

CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC HISTORY

RESEARCH SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

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Australian
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University

Friends of the ANU Centre for Economic History,

Welcome to this, the 40th issue of the CEH newsletter. It includes a report on our recent CEH/EHSANZ symposium, and one on the History of Thought conference. Also included is the programme for the AusClio meeting in November, and some other news and features. Once again, thanks for your interest in the Centre for Economic History.

Tim Hatton, CEH Director

Australasian Economic History—Conference Report

The symposium, hosted by the CEH and the Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand, and organized by Claire Wright (UTS) and Martine Mariotti (ANU) took place at the ANU on 26th August 2022. It brought together a wide range of presenters and a total of 50 in-person and online participants to talk about the development of economic history in Australia. In opening the proceedings, Claire outlined the rise of economic history in Australian universities from the 1960s, its decline from the 1990s in the wake of the Dawkins reforms of universities, and its subsequent adaptation and survival. Lionel Frost (Monash), President of the Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand, followed with an account of its revival, stressing new areas of activity and opportunity, including business and urban history, environmental and resource development and indigenous history. Kris Inwood, (Guelph), editor of the society's journal, reviewed the shift towards Asian content and the consequent renaming of the journal as the Asia-Pacific Economic History Review.

Several presenters provided overviews of new and developing topics. Sascha Becker (Monash) focused on historical episodes of forced displacement of persecuted populations noting how these differ from other migration streams and showing how their outcomes could be positive. Pauline Grosjean (UNSW) showed how indices of masculinity norms in Australia are linked with past sex imbalances originating in the convict era. And Matthew Bailey (Macquarie) provided an account of the interplay between car ownership, suburbanisation, planning regulation and the development of shopping centres in postwar Australia.



In full flow: Lionel Frost, Frank Bonjiorno and Sascha Becker

Australasian Economic History—contd.



Members of the audience, pondering economic history's past achievements and future prospects

Others presented and explored new datasets. Hamish Maxwell-Stewart (New England) presented a dazzling array of interlinked geo-located unit record data for Tasmania that could be used for full life-course analysis over the long run. Henry Reese (Woolongong/Melbourne) demonstrated how the data on the exchange of natural history artifacts between museums in Australia and overseas could illuminate the development of scientific networks. And John Tang (Melbourne) showed how data from paper proposals for the Economic History Association conference could be used to examine the influence of gatekeeping on the gender balance.

The teaching of economic history was an important theme of the workshop. Historian's perspectives were provided by Frank Bongiorno (ANU) who demonstrated the value to economics students of the use of original historical documents and Jim McAloon (Victoria, NZ) who aimed to persuade history students that many key historical issues are fundamentally economic. On the side of economists, David Gilchrist (UWA) explained how business school students are enthused by the history of economic thought while Florian Ploeckl (Adelaide) sought to engage economics students through historical data visualisation.

The day was rounded off with the launch of Claire Wright's new book, *Australian Economic History: Transformations of an Interdisciplinary Field* (ANU Press, 2022). Launching the book, Lionel Frost remarked that it had brought alive many of his own experiences of the ups and downs of economic history in Australia. He also found much that was new or half-forgotten, all presented in a coherent and engaging style. Claire responded with comments about how she was attracted to the topic, why she wrote the book, and the many influences that had shaped it. The proceedings ended with rounds of applause and glasses of wine.



Author Claire Wright

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

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>

9th Australasian Cliometrics Workshop: 4th November Programme

The 9th Australasian Cliometrics Workshop will take place at the ANU Research School of Economics on 4th November, with an excellent cast of authors and discussants. This year's edition will be in-person only, and we are returning to the traditional Clio format, short on presentations and long on discussion. If you wish to attend in person, please contact: tim.hatton@anu.edu.au .

PROGRAMME

8.45 – 9.00am: Welcome

9.00 - 10.30am: Session 1

Sascha Becker (Monash): "Contested Diffusion and the Adoption of the Protestant Reformation."
Discussant: Tim Hatton (ANU).

David de la Croix (Louvain): "Winners and Losers from the Protestant Reformation: An Analysis of the Network of European Universities." Discussant: Cameron Gordon (ANU).

10.30 – 11am: Tea/coffee

11.00 – 12.30pm: Session 2

Nick Ford (Lund): "Lessons from Oslo: Examining Social Mobility after the Establishment of Norway's First University." Discussant: Dana Hanna (ANU).

Jeanet Sinding Bentzen (Copenhagen): "In the Name of God! Religiosity and the Emergence of Modern Science and Growth." Discussant: Pauline Grosjean (UNSW).

12.30 – 1.30pm: Light lunch

1.30 – 3.00pm: Session 3

Chicheng Ma (Hong Kong): "Classical Worship and Modern Growth: The Shadow of the Sages."
Discussant: Linxiang Ma (Melbourne).

Florian Ploeckl (Adelaide): "Cliques and Directors: Informal and Formal Networks between Banks in Republican China." Discussant: Lyndon Moore (Monash).

3.00-3.30pm Tea/coffee

3.30 – 5.00pm: Session 54

Muhan Hu (Melbourne): "Cyanide on the Rand: Competing Methods of Technology Transfer."
Discussant: Martine Mariotti (ANU).

Pierre van der Eng (ANU): "Active Land Markets despite 'Fuzzy' Property Rights in Indonesia, 1920s-1930s." Discussant: Ryan Edwards (ANU).

5.00pm: Close

Featured Economic Historian: David de la Croix

We are pleased to welcome as a visitor to the Research School of Economics, David de la Croix, who will be presenting a seminar and participating in the AusClio Workshop on 4th November. He is professor of Economics at the Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium) and founding editor of the *Journal of Demographic Economics*. His work has been published in the world leading economics journals.



David de la Croix

David's research includes the development of a unified framework linking longevity, education and economic growth, which are then tested on data from the 17th and 18th centuries to show how greater life expectancy leads to more investment in human capital which in turn fosters economic growth. In related work he developed a framework where the interplay between wealth fertility and education, with the result that most of the empirical relationship between inequality and growth works through fertility.

In other historical work he shows that apprenticeship institutions, often criticized as impediments to growth, by allowing new techniques to spread rapidly through Europe through master-apprentice interactions, was in fact a positive contributor to economic growth. Most recently, David has received an Advanced Grant from the European Research Council to build a large database containing information on professors and scholars from Europe's leading universities and academies from 1000 to 1800. –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:

- 2022-11 [Share ownership and the introduction of no liability legislation in nineteenth-century Australia](#) by Grant Fleming & Frank Liu & David Merrett & Simon Ville
- 2022-10 [Persecution, Pogroms and Genocide: A Conceptual Framework and New Evidence](#) by Sascha O. Becker & Sharun Mukand & Ivan Yotzov
- 2022-09 [Australian Innovative Activity and Offshore Technology 1904 - 2016](#) by Grant Fleming & Frank Liu & David Merrett & Simon Ville
- 2022-08 [Patents, Foreign Direct Investment and Economic Growth in Australia, 1860-2010](#) by Grant Fleming & Frank Liu & David Merrett & Simon Ville
- 2022-07 [Living standards in settler South Africa, 1865-1920](#) by Johan Fourie & Kris Inwood & Martine Mariotti

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>

33rd HETSA Conference: Report

The 33rd Conference of the History of Economic Thought Society of Australia (HETSA) was held in Melbourne on 22-23 September after a two-year break because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Twenty-one papers were delivered including two keynote addresses.

Professor Susan Howson, formerly of the University of Toronto and Cambridge, gave the first keynote address. Her paper, entitled 'James Meade and Australia', drew on her forthcoming biography of James Meade, a recipient of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics. Meade spent six very productive months in Australia in the mid-1950s as a guest of the ANU and the Commonwealth Bank. Professor Howson highlighted the overlap between the work that Meade was doing in the 1940s on international trade policy for the UK Government and the work on the same subject that Dr H. C. Coombs was doing for the Australian Government.



Keynote speaker Susan Howson contributing to Geoff Harcourt's tribute

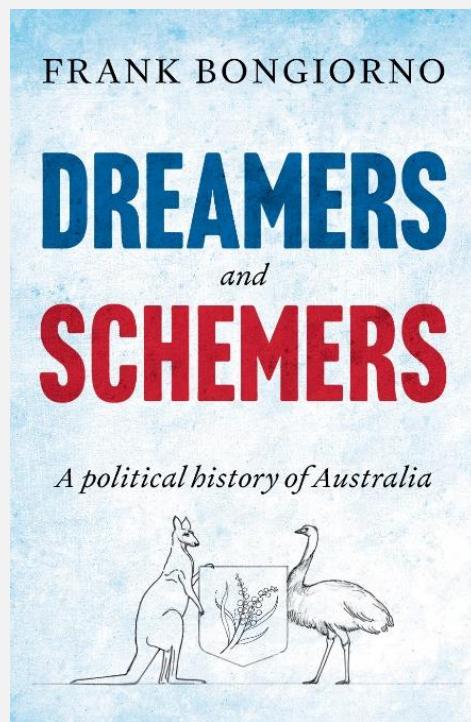
The second keynote address was given by Professor Ashwani Saith, Emeritus Professor at the International Institute of Social Studies at Erasmus University, Rotterdam, and formerly Director of the Development Studies Institute at LSE.

Professor Saith spoke on 'Cambridge Economics in the Post-Keynesian Era: The Eclipse of Heterodox Traditions', a subject he has written about in a forthcoming book.

A special session at the conference was devoted to the memory of the renowned Australian economist and historian of economic thought, Professor Geoffrey Harcourt AC. Professor Harcourt, who died in Sydney last December, was a foundation member of HETSA and attended many HETSA conferences. He was also a former President of the Economic Society of Australia. John Hawkins, of the University of Canberra, spoke about Geoff's life and work, and Selwyn Cornish of the ANU spoke about his memories of Geoff. Alex Millmow, the President of HETSA and convenor of the conference, read a warm tribute to Geoff by Neville Norman of the University of Melbourne, who was unable to attend the conference because of illness. Susan Howson also spoke about her memories of Geoff at Cambridge and Toronto.

William Coleman, recently retired from the ANU, discussed a proposal to compile a book containing the 'Selected Works of Geoffrey Brennan', the distinguished ANU economist who died in Canberra recently. Geoff's son, Michael Brennan, the Chair of the Productivity Commission, was the guest speaker at the conference dinner. Michael spoke about the work of the Productivity Commission and the importance of enhancing productivity in Australia.—SC

New Book: Dreamers and Schemers, by Frank Bongiorno



In his new book ANU historian Frank Bongiorno presents a comprehensive social and cultural history of Australia's political life, from pre-settlement Indigenous systems to the present day. Depicting a wonderful parade of dreamers and schemers, he surveys moments of political renewal to shed fresh light on Australia's democratic life. From local pubs and meeting halls to the parliament and cabinet; from pamphleteers and stump orators to party agents and operatives - this compelling account looks at the political insiders in the halls of power, as well as the agitators and outsiders who sought to shape the nation from the margins.

Frank Bongiorno has written award-winning books on Australian history, most recently *The Eighties: The Decade That Transformed Australia*. He will be discussing his new book in the ANU/Canberra Times *Meet the Author* series in conversation with Andrew Leigh, Federal MP for Fenner (ACT) and Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury.

This in-person event will take place on Wednesday 2nd November 2022, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm at the Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU campus. Registration is free but required. Please register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/in-conversation-with-frank-bongiorno-tickets-431450067767>.

A recording will subsequently appear at: <https://www.anu.edu.au/events/anu-the-canberra-times-meet-the-author-series>.

Announcement: 13th Annual AAHANZBS Conference

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.

The plenary speaker will be Professor Hans Pols, (University of Sydney). For further details see <https://www.sydney.edu.au/science/about/our-people/academic-staff/hans-pols.html>

The conference will include presentations on economics, politics and culture, mining history and technology. There will also be a panel discussion on large data and history. There will be speakers from four countries and a range of disciplines.

Registration is free. To register, view the conference program and read the abstracts go to <https://www.sydney.edu.au/business/our-research/research-groups/business-and-labour-history-group/aahanzbs-annual-conference.html>