

# 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 reports on the AusClio workshop and the ANU Archives Lecture as well as recognition for CEH stalwarts and notice of the upcoming APEBH conference. Once again, thanks for your interest in the Centre for Economic History. We hope that you keep safe and well.

Tim Hatton, CEH Director

### ***8th Australasian Cliometrics Workshop Report***

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual AusClio workshop was brought to us by the University of Melbourne's John Tang and Laura Panza. For those able to be in Melbourne the face to face component was held at the State Library of Victoria with the rest of us zooming in from wider Australia, Canada and France. Thanks to those participants that managed to be up at strange hours of the night. This year we had seven papers and the workshop followed the standard format of a five-minute presentation from the author followed by a 10-minute discussion and 30 minutes for questions. The hybrid mode was very effective with good monitoring of online questions.

Last year's host, Weijia Li, from Monash began first with "Hobbesian War and Democracy", co-authored with Gerard Roland and Yang Xie. They argue that in a very general setup a Hobbesian kingship is the ultimate cause of perpetual civil war, quite in contrast to the Hobbesian argument that only a sovereign with unlimited power can prevent all out civil conflict. Their extended model explains how the separation of powers between the executive, judiciary and legislature can evolve over the modernization process and why modern democracies embed much weaker veto power than pre-modern democracies. In the absence of a paper draft Renaud Colomb provided an outstandingly comprehensive summary.

Next was Maxim Anyeyev from the University of Melbourne who presented "Prisons and Homophobia", co-authored with Michael Poyker who zoomed in from Nottingham. Their paper looks at whether prisons contribute to homophobic sentiments in the population. They use a neat mixture of mid-twentieth century Russian data as well as Australian longitudinal survey data to find that incarceration does increase feelings of homophobia. Jan Kabatek of Uni Melbourne provided a useful discussion.



Presenter and host Weijia Li



Presenter Maxim Anyeyev

## **8<sup>th</sup> AusClio Report--continued**

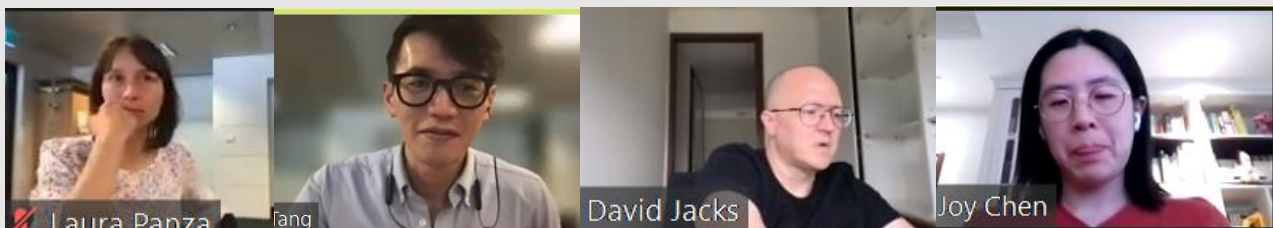
The last paper before lunch was Laura Panza on “Historical anti-fascism and right-wing voting in Italy”, co-authored with Marco Lecci, Eik Swee and Giulio Zanella. Some great data collection results in an instrumental variable constructed from a list of randomly appointed judges to identify the causal effect of anti-fascism. The results show that stronger opposition to fascism before and during World War II causes weaker support for right wing parties in the post-war period. Sascha Becker provided valuable feedback.

After lunch we returned with John Tang’s presentation of “Literacy and occupational mobility: evidence from Brazil”, co-authored with Luis Carvalho Monteiro. The paper uses the influx of Japanese immigrants to Brazil prior to World War II to look at the impact of literacy on the concentration of occupations between 1920 and 1940. Preliminary work suggests higher literacy is related to higher occupational concentration. Dean Hoi provided the discussion.

The first non-Melbourne based presenter was David Jacks (Simon Fraser) with “Urban Mortality and the Repeal of Federal Prohibition”, co-authored with Krishna Pendakur and Hitoshi Shigeoka. They exploit variation in the timing of the repeal of prohibition to determine whether the repeal affected urban mortality. Using a standard two-way fixed effects approach they find that the repeal of prohibition led to a decrease in mortality. It will be interesting to see what the results show once they apply one of the recent innovations to the diff-in-diff approach. Florian Ploeckl (Adelaide) provided the discussion.

Joy Chen from Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business presented “Leviathan's Offer: State-Building with Elite Compensation in Early Medieval China”, co-authored with Erik Wang and Xiaoming Zhang. Prior to the Wei Dynasty (386-534 AD), early medieval China had been characterised by state weakness resulting from entrenched land owning interests as well as frequent barbarian attacks. In an attempt to reform the state, the Wei Dynasty provided existing elites with bureaucratic jobs to appease their opposition to reforms. The paper shows that this compensation successfully led to state consolidation in China. Xinran Hu was the discussant.

The final paper of this year’s workshop was by Haikun Zhan, PhD student at Uni Melbourne and on the job market, “Central Administration and the Rise of Local Institutions: Evidence from Imperial China”. The paper shows the positive relationship between a strong centralized state and the formation of local institutions. In particular, it shows how local clans emerged under strong state administrative capacity in China between AD 1000 and 1900 to distribute resources within the community. Chichen Ma provided a valuable discussion.--MM



Presenters Laura Panza, John Tang, David Jacks and Joy Chen

## ***ANU Archives Annual Lecture 2021***

The ANU Archives Annual Lecture was given in October 2021 by Dr Anthea Hyslop on 'Records and Recollections: The Pneumonic Influenza Pandemic in Australia, 1918-1919'. In the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic, it is particularly interesting to look back at what the world experienced during the pneumonic influenza pandemic over a century ago, during which more than 50 million people died worldwide.

Dr Hyslop – who lectured in History at the Australian National University from 1989 to her retirement in 2009 – gave a fascinating account of Australia's experience of the 1918-1919 pneumonic influenza pandemic. In her talk she drew on both public records (from formal records and press coverage) and private memories (from personal accounts and diaries) to show how personal experiences vividly illuminate our understanding of the impact the of pandemic in Australia. A full recording is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1QPIUTgPNM>

The Australian experience of the pneumonic influenza or Spanish flu was somewhat different from the rest of the world. In spite of it being called the Spanish flu, it originated in the US and was initially spread by US troops movements at the end of the First World War. The virus spread rapidly around the world as soldiers returned from active service at war's end, but because of Australia's remoteness from Europe, it had months to make the necessary preparations.

A swift quarantine response to the pandemic began in Australia in October 1918. A bacterial vaccine was developed in November 1918 by the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories (CSL). While the bacterial vaccine did not confer immunity against what turned out to be a viral disease, it did help prevent secondary bacterial infections. Masks were worn, and were compulsory for a while in Sydney with fines for those who left them off. There was little evidence that the population objected to wearing them or to being vaccinated. (Australians had at the end of the nineteenth century experienced mandatory smallpox vaccinations.)



Medical staff in Sydney, 1919

The virus caused patients to develop cyanosis – deoxygenated blood – which caused lungs to fill rapidly with bloody froth and, for those who died, there was very rapid darkening of corpses. Though mild in Australia at the first wave, the second wave was more lethal. The middle-aged cohort of Australians was the most affected, and more men than women died of it. The total Australian death toll was around 15,000. A comparison of flu mortality for the different States in 1919 showed that the death toll in NSW was higher than in Victoria.

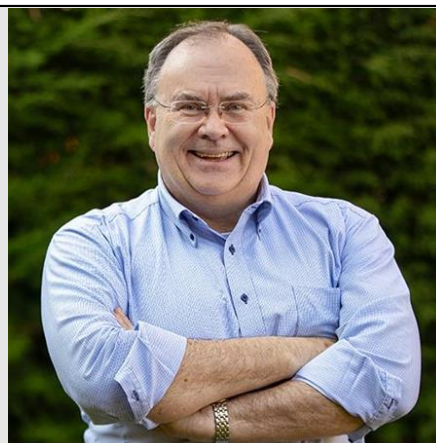
It would seem there's a wealth of material available in the archives and elsewhere for economic historians who wish to research what has sometimes been referred to as 'the forgotten pandemic'-  
-AB

## *Top Research Ranking for Pierre van der Eng*

Pierre has been recognised as the top Australian researcher in economic history in *The Australian* newspaper's 2021 [Research magazine](#). The publication names the top researcher in each field of research, based on the number of citations for papers published in the top 20 journals in each field over the past five years. We warmly congratulate Pierre on his success.

Pierre's research focuses on the role of institutions in long-term economic growth. He aims to identify and analyse the institutions that have been relevant to supporting the development of product and factor markets, in order to explain economic growth over time. One branch of his research relates to Southeast Asia, especially Indonesia, but also extends to collaborative projects on Japan and China. The other branch is business history, especially in Australia, but with a focus on international interactions between subsidiary companies in host countries and their overseas parent companies.

Pierre comments that "Support from the Centre allowed me to build a profile of research in economic and business history. This research interest is now part of a large Australian Research Council's (ARC) Discovery project into long-term changes in the operations of multinational enterprises in Australia since 1901. I am carrying out this project together with colleagues at the Universities of Wollongong and Melbourne."--TH



The ANU's Pierre van der Eng

**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>**



## ***Shann Award for Jeff Williamson***

Each year the Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand makes an annual award, the E. O. G. Shann Award for Distinguished Service to Economic History in Australia and New Zealand. See <https://economichistorysociety.files.wordpress.com/2019/03/shann-award.pdf>. Edward Shann (1884-1935) was a distinguished professor of economic history and a government advisor who wrote several important books on Australian economic history. Past winners of the award in his memory include Gus Sinclair, Boris Schedvin, Jonathan Pincus, Ian McLean, and David Merrett.

This year, at the APEBH conference (details on p. 6 below), the award goes to Jeff Williamson. It goes almost without saying that Jeff is a prolific scholar, having published an enormous number of influential books and papers over a 60-year career. He was one of the pioneers of the cliometric approach to economic history, with an emphasis on thinking in general equilibrium terms, and took the lead in the analysis of globalisation in the nineteenth century and beyond. His work has inspired many followers and he has been a mentor to generations of young scholars.



Jeff Williamson

Over the last 20 years Jeff has been a regular visitor to Australia. He has been a lively presence, and the focal point, of a range of CEH events and he has become a champion of Australian economic history. Having long been interested in the Asia-Pacific region, he developed a strong interest in Australia's development in the nineteenth century. In a series of papers, co-authored with Laura Panza, he has produced new estimates of the evolution of living standards and inequality, showing how and why these trends differed from those of the UK and the US. On behalf of Jeff's many friends and admirers in Australia, we warmly congratulate him on this award.--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 to the series are as follows:

- 2021-05      [The First East Asian Economic Miracle: Wages, Living Standards and Foundations of Modern Economic Growth in Southeast Asia, 1880-1938](#) by Jean-Pascal Bassino & Pierre van der Eng
- 2021-05      [Opening Heaven's Door: Public Opinion and Congressional Votes on the 1965 Immigration Act](#), by Giovanni Facchini, Tim Hatton & Max Steinhardt

## ***Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History Conference, 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> February—on Zoom***

The Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand 2022 APEBH Conference will be hosted by the Economic & Business History Research Network, University of Western Australia and held as a virtual conference.

The theme for this year's conference is: "Data and History: Sources, Digitisation and Use". The conference will also include papers on economic and business history papers relevant to Australia/New Zealand and South, South-East, and East Asia, as well as papers on other topics in all areas of economic, business, environmental, and social history.

The Society's annual public lecture, the Noel Butlin Lecture, will be given by Alison Bashford, Laureate Professor in History and Director of the Laureate Centre for History & Population at the University of New South Wales. The title is: "Gender and Classical Political Economy." In the lecture she re-examines the treatment of gender in Malthus's *Essay on the Principle of Population* and his *Principles of Political Economy*. She shows that past historical actors and thinkers considered gender far more often and fully than almost all subsequent analysts of them, and analyses the reasons for this.

Please note that registration for the conference is free but you must register in order to get access to the platform links. Please register [here](#). The conference program includes Zoom links for each session. Please click on the link in order to attend the session. All times are in Australian Eastern Daylight Saving Time (UTC +11:00 hours, Sydney & Melbourne time). Zoom sessions will open ten minutes prior to the session commencement time. All Zoom passcodes are: APEBH.

The conference runs from 9am to 5 pm on both days and a total of 24 papers will be presented over seven sessions. The Noel Butlin Lecture will be start at 11am on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The Zoom sessions will be recorded so that the presentations and questions & answer sessions can be distributed after the conference.

For further enquiries please contact the organisers:

Florian Ploeckl [florian.ploeckl@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:florian.ploeckl@adelaide.edu.au),

Lionel Frost [Lionel.frost@monash.edu](mailto:Lionel.frost@monash.edu),

David Gilchrist [david.gilchrist@uwa.edu.au](mailto:david.gilchrist@uwa.edu.au)



Perth: The forbidden city—at least for now

