

CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC HISTORY
RESEARCH SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
 JANUARY 2023, ISSUE 41



Friends of the ANU Centre for Economic History,

Welcome to this issue of the CEH newsletter. It includes reports on the AusClio meeting and the Annual Archives lecture at the ANU. Also included are some other news items and features. Once again, thanks for your interest in the Centre for Economic History.

Tim Hatton, CEH Director

Report: The Australian Cliometrics Meeting, 2022

The 9th AusClio workshop was held at the ANU on 4th November. It was an all in-person event and it returned to the traditional Clio format: after a brief introduction by the author, the discussant summarised the paper and offered some comments before opening to general discussion. Among the diversity of topics, two themes stood out: religion and networks.

Sacha Becker’s paper discussed by Tim Hatton, focused on the spread of the Protestant reformation and, in particular, on how cities in the Holy Roman Empire switched (or did not) to Protestantism in response to the influence of Luther and the counter-influence of Erasmus. Participants wondered if this really was a battle between just two titans and whether the results of letters/visits/students to a city really did show the effectiveness of one to ‘firefight’ the other.



Waves of economic history:
 Cameron Gordon, Nick Ford, Dana Hannah, Jeanette Sinding Bentzen and Florian Ploeckl

Australian Cliometrics Meeting—contd.

Cameron Gordon discussed David del a Croix's paper on how the decline in network links between Protestant and Catholic universities after the reformation reduced scientific productivity in the latter. Questions were raised about the influence of geography, assessing scientific productivity by publications, and the nature of incentives to publish.

Next, Dana Hannah discussed Nick Ford's paper on the effect of the establishment of the University of Oslo in 1811 on participation in higher education among Norwegians. Participants mused about how the number was influenced by the availability of secondary schooling, and the possible implications for inequality between generations and between the regions of Norway. Jeanette Sinding Bentzen's paper, discussed by Pauline Grosjean, found that authors with religious names were more likely to have become scientists and engineers in 1300 to 1940, with implications for industrial development of cities where they were concentrated. Participants queried the classification of religious names, asked how names were chosen, and discussed the distinction between scientific and religious publications.



All the Mas: Linxiang Ma and Chicheng Ma

After lunch, Linxiang Ma discussed Chicheng Ma's paper, which found that the veneration of classical sages in a locality in China impeded the establishment of new firms from 1858 to 1927. Participants asked about the way that sages were classified, what values they prescribed, and whether their influence inhibited development by damping private initiative or through state regulation. Florian Ploeckl's paper, presented by Lyndon Moore, examined the interplay between networks of interlocking directors in banks and in merchant cliques in China in 1933-37. Participants wondered how the results of the analysis should be interpreted and how the financial links between banks and merchants varied by economic sector.

The proceedings continued with the discussion by Martine Mariotti of Muhan Hu's paper on the diffusion mechanisms and impact of the introduction in 1887-1907 of the cyanide technique for extracting gold from tailings in South African gold mines. Participants discussed the different channels through which very rapid diffusion occurred and wondered whether the effect on diffusion of geographic proximity could reflect labour market mobility between mines. At the end of a long day Ryan Edwards presented Pierre van der Eng's paper, showing that land markets in 1920s-1930s Indonesia were more active than often believed, despite 'fuzzy' land rights. Participants discussed how different types of shocks and could have affected the volume of transactions and canvassed possible alternative econometric specifications. Attendees expressed their appreciation for a full day of intensive face-to-face debate and looked forward to next year's AusClio in Adelaide.--TH

Featured Economic Historian: Pauline Grosjean



Pauline Grosjean

We were pleased to welcome Pauline Grosjean back to the ANU as a discussant in the AusClio meeting. Pauline is stalwart of AusClio meetings and has participated in other CEH events such as our 2021 workshop on the Life and Death in the First World War.

Pauline is a Professor in the School of Economics at UNSW and Research Fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR). She is also Fellow of the Econometric Society, Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, and an ARC Future Fellow. Previously at the University of San Francisco and the University of California at Berkeley, she has also worked as an Economist at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Pauline's research studies the historical and dynamic context of economic development. In particular, she focuses on how culture and institutions interact and shape long-term economic development and individual behaviour. She has published research that studies the historical process of a wide range of factors that are crucial for economic development, including cooperation and violence, trust, gender norms, support for democracy and for market reforms, immigration, preferences for education, and conflict.

Among Pauline's most notable papers is one with Rose Khattar on the long-run social consequences of 19th century male-biased sex ratios in Australia (*Review of Economic Studies* 2019). With other coauthors she has shown how expulsion from Eastern Poland after WWII stimulated education among Poles (*American Economic Review* 2022). Her recent work on the political economy of heroism and the influence of General Pétain, the hero of Verdun, on support for anti-democratic values and Nazi collaboration in France during WWII will also appear in the *American Economic Review*.

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:

2023-01 [Economic Aspects of Australian Federation: Trade Restrictiveness and Welfare Effects in the Colonies and the Commonwealth, 1901-3](#), by Luke H. Grayson and Brian D. Varian.

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>

Report: ANU Archives Lecture 2022

Professor Marian Quartly (Monash University) delivered the 21st annual ANU Archives lecture 2022, with the title 'Friendly society or force for nationalism? The Australian Natives Association, 1871-1901'.



Marian Quartly

The ANA was established by young white Australia-born men and was one of many friendly societies that emerged and flourished in Australia during the late 19th century. It started in Melbourne, gradually established branches across Victoria, and then nationally. The association extended mutual assistance and financial benefits to members and their families affected by sickness or death at a time when health insurance companies were few, and public social security was minimal. It also aimed to 'uplift' members and advance social change for the betterment of society. Its branches organised public lectures and debates for that purpose.

The society and its members increasingly articulated Australian nationalism. They supported the federation of the Australian colonies and some advocated a greater degree of independence from the UK. Society members maintained that the association was not a political organisation. Its political influence remained minimal, as leading politicians in the Australian colonies, although ANA members, were generally in favour of a continued association with the UK. By contrast, representatives of various industry groups articulated their concerns about the competition from imports in branch meetings.

In the process, the society and its members developed some unsavoury viewpoints, particularly an anti-Chinese immigration and an anti-Aboriginal stance. Their spokesmen favoured what they believed was the 'Australian race'; superior to the British race because the quality of Australia's air was so much better than in British urban centres. --PvdE



Big business: a well-attended ANA bicycle race at the Melbourne Exhibition Building track, 1898. Source: State Library of Victoria, <https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/>

A video recording of the lecture can be found here: <https://archives.anu.edu.au/events/2022-annual-lecture-professor-marian-quartly>

Public Lecture Alert: William Coleman on Adam Smith

On 23rd March 2023 William Coleman will deliver a Goldsmith Lecture entitled “Adam Smith’s Case Against the British Empire”, as a part of a global series of events supported by the University of Glasgow to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the birth of the acclaimed Scottish “founding father of economics”.

William Coleman, formerly of the ANU, is a distinguished expert on the history of economic ideas. In this lecture he will critically examine Smith’s economic argument that the Empire was injurious to the prosperity of Great Britain. He will argue that Smith’s theoretical case for the British Empire as impoverishing of Great Britain is defective, and that mercantilism was probably to the advantage of Great Britain in 18th century. Smith’s commanding disdain of the imperial project can be seen as stimulating an influential lineage of anti-imperialists, and his economic critique of Empire helps both to explain mercantilism in the 18th century and its dismantling in the wake of the industrial revolution.

This in-person event will take place on Thursday 23rd March, 5.30 pm – 7.00 pm, venue to be announced at the Goldsmith Lectures website: <https://rse.anu.edu.au/seminars-events/goldsmith-lectures>. A video recording will subsequently appear at the same site.

Reminder: Asia Pacific Economic and Business History Conference, February 10th-11th 2023

The APEBH annual conference, organized by the Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand, will be held on 10th and 11th February at the University of Technology, Sydney. The UTS city campus is located on the border of Sydney’s central business district, close to central station.

The theme of this year’s conference is Gender in History; the conference will also include papers on a range of topics on the Asia-Pacific region, and international comparative perspectives. It will be preceded on 9th February by a workshop at UTS on Women and Australian Business History.

The 2023 Noel Butlin Lecture will be given by Professor Grietjie Verhoef of the University of Johannesburg. The title is ‘Measure of Significance: Human Capital in Business History’.

The conference programme, registration, and details of events and accommodation are on the conference website at: <https://apebh2023.com/>. Free registration and conference dinner are available for graduate students.

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>