Those who know Jeff are aware that he has made important contributions to the economic history of virtually everywhere and 'everywhen'. He has been a pioneer in the application of new quantitative methodologies to economic history, such as computable general equilibrium, and in applying these cliometric methodologies beyond the United States and Europe.

Jeff has been involved with Australian economic history since the 1980s, regularly visiting ANU and Melbourne. He has contributed more papers to the *AEHR* than anyone else who has never held a full-time position in an Australian university and been on the editorial board of the Journal since 2003. Jeff has always been a willing referee and is year-in and year-out among the first to vote on the Coghlan Prize. However, among his many contributions, none has been more important than the advice and encouragement, and often active collaboration, that he routinely provides to junior academics in the profession.



Jeff Williamson

The papers in this issue are all written by Jeff's collaborators and former PhD students and are on topics adjacent to earlier work with Jeff. See the table of contents for the issue below (abstracts of the papers can be found at the Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand webpage <https://economichistorysociety.wordpress.com/australian-economic-history-review/>):

'Globalisation, Migration, Trade, and Growth: Honouring the Contribution of Jeff Williamson to Australian and Asia-Pacific Economic History', *Australian Economic History Review*, 61(2).

- Andrew J. Seltzer, Guest Editor's Introduction
- Timothy Hatton, 'Emigration from the UK to the USA, Canada and Australia/New Zealand, 1870-1913: Quantity and Quality'
- Kevin O'Rourke, Alan de Bromhead, Alan Fernihough and Markus Lampe, 'Four great Asian trade collapses'
- Sambit Bhattacharya, 'Commodity boom-bust cycles and the resource curse in Australia: 1900 to 2017'
- David Jacks and Martin Stuermer, 'Dry bulk shipping and the evolution of maritime transport costs, 1850-2020'
- Jeff Williamson and Laura Panza, 'Always egalitarian? Australian earnings inequality 1870-1910'

**Please join us for the online launch of the special issue on 28, July 2021 at 13:00 GMT (14.00 BST; 21.00 AEST). Registration is free at:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckcO2qrTMrE9dFiepKfJqcnqx-o6EfZ2SO>**

## ***Featured Economic Historian: Johan Fourie***

Johan Fourie is Professor of Economics and History at Stellenbosch University. He is the president of the Economic History Society of South Africa and a founder and former editor of the *Economic History of Developing Regions* journal. He obtained his PhD from Utrecht University in 2012 under Jan Luiten van Zanden. His research work focuses predominantly on re-evaluating the economic wealth of the early Cape Colony under the rule of the Dutch East India Company and the early days of British rule.



Johan Fourie

He is a founding member of the African Economic History Network, linking scholars working on African Economic History across the globe. In addition, he is the founder of the

Laboratory for the Economics of Africa's Past, an organisation bringing together scholars and students interested in analysing the economic development of Africa's diverse societies.

In 2018 he received a grant to set up The Biography of an Uncharted People with the primary goal of digitising and analysing the vast records of micro data on underrepresented members of South African society. The project also importantly provides funding for previously disadvantaged students to pursue their academic development.

Johan is an associate of the Centre for Economic History, having presented in our Human Heights and Economic Development workshop.

## ***Book Review: Our Long Walk to Economic Freedom***

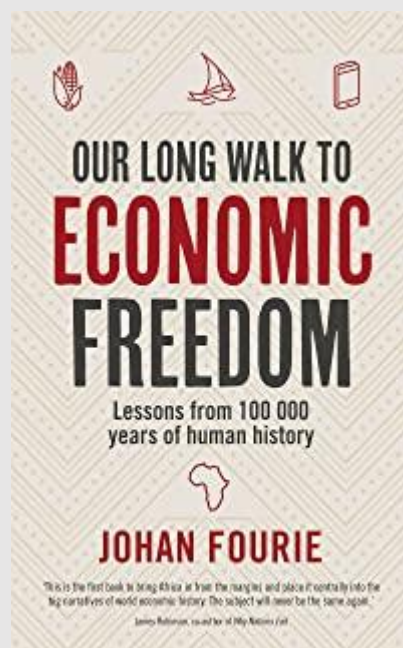
Long Walk to Freedom is the name of anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela's famous autobiography, written just before he became South Africa's first democratically elected president. Johan Fourie borrows the title from this icon of history to narrate humankind's transition from hunter gatherer to modern economic agent.

In covering around 100,000 years of human history, Johan talks us through all the major economic developments that have led the world economy to the overall levels of wealth seen today. It is an ambitious project and it works. The book is a culmination of Johan's lecture notes from his Economic History course at Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Over the 10 years that he has been teaching the course he has read widely and gathered material that has provided him with a platform from which to launch this endeavour. He says he wrote the book in a matter of months but that's not really true – in a sense he's been preparing this work since his first lecture.

*---Continued overleaf*

## ***Book Review: Our Long Walk--continued***

Another global economic history? you ask. Well, this one is different. There is a slight shift away from the western centric view of global history. The focus is South Africa and Johan relates most major global economic developments to its impact on people in South Africa. This is one of the book's many delightful features. The book is not about South Africa of course and the questions asked at the beginning of each chapter tantalisingly draw you in: "Who are the architects of Wakanda?" ought to have tremendous appeal following hot on the heels of the Black Panther movie; Why does isiXhosa have so many clicks?; What do Charlemagne and (the recently deceased Zulu) King Zwelithini have in common?; Why do Indians have dowry and Africans lobola?; What do an Indonesian volcano, Frankenstein and Shaka Zulu have in common? The list goes on and it is impossible to resist finding out the answers to questions you may never actually have had. Johan makes events such as the development of the printing press, the arrival of the conquistadors in Latin America and the recent technological revolution relevant to students in South Africa. Suddenly history is relatable, students can identify with the global impact of such events. This is a very significant contribution of the book.



Johan is modest in his discussion of some countries' success in escaping poverty. He is careful not to suggest that it is feasible to replicate the experiences of developed economies. He highlights cases of failure even though many preconditions for development may have existed. He hopes for the economic success of Africa but is careful about predicting whether that is imminent. Overall, Johan seems positive about the global economy and in particular, Africa's economic future. The feeling is that our enterprising selves will be able to overcome any future challenges to our economic well-being and to complete our 100,000-year journey to economic freedom.

At times the writing feels a bit rushed and I do wonder whether someone with no knowledge of the details of the global financial crisis, for example, could follow Johan's description of that crisis. This may be a necessary compromise given the length of the book, at 236 pages excluding notes and Index.

The book is highly readable and Johan's affable style draws the reader along on a speedy time travel adventure, ending up in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic. This book will appeal mostly to the reader with some acquaintance with economics but not well versed in the details of modern economic history. I do hesitate about the justness of the appropriation of Mandela's title and given disparate levels of economic development especially in Mandela's South Africa and around the world – I wonder: whose economic freedom? --MM

## ***Reminder: 8th Australasian Cliometrics Workshop***

The 8th Australasian Cliometrics Workshop will be held on Friday, 5 November 2021, at the University of Melbourne (in-person and virtual delivery). 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 on all topics in Economic History are welcomed. The workshop is supported and hosted by the Department of Economics at the University of Melbourne.

Registration is free and catering will be provided to in-person participants. All other costs will need to be self-funded, such as travel and accommodation. Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you in Melbourne.



The full programme and the Zoom link will appear in the next CEH newsletter.

## **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 to the series are as follows:

- 2021-02            "Banks, Credit Supply, and the Life Cycle of Firms: Theory and Evidence from Late Nineteenth Century Japan," by Sergi Basco and John P. Tang.
- 2021-03            "The Australian corporate bond market before credit ratings, 1915-83," by Grant Fleming, Frank Liu, David Merrett and Simon Ville.

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>

**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: [tim.hatton@anu.edu.au](mailto:tim.hatton@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>**