

# 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. In it we celebrate ten years of the CEH. Also included is a report on the annual Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History conference and upcoming conference 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

### ***Ten Years of the Centre for Economic History***

The Centre for Economic History is celebrating its tenth anniversary. Launched in February 2012 the CEH had a number of objectives which have guided its activities over the last decade. One is to provide a focal point for quantitative economic history in Australia. Another is to promote dialogue between economic historians and economists, policymakers and those from other disciplines. And a third is to build international connections by bringing in scholars from overseas. The activities of the CEH are made possible by generous financial support and encouragement from the ANU's Research School of Economics, for which we are extremely grateful.

The CEH also aimed to carry on the ANU's distinguished tradition for Economic History. The department of Economic History in what was then the Faculty of Economics and Commerce was established in 1961 with Graham Tucker as Chair. This was followed in 1963 by the establishment of the Department of economic History in the Research School of Social Sciences under the leadership of Noel Butlin. For four decades the ANU must have been the only university on the planet with two separate economic history departments! But all good things come to an end; the department in the Faculties merged with economics in 2001 and the RSS department merged with the newly created Research School of Economics in 2010 (see Pierre van der Eng in CEH newsletters 6 and 7). The CEH aims to carry forward the ANU's tradition in a different form.

The launch of the CEH in 2012 was a gala event, it was attended by a wide range of well-wishers including economic historians from all over Australia who had gathered at the ANU for the Australia-Pacific Economic and Business History conference. The CEH was launched by Martin Parkinson, the then Secretary of the Australian Treasury. Dr Parkinson strongly endorsed economic history and explained how the study of it had guided his thinking on economic policy. He went on to comment on the deregulation of the Australian economy and to say that the Australian car industry could not expect to maintain the current level of import protection. The event was reported the next day on the front page of the *Australian Financial Review* but it focused on Dr Parkinson's view about the motor industry rather than on the merits of economic history!

## ***CEH 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary contd.***



Participants at the first CEH workshop, on Financial Crises (2012)

Among its flagship events the CEH has hosted a range of themed conferences and workshops, with participants from around Australia and overseas. These have focused on topics ranging from commodity price volatility, international trade and finance, and transport infrastructure to inequality and living standards, heights and

fertility transitions, always combining insights from the present and the past. Some have focused on regions such as the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent. And as part of outreach, they have included, as keynotes, public lectures by some of the most eminent international scholars.



APEBH conference 2020: Lionel Frost, President of the Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand, Deborah Oxley, keynote speaker, and Martine Mariotti, conference organiser.

Leadership of the CEH passed from Tim Hatton to John Tang for 2014 to 2018. Having experimented with a Clio-style workshop, John took the initiative in establishing the annual Australasian Cliometric workshop. Inspired by the US Clio meetings, the workshop follows Clio rules of brief presentations and informed discussion. AusClio has gone from strength to strength and has deepened academic links around Australia. It has been hosted at Adelaide (twice), Melbourne (twice), Sydney, ANU, UNSW and Monash and will return to the ANU in November (see the call for papers on p. 7)

As regular readers of our newsletter will know, the CEH also cooperates widely on other fronts. It hosted the initial symposium for the Cambridge Economic History of Australia and it has worked closely with Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand, hosting its annual conference in 2012 and 2020. In addition to reports on conferences and workshops, our newsletter

features news from the Noel Butlin Archives, book launches and obituaries. And the CEH website includes an active discussion paper series (listed in RePEc) as well as a series of source papers.

## **CEH 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary contd.**

We hope that over the last decade our activities have made a worthwhile contribution to raising the profile of economic history in Australia and beyond, something that would not have been possible without generous support from the ANU's Research School of Economics. While the future is inherently uncertain, post-Covid-19 we hope to continue much as before. We particularly appreciate inputs from friends and colleagues and so we encourage you to contribute to the discussion paper series, send items and announcements for the newsletter, and engage in other forms of collaboration. Many thanks for your valued cooperation, past, present and future. –TH


 The logo for the Centre for Economic History (CEH) consists of the letters 'CEH' in a large, white, sans-serif font, centered on a dark blue rectangular background.

### **Book Launch and CEH's 10-Year Anniversary**

On the 26th August 2022, the CEH and the EHSANZ will host a symposium to celebrate the publication of Claire E. F. Wright's *Australian Economic History: Transformations of an Interdisciplinary Field* (2022, ANU Press) and the CEH's 10-year anniversary.

Delivered in hybrid format in Canberra and online, the symposium will focus on future research and teaching opportunities for economic history in Australia and about Australia, drawing on participants' expertise across disciplines, time periods and topics.

Papers will include research topics ideal for ARC bids, connecting with co-authors or collaborators across disciplines; teaching specialised economic history courses and incorporating economic history material into history/economics/business coursework.

Details of the program and registration will appear in the next CEH newsletter. For more information, please contact Claire Wright: [Claire.Wright@uts.edu.au](mailto:Claire.Wright@uts.edu.au).

### **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:

- 2022-01      [Property Rights to Land and Agricultural Organization: An Argentina-United States Comparison](#) by Eric Edwards, Martin Fiszbein and Gary Libecap
- 2022-02      [Forced Displacement in History: Some Recent Research](#) by Sascha O. Becker

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>

## **9<sup>th</sup> Australasian Cliometrics Workshop**

### **AusClio 2022: Call for papers**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Australasian Cliometrics Workshop will be held on Friday, 4th November 2022, at the Australian National University. We plan to return to in-person presentations and attendance. 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 Research School of Economics at the Australian National University.

Extended abstracts or full papers will be accepted now through 14th July 2022. Notifications will be made during August, and full papers will be due by 21st October (two weeks before the workshop). 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 [tim.hatton@anu.edu.au](mailto:tim.hatton@anu.edu.au) or [martine.mariotti@anu.edu.au](mailto:martine.mariotti@anu.edu.au). Early career scholars and graduate students are particularly encouraged to apply.

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 Canberra.



## **Call for Papers: Asian Historical Economics Conference, 2022**

The Seventh Asian Historical Economics Conference (AHEC 2022) will be hosted by the Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, in collaboration with the Asian Historical Economics Society (AHES). The conference will be held in Bangkok, Thailand on Friday-Saturday, December 9-10, 2022.

AHEC 2022 aims to bring together researchers working on the economic history of all regions of Asia, as well as those comparing Asia with other regions of the world. AHEC 2022 will be delivered in a hybrid format, giving participants the option to join in person or online.

Paper and session proposals will be accepted until August 15, 2022. Please visit [www.ahec2022bkk.com](http://www.ahec2022bkk.com) for further information and a link to the submission form.



## **Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History 2022: Conference Report**

The annual conference of the Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand was this year again hosted by the UWA Business School and the Centre for Western Australian History at the University of Western Australia in Perth, in the hope that participants would be able to enjoy the delights of the 'city of light'. As it was, the conference met online for the second time, with David Gilchrist as its generous host, assisted by Florian Ploeckl and Lionel Frost on behalf of the Society. The theme of the conference was 'Data and History: Sources, Digitisation and Use'.



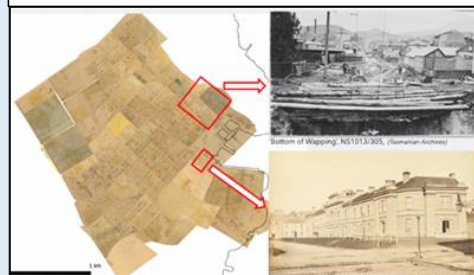
Noel Butlin lecturer Alison

This year's Noel Butlin Lecture was delivered by UNSW's Alison Bashford who under the title 'Gender and Classical Political Economy' delivered a lecture based on a re-reading of Malthus' 'Essay on the Principle of Population' and 'Principles of Political Economy' to establish that Malthus used included perceptions of gender. The lecture extended Alison's current work that found that classical political economists considered gender routinely and that the political economy canon was originally gendered because it often perceived world history as population change.

Like last year, the conference combined presentations of new research findings on Australian history, with presentations on various aspects of economic history of other parts of the world. Lionel Frost organised a whole session on the collaborative ARC Linkage project 'Putting Death in its Place: Mortality, Intergenerational Disadvantage, and the Built Environment'. Together with project participants, Hamish Maxwell-Stewart (UNE), Richard Tuffin (UNE), John Wilson (UniSA) and Rebecca Kippen (Monash) reported progress with their research, particularly based on demographic data collected for 19th century Tasmania.



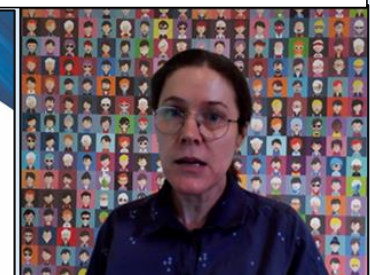
Hamish Maxwell-Stewart on Tasmania's historical demography



Richard Tuffin on mapping Tasmania



Rebecca Kippen on the 1918 flu pandemic



## ***APEBH Conference Report—contd.***

In other sessions, Isabelle Cherkesly (Monash) discussed her PhD research on marriage patterns of Irish convict women in 19<sup>th</sup> century Tasmania. Rok Spruk (University of Ljubljana) presented his research with David Gilchrist and others analysing the autocratic leadership of Sir Charles Court and economic growth in Western Australia in the 1970s and 1980s. Claire Wright (Macquarie) explained her findings of a recent study that analysed annual reports of Australian companies during 1910-2018 to conclude that they increasingly used these reports to spruik myths about their strategies and performance. André Brett (UWA) discussed his research on the massive data that exist on 19<sup>th</sup> century Australian railway operations. And Florian Ploeckl (University of Adelaide) offered a presentation on a similar extensive data set: South Australia's postal statistics in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Claire Wright with a major research issue



Florian Ploeckl finds piles of postal data



André Brett's kept the trains and presentation running on time

Kathryn Dan and Tim Sherratt noted the progress and difficulties at the Noel Butlin Archives Centre (ANU) with the digitisation and visualisation of the historical trading data of the Sydney Stock Exchange. Peter Wardley (Bristol) offered a paper that raised some questions about the company data underlying the 2004 book 'The Big End of Town: Big Business and Corporate Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia'. Leith Davis (Western Sydney University) used newly digitised sources to understand corporate interests in nineteenth century coastal shipping and timber trade along the South coast of New South Wales.

Simon Ville (Wollongong) identified patterns in Australian patents data to trace innovative activity and technological advantage in Australia during 1920-2016. Grant Fleming reported on new work analysing data on company share ownership in Australia during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. And Andrew Seltzer (Royal Holloway) discussed how minimum wages were set and enforced in Victoria under the Factories and Shops Act.

Other participants brought the other parts of world to an Australian audience, particularly Asia. Guillermo Ruiz-Stovel (University of Leuven) 'Junks, galleons, and sloops' used a data base of shipments to and from Manila to identify the intra-Asian commodities and shipping networks in 18th century Southeast Asia. Lingyu Kong (Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, Wuhan) discussed part of his PhD research at the University of Adelaide about Chinese merchant groups and regional bank networks in the prewar Republic of China. Zhiwu Chen (Hong Kong University) offered discussed the 5000-year persistence of population density patterns in China and how they shaped China today.

## ***APEBH Conference Report—contd.***



Guillermo Ruiz-Stovel, Lingyu Kong, Chong Yeon Wong and Zhiwu Chen

Pushkar Maitra (Monash) identified the long-run persistent effects of colonial railways on the economic geography of India. Jessica Vechbanyongratana (Chulalongkorn University) discussed the ways in which the 1901 Land Title Deed Act defined property rights and encouraged land markets in Thailand. Cheong Yeon Won and Sascha Becker (Monash University) emphasised how the spread role of Protestantism impacted on in human capital accumulation in Korea. And Pierre van der Eng discussed the development of Jakarta’s first stock exchange during the 1890s-1950s.

Other papers covered topics relating to other parts of the world. Dean Hoi (University of Melbourne) reported on part of his PhD research, particularly the cultural assimilation of immigrants into the USA, emphasising the relationships between origins and destinations. Marco Lecci (Monash University) argued that opposition to fascism during Mussolini’s dictatorship weakened support for right-wing parties across Italian provinces after WWII. Elissa Iorgulescu (University of Münster) analysed a new dataset on the daily trading information on grain futures contracts in Chicago, to identify the drivers of interwar grain speculation. And Paul Oslington (Alphacrucis College) explored reception history as a vehicle for connecting economics and historical writing.



Jessica Vechbanyongratana



Elissa Iorgulescu

The 2022 conference again allowed participants to contribute from the comfort of their studies at home or at universities. This year with various new contributors from Europe, Asia and North America. Last year’s conference report listed other advantages of meeting online. It also noted participants missing opportunities for impromptu discussions exploring shared research interests. Let’s assume that will again be possible at the next Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History conference in February 2023.

PvdE

## ***Call for Papers: Challenging Historical Amnesia***

The Business and Labour History Group (BLHG) at the University of Sydney Business School, Australia, will be hosting the 13th Annual Conference of the Academic Association of Historians in Australian and New Zealand Business Schools (AAHANZBS) on 7-8 November 2022. The conference will be presented through Zoom.

You are invited to submit papers addressing the conference theme, including papers relating to accounting history, business history, co-operative history, economic history, health management history, labour history, management history, marketing history, tourism history, transport history and other areas of interest relating to historical research in business schools. We also invite papers / panel suggestions around research, teaching and pedagogy relating to business and labour history. We welcome papers from researchers outside business schools who have an interest in these fields of study.

Plenary speaker: Associate Professor Hans Pols, University of Sydney, editor of *Health and History*. For further details see: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/science/about/our-people/academic-staff/hans-pols.html>.

Please submit a 1000-word abstract for refereeing in by Friday 8 July 2022 to Greg Patmore at [greg.patmore@sydney.edu.au](mailto:greg.patmore@sydney.edu.au) and Mark Westcott at [mark.westcott@sydney.edu.au](mailto:mark.westcott@sydney.edu.au)

The abstract will provide: -

- (i) A summary of the argument of the paper
- (ii) A summary of the findings of the paper
- (iii) A selected list of references for the paper

Abstracts should follow the *Labour History* style guide - <http://asslh.org.au/journal/style-guide/>.

All authors of the abstracts will be generally notified by Friday 26 August 2022 at the latest whether their abstracts have been accepted for the conference. Abstracts will be published in online conference proceedings.

Registration: Registration is free. Full registration details will follow at <http://sydney.edu.au/business/research/blhg>.

**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)**

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