Political Economy and Economic History
# 2014 Economic History Association Annual Meeting

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## Concise Schedule

**Thursday, September 11**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00-8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Board of Trustees Meeting, cocktails</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00-10:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Board of Trustees Dinner</td>
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**Friday, September 12**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Tour 1: Ohio Historical Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Tour 2: Newark Earthworks</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Tour 3: Honda Factory</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Board of Trustees Meeting (breakfast served)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.-Noon</td>
<td>Workshop: Job Market Tips and Tales</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00-5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Poster Displays</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00-2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Session 1:</td>
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<td>Session 2:</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30-3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00-4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Session 3:</td>
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<td>Session 4:</td>
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<td>Session 5:</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00-8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30-10:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Journal of Economic History Editorial Board Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30-11:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Graduate Student Dinner</td>
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## Concise Schedule

### Saturday, September 13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:45-8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Historians’ Breakfast</td>
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<td>6:45-8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Teachers’ Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Poster Displays</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30-10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Session 6:</td>
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<td>Session 7:</td>
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<td>Session 8:</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m.-Noon</td>
<td>Session 9:</td>
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<td>Session 10:</td>
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<td>Session 11:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon-1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Women’s Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00-2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Business Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15-4:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Dissertation Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:45-5:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Presidential Address (Philip Hoffman)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30-7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Cocktail Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30-9:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Banquet and Awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 p.m.-Midnight</td>
<td>President’s Party</td>
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## Concise Schedule

**Sunday, September 14**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:00-8:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Full Buffet Breakfast</strong> (sponsored by Global Financial Data)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30-10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Session 12:</td>
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<td>Session 13:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Session 14:</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Coffee Break</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30-Noon.</td>
<td>Session 15:</td>
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<td>Session 16:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon.</td>
<td>Conference Ends</td>
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### RENAISSANCE DOWNTOWNW HOTEL CONFERENCE SPACES:

![Conference Spaces Diagram]

**SECOND FLOOR**

- Meeting Room 20
- Meeting Room 21
- Meeting Room 22

**PRE-FUNCTION SOUT**

- Pre-Function South
- D
- E

**PRE-FUNCTION WEST**

- Pre-Function West
- C
- B
- A

**PRE-FUNCTION EAST**

- Pre-Function East
- C
- B
- A

**HAYES GRAND BALLROOM**

- (Space Division)

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4
Detailed Schedule

Friday, September 12

Local Tours
- Tour 1 (9:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.): Ohio Historical Society (bus leaves from the hotel at 9.45 a.m. sharp!)
- Tour 2 (8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.): Newark Earthworks (bus leaves from the hotel at 8 a.m. sharp!)
- Tour 3 (8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.): Honda Factory (bus leaves from the hotel at 8 a.m. sharp!)

Workshop
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Job Market Tips and Tales
Meeting Room 32

Poster Session
1:00-5:00 p.m. (Foyer)

Session
1:00-2:30 p.m.

1. Political Economy: The Great Depression
   Hayes A

   Cohen-Setton, Jeremie (University of California, Berkeley), Joshua K. Hausman (Ford School of Public Policy) and Johannes F. Wieland (University of California, San Diego): “Stagflation in the 1930s: Why Did the French New Deal Fail”

   Jalil, Andrew (Occidental College) and Gisele Rua (Federal Reserve Board of Governors): “Inflation Expectations and Recovery from the Depression in 1933: Evidence from the Narrative Record”

   Rose, Jonathan and Egon Zakrajsek (Federal Reserve Board of Governors): “The Financial Interconnectedness of Railroads and the Transmission of Financial Distress During the Great Depression”

2. Health and Welfare
   Hayes C

   Moriguchi, Chiaki (Hitotsubashi University) and John Parman (College of William and Mary): “Adoption and Adult Outcomes in the Early Twentieth Century”


   Inwood, Kris (University of Guelph), Les Oxley (University of Wakaito) and Evan Roberts (University of Minnesota): “The Transition to Modern Health for New Zealand’s Māori and Pākehā”

   Beach, Brian (University of Pittsburgh): “Do Markets Reward Constitutional Reform? Lessons from America’s State Debt Crisis”

   Garmon Jr., Frank (University of Virginia): “Wealth Levels and Distribution in the Early American Republic, 1785–1815”

   Eli, Shari (University of Toronto) and Laura Salisbury (York University): “Patronage Politics and the Development of the Welfare State: Confederate Pensions in the American South”

   Hayes A

   Beach, Brian (University of Pittsburgh): “Do Markets Reward Constitutional Reform? Lessons from America’s State Debt Crisis”

   Garmon Jr., Frank (University of Virginia): “Wealth Levels and Distribution in the Early American Republic, 1785–1815”

   Eli, Shari (University of Toronto) and Laura Salisbury (York University): “Patronage Politics and the Development of the Welfare State: Confederate Pensions in the American South”

   Shertzer, Allison (University of Pittsburgh and NBER), Tate Twinam (University of Pittsburgh) and Randall Walsh (University of Pittsburgh and NBER): “Zoning and Urban Persistance”

   Hornbeck, Richard (Harvard University and University of Chicago): “Creative Destruction: Barriers to Urban Growth and the Great Boston Fire of 1872”
Detailed Schedule

Friday, September 12

4. Detailed Schedule

Session 4.

(cont’d)

Eriksson, Katherine (California Polytechnic University) and Gregory Niemesh (Miami University): “Impact of Migration on Infant Health: Evidence from the Great Migration”

5. Migration and Immigration

Meeting Room 30

Spitzer, Yannay (Brown University) and Ariell Zimran (Northwestern University): “Migrant Self-Selection: Anthropometric Evidence from the Mass Migration of Italians to the United States, 1907–1925”

Boustan, Leah (UCLA) and Ran Abramitzky (Stanford University): “Cultural Assimilation in the Age of Mass Migration”

Dinkelman, Tary (Dartmouth College) and Martine Mariotti (Australian National University): “Does labor migration affect human capital in the long run? Evidence from Malawi”

Reception

6:00-8:00 p.m.

The Ohio Statehouse (within easy walking distance from conference hotel)

JEH Dinner

8:30-10:30 p.m.

Hayes B (Journal of Economic History editorial staff only)

Graduate Student Dinner

8:30-11:30 p.m.

Location: Columbus Brewing Company.

Saturday, September 13

Historians’ Breakfast

6:45-8:00 a.m.

Meeting Room 30

Teachers’ Breakfast

6:45-8:00 a.m.

Executive Meeting Room

Session 6.

8:30-10:00 a.m.

Political Economy: Europe

Hayes B

Johnson, Noel (George Mason University): “Taxes, National Identity, and Nation Building: Evidence from France”


Dincecco, Mark (University of Michigan) and Massimiliano Gaetano Onorato (IMT Lucca): “Military Conflict and the Economic Rise of Urban Europe”

7. Political Economy: Latin America

Hayes C

Diaz, Jose and Gert Wagner (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile): “Perspiration and Inspiration: Two Centuries of Chilean Growth in Perspective”

Guardado, Jenny (New York University): “Office-Selling, Corruption and Long-Term Development in Peru”


8. Trade

Meeting Room 20

Meissner, Christopher (University of California, Davis and NBER), Michael Huberman (Université de Montréal), and Kim Oosterlinck (Université Libre de Bruxelles): “Technology and Geography in the Second Industrial Revolution: New Evidence from the Margins of Trade”

de Bromhead, Alan (Mansfield College, University of Oxford): “Women Voters and Trade Protectionism in the Interwar Years”

Fouquin, Michel and Jules Hugot (CEPII): “Trade globalization: 1827-2012 When did trade costs start to fall?”

Coffee Break

10:00-10.30 a.m.

Foyer
Detailed Schedule

Saturday, September 13

Session 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

9. **Diverging and Converging**
Hayes B

Bell, Adrian, Chris Brooks, and Tony Moore (University of Reading): “Did Purchasing Power Parity Hold in Medieval Europe?”

Ko, Chiu Yu (National University of Singapore), Mark Koyama (George Mason University), and Tuan-Hwee Sng (National University of Singapore): “Unified China and Divided Europe”

Broadberr, Stephen (London School of Economics and CAGE), Hanhui Guan (Peking University), and David Daokui Li (Tsinghua University): “China, Europe, and the Great Divergence: A Study in Historical National Accounting”

**Poster Session 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

**Foyer**

Women’s Lunch 12:00-1:00 p.m.
Meeting Room 22

Business Meeting 1:00-2:00 p.m.
Hayes A

Dissertation Session 2:15-4:15 p.m.
Hayes A

Coffee Break 4:15-4:45 p.m.
Foyer

Presidential Address 4:45-5:45 p.m.
Hayes A

Reception (cash bar) 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Cityview Terrace (weather permitting)

Banquet 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Hayes BC

President’s Party 10:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.
Meeting Room 30
(sponsored by Caltech)

Sunday, September 14

Full Buffet Breakfast 7:00-8:30 a.m.
Hayes A
(open to all, sponsored by the Global Financial Data)

Oliver, Graham (Brown University): “People and cities: economic horizons beyond the Hellenistic polis”

Bresson, Alain (University of Chicago): “Flexible interfaces of the Hellenistic world”

10. **Political Economy: American States and Tribes**
Hayes C

Mathy, Gabriel (American University) and Nicolas Ziebarth (University of Iowa and NBER): “How Much Does Political Uncertainty Matter? The Case of Louisiana Under Huey Long”

Ager, Philipp (University of Southern Denmark): “The Persistence of De Facto Power: Elites and Economic Development in the U.S. South, 1840–1960”

Frye, Dustin (University of Colorado, Boulder): “The Indian Reorganization Act, Tribal Sovereignty, and Economic Development”

11. **How New Evidence and New Interpretations are Changing our Understanding of the Ancient World**
Meeting Room 20

Manning, Joseph (Yale University): “Leagues and kingdoms. Beyond the city-state”
Detailed Schedule

Sunday, September 14

Coffee Break 10:00-10:30 a.m.  Foyer

Session 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

15. Something Blue  Hayes B


Eichengreen, Barry (University of California, Berkeley), Livia Chițu (European Central Bank), and Arnaud Mehl (Paris School of Economics): “Network Effects, Homogeneous Goods and International Currency Choice: New Evidence on Oil Markets from an Older Era”

Glaser, Darrell and Ahmed Rahman (US Naval Academy): “Human Capital on the High Seas - Job Mobility and Returns to Technical Skill During Industrialization”

16. Borrowing and Shocks  Hayes C

Chaudhary, Latika (Scripps College) and Anand Swamy (Williams College): “Protecting the Borrower: An Experiment in Colonial India”

Xue, Meng (George Mason University): “Textiles and the Historical Emergence of Gender Equality in China”

Fenske, James (University of Oxford) and Namrata Kala (Yale University): “1807: Economic Shocks, Conflict, and the Slave Trade”

12:00 p.m. Conference Ends
Paper Abstracts

Session: Friday, September 12
1:00–2:30 p.m.

1. Political Economy: The Great Depression
Chair: Eugene White (Rutgers University)

Cohen-Setton, Jeremie (University of California, Berkeley), Joshua K. Hausman (Ford School of Public Policy) and Johannes F. Wieland (University of California, San Diego): “Stagflation in the 1930s: Why Did the French New Deal Fail”

Most countries started to recover from the Great Depression when they devalued. France did not. In 1936, France left the Gold Standard and enacted New-Deal-style policies, including wage increases and a 40-hour week law. Stagflation followed; prices rose rapidly from 1936 to 1938 while output stagnated. We attempt to understand this anomalous experience and to draw inferences about the effectiveness of New-Deal-style policies in the 1930s. Using industry-level data, we explore whether hours restrictions can explain French stagnation. Finally, we construct a model to show how supply-side policies could have lowered output despite excess capacity.

Discussant: Eugene White (Rutgers University)

Jalil, Andrew (Occidental College) and Gisele Rua (Federal Reserve Board of Governors): “Inflation Expectations and Recovery from the Depression in 1933: Evidence from the Narrative Record”

This paper uses the historical narrative record to identify whether inflation expectations shifted during the second quarter of 1933, precisely as the recovery from the Great Depression took hold. The paper has three main findings: (1) inflation expectations changed dramatically during the second quarter of 1933; (2) Roosevelt’s communications strategy, primarily his public commitment to raise prices to pre-depression levels, along with key actions such as abandoning the gold standard, caused the shift in inflation expectations; and (3) monthly output growth increased by 4 to 7 percentage points as a result of the shift in expectations.

Discussant: Hugh Rockoff (Rutgers University)

Rose, Jonathan and Egon Zakrajsek (Federal Reserve Board of Governors): “The Financial Interconnectedness of Railroads and the Transmission of Financial Distress During the Great Depression”

This paper studies the systemic importance of railroads through the widespread holdings of their bonds by American fiduciary institutions during the Great Depression. We examine the impact of a series of large railroad bond prices shocks using a remarkable data set of the individual bonds held by each Massachusetts savings bank annually. We suggest that the shocks varied across banks for reasons that are largely random relative to the other factors affecting these banks businesses, first because strict regulation prevented bank managers from gambling on particularly risky bonds, and second because the railroads were located outside of Massachusetts. The results suggest that the bond price declines caused banks to engage in greater contraction of their real estate loans, especially if they were also experiencing liquidity problems from deposit withdrawals.

Discussant: Matt Jaremski (Colgate University)
Paper Abstracts

Session: Friday, September 12
1:00–2:30 p.m.

2. Health and Welfare

Chair: Mary Hansen (American University)

Moriguchi, Chiaki (Hitotsubashi University) and John Parman (College of William and Mary): “Adoption and Adult Outcomes in the Early Twentieth Century”
Modern research has found strong links between family structure and children's outcomes. One of the robust findings is that stepchildren and adopted children have worse adult outcomes compared to biological children. However, we know very little about how non-biological children fared historically. In this study, by linking adopted children across U.S. federal censuses in the first half of the 20th century, we create a new dataset that contains rich information on both their childhood households and adult outcomes. To control for household heterogeneity, we also follow (non-adopted) siblings of adopted children into their adulthood. This unique dataset enables us to compare the long-run outcomes of adopted children and biological children controlling for observable and unobservable household characteristics. Our preliminary analysis suggests that educational attainment, income, and marriage patterns of adopted children differed significantly from non-adopted children. Overall, our study brings new historical evidence to the research on family structure.

Discussant: Mary Hansen (American University)

I use variation in childhood exposure to the Dust Bowl as a natural experiment to explain variation in adult human capital. I find that the Dust Bowl produced significant adverse impacts in later life, especially when exposure was in utero, increasing poverty and disability, and decreasing fertility and college completion. Agriculture-dependence exacerbates these effects, suggesting the shock was most damaging via the destruction of farming livelihoods. This agricultural collapse, however, had the positive effect of reducing demand for child farm labor and thus decreasing the opportunity costs of secondary schooling, as evidenced by increases in high school completion amongst the exposed.

Discussant: Werner Troesken (University of Pittsburgh)

Inwood, Kris (University of Guelph), Les Oxley (University of Wakaito) and Evan Roberts (University of Minnesota): “The Transition to Modern Health for New Zealand’s Māori and Pākehā”
We analyze physical well-being among New Zealand Maori from first European contact to the late 20th century. After colonial settlement Māori stature declined slowly. By the late 19th century Māori and Pākehā (NZ-born European descendents) statures were comparable. The 20th century stature increase began in the 1920s for Pākehā and 1950s for Māori. Convergence since the 1970s has re-established comparable stature. The early 20th century convergence reflects cumulative land loss, disease incidence, rural-urban migration and labour market segregation. The late 20th century convergence reflects improvements in socio-economic status and health policy; it augurs well for later-life health of recently-born Māori.

Discussant: Dan Fetter (Wellesley College)
Paper Abstracts

Session: Friday, September 12
3:00–4:30 p.m.


Chair: John Wallis (University of Maryland)

Beach, Brian (University of Pittsburgh): “Do Markets Reward Constitutional Reform? Lessons from America’s State Debt Crisis”
America’s state debt crisis presents a unique opportunity to identify whether institutional constraints lower borrowing costs. After nine states defaulted, sixteen states adopted constitutional provisions promoting credibility. Only states that defaulted during the crisis were rewarded with lower borrowing costs and increased access to credit following reform. This cannot be explained by underlying trends or differences in the content of the reforms. Non-defaulting states, which had established commitment by avoiding default, were not rewarded because reform did not convey new information. These results indicate that sovereigns with tarnished reputations can benefit from adopting constitutional constraints to convey commitment.

Discussant: John Wallis (University of Maryland)

Garmon Jr., Frank (University of Virginia): “Wealth Levels and Distribution in the Early American Republic, 1785–1815”
This paper uses a comprehensive survey of property tax records to test Peter Lindert and Jeffrey Williamson’s wealth estimates for the Early American Republic. The study measures changes in wealth levels and wealth distribution for more than 30,000 taxpayers at ten year intervals between 1785 and 1815, and presents preliminary results from my dissertation. The study confirms Lindert and Williamson’s conclusion that national real wealth fell between 1785 and 1795, but argues that wealth levels rose significantly between 1795 and 1815. Wealth distribution grew more unequal with each successive decade, but wealth levels and wealth distribution exhibited significant regional variation.

Discussant: Peter Lindert (University of California, Davis)

Eli, Shari (University of Toronto) and Laura Salisbury (York University): “Patronage Politics and the Development of the Welfare State: Confederate Pensions in the American South”
Beginning in the 1880s, southern states introduced pensions for Confederate veterans and widows. They continued to expand these programs through the 1910s and 1920s, while states outside the region were introducing cash transfer programs for workers, poor mothers, and the elderly. We explore why southern states prioritized Confederate pensions over other aid to the poor. Using legislative documents, application records for Confederate pensions, and county-level census and electoral data, we argue that political considerations guided the enactment and distribution of these pensions. Confederate pensions programs aimed to increase support for Democratic candidates in poor, rural areas of the South.

Discussant: Edison Severini (Carnegie Mellon University)
Paper Abstracts

Session: Friday, September 12
3:00–4:30 p.m.

4. Cities

Chair: Marianne Wanamaker (University of Tennessee at Knoxville)

Shertzer, Allison (University of Pittsburgh and NBER), Tate Twinam (University of Pittsburgh) and Randall Walsh (University of Pittsburgh and NBER): “Zoning and Urban Persistence”

This paper investigates whether zoning has a long-term impact on the location of economic activity in cities. Using the introduction of comprehensive zoning in Chicago in 1923 along with a detailed map of pre-zoning land uses, we show that the initial zoning ordinance had an economically large impact on the location of industry, TRI facilities, commerce, and residential neighborhoods in 2005. Our results are robust to a series of border identification exercises using only blocks within a short range of both commercial and industrial zoning, suggesting our results are likely not driven by unobserved path dependence in land use that is correlated with the zoning ordinance. Finally, we assess the heterogeneous impact of zoning in areas of Chicago that were developed by 1923 and in areas of the city that were undeveloped but still subject to zoning.

Discussant: Leah Brooks (George Washington University)

Hornbeck, Richard (Harvard University and University of Chicago): “Creative Destruction: Barriers to Urban Growth and the Great Boston Fire of 1872”

Historical city growth, in the United States and worldwide, has required remarkable transformation of outdated durable structures. Private land-use decisions may generate persistent inefficiencies, however, due to externalities and various rigidities. This paper analyzes new plot-level data in the aftermath of the Great Boston Fire of 1872, estimating substantial economic gains from the opportunity for urban redevelopment in rapidly growing areas. An important mechanism appears to be positive externalities from neighbors' reconstruction. Strikingly, gains from this opportunity for urban redevelopment were sufficiently large that increases in land values were comparable to the value of all burned buildings.

Discussant: James Siodla (Colby College)

Eriksson, Katherine (California Polytechnic University) and Gregory Niemesh (Miami University): “Impact of Migration on Infant Health: Evidence from the Great Migration”

The Great Migration of African Americans entailed a significant change in the health environment of infants during a time when access to medical care and public health infrastructure became increasingly important. We create a new dataset linking infant death certificates to parental characteristics to estimate the causal impact of Northern migration on infant mortality. The new dataset allows us to partially control for selection into migration. The results add a new dimension to the literature on the contribution of the Great Migration to the secular gains in health and income of African Americans during the 20th century.

Discussant: Marianne Wanamaker (University of Tennessee at Knoxville)
Paper Abstracts

Session: Friday, September 12
3:00–4:30 p.m.

5. Migration and Immigration

Chair: Ran Abramitzky (Stanford University)

Spitzer, Yannay (Brown University) and Ariell Zimran (Northwestern University): “Migrant Self-Selection: Anthropometric Evidence from the Mass Migration of Italians to the United States, 1907–1925”

We study immigrant self-selection using data on Italians entering the United States between 1907 and 1925. Exploiting the relationship between average stature and living standards, we test for self-selection by comparing the heights of migrants to the height distributions of their respective birth cohorts and provinces of origin. We find that the average Italian immigrant was shorter than the average Italian of the same birth cohort---suggesting negative self-selection at the national level---but taller than the average Italian of the same birth cohort and province of origin---indicating positive self-selection at the local level.

Discussant: Ran Abramitzky (Stanford University)

Boustan, Leah (UCLA) and Ran Abramitzky (Stanford University): “Cultural Assimilation in the Age of Mass Migration”

We explore cultural assimilation in the US during the Age of Mass Migration through an analysis of immigrants’ naming practices. On average, immigrant parents chose less foreign-sounding names for sons later in the birth order; no such pattern is found for daughters, sons born abroad or sons of native-born parents. This metric reveals tremendous variation in cultural assimilation: German, Russian, and Scandinavian immigrants start with distinctive naming practices and exhibit near-complete convergence with natives, while Italian and Irish immigrants retain distinctive names throughout this period. Men given foreign names earned less than comparable sons of immigrants parents.

Discussant: Joseph Ferrie (Northwestern University)

Dinkelman, Tary (Dartmouth College) and Martine Mariotti (Australian National University): “Does labor migration affect human capital in the long run? Evidence from Malawi”

Little evidence exists on the effects of labor migration in Africa on sending regions. We estimate the effect of labor migration on educational attainment in Malawi. We use proximity to mine recruiting stations to capture spatial variation in exposure to the expansion and contraction of foreign employment in South Africa in 1967 and 1974. We compare differences in educational attainment across high and low migration shock areas, and among cohorts eligible and ineligible for primary school. Age eligible cohorts have 5 - 7% more schooling in adulthood and are 2.7 to 4 percentage points more likely to have ever attended school.

Discussant: James Fenske (University of Oxford)
Paper Abstracts

Session: Saturday, September 13
8:30–10:00 a.m.

6. Political Economy: Europe

Chair: Mark Koyama (George Mason University)

Johnson, Noel (George Mason University): “Taxes, National Identity, and Nation Building: Evidence from France”
This paper argues that increased state capacity can lower the collective action costs of creating well-functioning national institutions by facilitating the formation of a common identity. This hypothesis is tested by exploiting the fact that the French Monarchy was more successful in substituting its fiscal institutions for those of the medieval seigneurial regime within an area of the country known as the Cinq Grosses Fermes (CGF). Highly disaggregated data from the 1789 Cahiers de Doléances confirm that regions just inside the CGF were more likely than regions just outside the CGF to self-identify with national as opposed to local institutions.

Discussant: Jean-Laurent Rosenthal (Caltech)

Venality of public office was a widespread form of rent-seeking in pre-revolutionary France. Successive legal adjustments converted venal offices into a regular form of property. Though legitimized, the practice became increasingly indefensible as a public vice for private benefit. This paper concentrates on the impact of a tax experiment on the institution twenty years prior to the Revolution. The tax in question (centième) was structured as a revelation mechanism of the value of the offices to their holders. We use a large cross-section of tax payments to infer officeholders’ expectations about the survival of venality.

Discussant: Mark Koyama (George Mason University)

Dincecco, Mark (University of Michigan) and Massimiliano Gaetano Onorato (IMT Lucca): “Military Conflict and the Economic Rise of Urban Europe”
We present new city-level evidence about the military origins of Europe’s economic backbone, the prosperous urban belt that runs from the Low Countries to northern Italy. Military conflict was a defining feature of pre-industrial Europe. The destructive effects of warfare were worse in the countryside, leading rural inhabitants under the threat of conflict to relocate behind urban fortifications. Conflict-related city population growth in turn had long-run economic consequences. We construct a novel conflict exposure measure that computes city distances from 231 major conflicts from 1300 to 1799. We find a significant, positive, and robust relationship between conflict exposure and historical city population growth. Next, we use luminosity data to construct a novel measure of current city-level economic activity. We show evidence that the economic legacy of historical conflict exposure endures to the present day.

Discussant: Philip Hoffman (Caltech)
Paper Abstracts

Session: Saturday, September 13
8:30–10:00 a.m.

7. Political Economy: Latin America

Chair: Dan Bogart (University of California, Irvine)

**Diaz, Jose and Gert Wagner (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile): “Perspiration and Inspiration: Two Centuries of Chilean Growth in Perspective”**

Input availability and overall efficiency are seen as the direct determinants of output and we develop yearly growth accounting estimates for Chile extending over the 19th and 20th centuries. Results are compared with a benchmark based on growth accounting estimates obtained from the literature, where the selection criteria include three aspects: year-to-year estimates, equivalent factor definitions, and a time span of at least 150 years. Due to these restrictions the benchmark turns out to be mainly a sample of today's developed countries. The main findings are: (1) In the long run, Chilean TFP contribution to GDP growth is significantly lower than the benchmark experience. This result has been already pointed out by the literature for the second half of the 20th century and now we can see that the difference persists over time; (2) Concentrating directly on TFP growth instead of its contribution enriches the overall impression obtained from the growth accounting breakdown; (3) Weighted factor contribution is significantly higher than most benchmark countries, underscoring the significance of perspiration in Chile’s growth process; and (4) Chilean TFP growth and contribution are highly volatile both over time and compared to the benchmark. Besides providing estimates stretching back until the early 19th century, a time period scarcely documented for emerging economies, the paper stresses the presence of volatility and discontinuities in the long-run growth path.

**Discussant: John Wallis (University of Maryland)**

**Guardado, Jenny (New York University): “Office-Selling, Corruption and Long-Term Development in Peru”**

This paper investigates the private returns to colonial offices and how these affect long-term economic and political outcomes across sub-national provinces in Peru. To estimate the private returns to office I use a unique dataset of the prices at which colonial government positions were auctioned off by the Spanish Crown between 1674 and 1751. I first show how the gap between the prices paid for office and expected wages is significantly larger in provinces with greater access to rents from agricultural, commercial and exploitative activities, thus consistent with extractive activities offering greater returns to political office. I then present evidence demonstrating that the gap between prices and wages is associated with a long-term economic downturn: places offering greater side gains from office in the 18th century today have higher poverty rates, lower public good provision and lower household consumption. Bootstrap estimates confirm that while the variation in office prices driven by “fundamentals” is associated with better economic outcomes today, the residual variation in prices (potentially associated with corruption) leads to worse development outcomes today. I then argue that one reason for such reversal is political conflict: provinces in which offices offered higher returns exhibited frequent anti-colonial rebellions and heightened anti-government violence detrimental to growth. These results suggest that the motivation for accessing political office can have lasting negative consequences for economic and political development.

**Discussant: Dan Bogart (University of California, Irvine)**


Why do empires subsidize home firms to enter into their colonies? We examine entry of Jersey Standard (JS) to Colombia. Using archival and econometric analysis we document that 1) U.S. support to Panama’s secession from Colombia in 1903 created an unlikely political asset for U.S. firms entering Colombia, 2) Colombia’s government induced JS to organize a coalition within the U.S. senate to compensate Colombia for Panama’s loss, and 3) U.S. was better off facilitating JS entry. Compensation was an implicit subsidy for JS to open Colombian oilfields, induced by Colombia, and the outcome of redistributive conflict within the empire.

**Discussant: Alan Dye (Barnard College)**
Paper Abstracts

Session: Saturday, September 13
8:30–10:00 a.m.

8. Trade

Chair: Martha Olney (University of California, Berkeley)

Meissner, Christopher (University of California, Davis and NBER), Michael Huberman (Université de Montréal), and Kim Oosterlinck (Université Libre de Bruxelles): “Technology and Geography in the Second Industrial Revolution: New Evidence from the Margins of Trade”

Between 1890 and 1910 Belgium experienced a trade boom. Productivity growth showed a more modest acceleration. Using a new, highly disaggregated data set on exports and imports, we introduce geography, or trade costs, as a factor in Belgium’s trade performance and study its relation to industry-level productivity growth. The effect of trade costs was mediated by the extensive and intensive margins of trade. In markets for differentiated goods, the extensive margin dominated, the number of new goods and new markets expanding as trade costs fell. But the same decline in trade costs enabled less productive concerns to become viable exporters, average industry productivity stagnating as a result.

Discussant: John Tang (Australian National University)

de Bromhead, Alan (Mansfield College, University of Oxford): “Women Voters and Trade Protectionism in the Interwar Years”

This paper explores the impact of the extensions of the franchise that followed the First World War and their effects on the political economy of trade policy. Public opinion survey evidence from the interwar years suggests that women were more likely to hold protectionist attitudes than men, in line with the gender gap apparent from modern day surveys. A panel data analysis of average tariff rates during the interwar period reveals an important effect of the granting of a political voice to women. Where women were entitled to vote tariffs were, on average, higher.

Discussant: Martha Olney (University of California, Berkeley)

Fouquin, Michel and Jules Hugot (CEPII): “Trade globalization: 1827-2012 When did trade costs start to fall?”

This article provides the first assessment of the early nineteenth century trade globalization based on a systematic collection of the available bilateral trade data. Drawing on a unique dataset of more than 1.3 million observations for the 1827-2012 period, we show that the nineteenth century trade globalization began roughly twenty years before the 1860s blooming age of trade liberalization. To do so, we use the Head and Ries (2001) index that measures for each country pair and year the implicit tariff-equivalent trade costs, relative to domestic trade costs. We develop a new method of aggregation to obtain two trade cost indices that reflect the trend for the entire sample. Our finding of an early start for the First globalization is consistent with the price convergence approach, but challenges the studies that suggest that the First globalization began c.1870. We then decompose trade costs into a border and a distance effect. We find a dramatic rise in the distance effect in the post-World War II era. For the nineteenth century, we show a similar rise in the trade response to distance until c.1890, followed by a period of stability until World War I and a fall during the interwar de-globalization. These results show that both periods of trade globalization have been primarily fueled by the intensification of short-haul trade.

Discussant: Paul Sharp (University of Southern Denmark)
Paper Abstracts

Session: Saturday, September 13
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

9. Diverging and Converging

Chair: Jared Rubin (Chapman University)

Bell, Adrian, Chris Brooks, and Tony Moore (University of Reading): “Did Purchasing Power Parity Hold in Medieval Europe?”
This paper employs a hand-collected dataset of real exchange rates for five major currencies to consider whether the law of one price and purchasing power parity held in medieval Europe. Using single series and panel unit root and stationarity tests, we show that PPP held for several of the individual series and almost all of the panel groups. This provides further evidence for economic and financial development during the Middle Ages. Interestingly, there seems to have been greater integration along a North-South axis from London, through Bruges to Florence than there was East-West between the latter two places and Paris/Barcelona.

Discussant: Anne McCants (MIT)

Ko, Chiu Yu (National University of Singapore), Mark Koyama (George Mason University), and Tuan-Hwee Sng (National University of Singapore): “Unified China and Divided Europe”
This paper studies the causes and consequences of political centralization and fragmentation in China and Europe. We argue that the severe and unidirectional threat of external invasion fostered political centralization in China while Europe faced a wider variety of moderate external threats and remained politically fragmented. Our model allows us to explore the consequences of political centralization and fragmentation. Political centralization in China led to lower taxation and hence faster population growth during peacetime than in Europe. But it also meant that China was relatively fragile in the event of an external invasion. Our results are consistent with historical evidence of violent conflicts, tax levels, and population growth in both China and Europe.

Discussant: Jared Rubin (Chapman University)

Broadberry, Stephen (London School of Economics and CAGE), Hanhui Guan (Peking University), and David Daokui Li (Tsinghua University): “China, Europe, and the Great Divergence: A Study in Historical National Accounting”
GDP is estimated for China between the late tenth and mid-nineteenth centuries, and combined with population estimates. Chinese GDP per capita was highest during the Northern Song dynasty and declined during the Ming and Qing dynasties. China led the world in living standards during the Northern Song dynasty, but had fallen behind Italy by 1300. At this stage, it is possible that the Yangzi delta was still on a par with the richest parts of Europe, but by 1700 the gap was too large to be bridged by regional variation within China and the Great Divergence had already begun.

Discussant: Tom Weiss (University of Kansas and NBER)
Paper Abstracts

Session: Saturday, September 13
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

10. Political Economy: American States and Tribes

Chair: Robert Margo (Boston University)

Mathy, Gabriel (American University) and Nicolas Ziebarth (University of Iowa and NBER): “How Much Does Political Uncertainty Matter? The Case of Louisiana Under Huey Long”

We study the role of political uncertainty in economic outcomes for the case of Huey Long’s reign over Louisiana during the Great Depression. We construct two established measures of uncertainty specifically for Louisiana using primary sources: stock price volatility and newspaper mentions of the word “uncertainty.” Combining these uncertainty measures with employment data from the Census of Manufactures, we attempt to identify the effects of political uncertainty in Louisiana using the state of Mississippi as a control group. We find limited evidence for the significance of political uncertainty using a standard diff-in-diff framework. This is true even after restricting attention to border counties. Finally, we conduct an event study on the unexpected assassination of Long in September 1935. Again we find no effect on employment even though there is some narrative evidence for a decline in political uncertainty. We conclude that whatever political uncertainty was attributable to Huey Long mattered very little for economic outcomes.

Discussant: Robert Margo (Boston University)

Ager, Philipp (University of Southern Denmark): “The Persistence of De Facto Power: Elites and Economic Development in the U.S. South, 1840–1960”

Wealthy elites may end up retarding economic development for their own interests. This paper examines how the historical planter elite of the Southern US affected economic development at the county level between 1840 and 1960. To capture the planter elite’s potential to exercise de facto power, I construct a new dataset on the personal wealth of the richest Southern planters before the American Civil War. I find that counties with a relatively wealthier planter elite before the Civil War performed significantly worse in the post-war decades and even after World War II. I argue that this is the likely consequence of the planter elite’s lack of support for mass schooling. My results suggest that when during Reconstruction the US government abolished slavery and enfranchised the freedmen, the planter elite used their de facto power to maintain their influence over the political system and preserve a plantation economy based on low-skilled labor. In fact, I find that the planter elite was better able to sustain land prices and the production of plantation crops during Reconstruction in counties where they had more de facto power.

Discussant: Lee Alston (Indiana University)

Frye, Dustin (University of Colorado, Boulder): “The Indian Reorganization Act, Tribal Sovereignty, and Economic Development”

In 1934 the US government passed significant legislation governing American Indian reservations, the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA). Adoption of the IRA was voluntary and tribes declining the IRA faced less federal oversight. This paper measures the impact of IRA adoption on current reservation development. To mitigate selection concerns, I exploit IRA voting results from the mid-1930s by restricting my analysis to tribes that held close elections. Empirical results using 1990 reservation-level census data indicate that IRA adoption stifled economic development. Per capita income is over 40 percent lower among IRA reservations. The results indicate increased self-governance is necessary for development on Indian reservations.

Discussant: Melinda Miller (US Naval Academy)
Paper Abstracts

Session: Saturday, September 13
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

11. How New Evidence and New Interpretations are Changing our Understanding of the Ancient World

Chair: Karen Clay (Carnegie Mellon University)

Manning, Joseph (Yale University): “Leagues and kingdoms. Beyond the city-state”
This paper examines the impact of the new political economies of the Hellenistic kingdoms, treating the new economic and fiscal institutions that were created, and the resulting change in the behavior both of states and of individuals. I will examine in particular the spread of “associations” and other private social organizations. While such groups were hardly new in the Hellenistic period, I will examine the relationship between them and the new kingdoms, and specifically the important role that such organizations played in private agreements between persons as well as in trade networks.

Discussant: Karen Clay (Carnegie Mellon University)

Oliver, Graham (Brown University): “People and cities: economic horizons beyond the Hellenistic polis”
A human glue bonded the Hellenistic world together. People moved beyond the polis and existed within and out with the city. The complex and changing environment of monarchies and the growing Roman Republic made the Hellenistic period a time of dynamic change. But ever present throughout was the polis whose persistence from Archaic, through Classical, and Hellenistic eras presents a unique opportunity to read political economies in the long run. This paper offers an overview that looks from within and beyond the polis through its institutions and people to the horizons of the Hellenistic world at large.

Discussant: Charles Calomiris (Columbia Business School)

Bresson, Alain (University of Chicago): “Flexible interfaces of the Hellenistic world”
The Hellenistic world was not a world without frictions, where transaction costs would have miraculously absent. But the existence of a common language and cultural background, of striking similarities in the border crossing procedures, of a common currency for international trade as well as on the whole low customs duties allowed men, goods and ideas to circulate with on an unprecedented scale and with unprecedented speed in the Mediterranean basin and beyond. In a world where cities remained the nodes of international communications, local associations of traders played a prominent interface role at the junction between international and local market.

Discussant: Richard Steckel (Ohio State University)
Barrators, Berats, and Bandits: Economic Implications of Legal Rules in the Ottoman Empire and Egypt, 1600–1921

Cihan Artunc (Yale University), currently University of Arizona

This dissertation examines the role of legal institutions on the Middle East’s economic development. The first two chapters study the multiplicity of legal systems, “legal pluralism,” in the Ottoman Empire. The first chapter develops a game theoretic model and uses primary evidence to show that forum shopping reduced contract credibility, created a market where access to additional legal systems was auctioned off and allowed non-Muslim Ottomans, who had access to the largest number of legal jurisdictions, to drive out both Muslims and Europeans of trade. The second chapter focuses on the sale of exemption licenses called berats, which were sold by European embassies and granted access to European law. I use primary evidence to construct a novel price panel of berats. Non-Muslim Ottomans paid about 55 times the annual Ottoman GDP per capita in 1800. Tax privileges cannot explain these high prices. Multiple berat acquisition from different countries and the frequency of forum shopping show that there was an option value associated with additional legal systems. Agents purchased berats to enhance the quality of legal protection they provided. The ease of dissolution allowed partnerships to learn about match quality and do welfare-improving experimentation.

Advisors: Timothy Guinnane (Yale)
Dissertation Session

Saturday, September 13
2:15–4:15 p.m.

Nevins Prize Nominees
Convener: Leah Boustan (UCLA)

The Warring Forties
Taylor Jaworski (University of Arizona), currently Queen’s University
This dissertation studies the impact of World War II on the development of the American economy after 1940. Scholars have long-debated the economic consequences of the war, particularly with reference to the macro-economy and often relying on standard measures of aggregate economic performance. The approach in this dissertation is to study the microeconomic implications of mobilization for World War II. The first chapter provides an overview of America’s twentieth century wars and surveys the literature on the impact of World War II. In the second chapter, I find that greater exposure to manpower mobilization decreased young women’s educational attainment initially, with important implications for family formation and labor market performance. From the analysis of the third chapter I conclude that the war led to modest reallocation of manufacturing activity toward high value-added sectors, but the war most likely did not create the modern industrial South. In the final chapter I provide evidence that migration induced by World War II played a role in reshaping the structure of wages during the 1940s. Together, the chapters provide important nuance and revisions to our understanding of World War II.

Advisors: Price Fishback (University of Arizona, chair), Mo Xiao, Ashley Langer, Gautam Gowrisankaran

The Impact of Technological Change within the Home
Joshua Lewis (University of Toronto), currently Université de Montréal
During the first two thirds of the 20th century, electricity, running water, and a host of new consumer durables diffused into most American homes. These new household technologies revolutionized domestic life by freeing up time from basic housework. In this dissertation, I study the consequences of household technological change on families, focusing on fertility, child health, marriage, and female labour force participation. Chapter 1 provides a short history of household modernization. In chapter 2, I study the impact of household technological change on fertility and child health, exploiting substantial cross-county and cross-state variation in the timing of when households acquired new consumer durables. In chapter 3, I examine the relationship between household modernization, investment in children, and female employment. I present a conceptual framework in which household technological change has little immediate impact on female employment, but generates increased investment in daughters’ human capital, ultimately causing a rise in employment for subsequent cohorts of women. I find empirical support for these predictions. Further, the results suggest that the diffusion of modern technology into the home during the first half of the 20th century can account for a significant fraction of the rise in female employment after 1950.

Advisors: Dwayne Benjamin (University of Toronto), Robert McMillan, Aloysius Siow, and Mark Stabile

Inequality and Discrimination in Historical and Modern Labor Markets
Roy Mill (Stanford University), currently Ancestry.com
This dissertation uses two disparate settings to investigate sources of racial and ethnic inequality in labor markets. In the first setting we study the effect of race on economic outcomes using unique panel data from the first half of the twentieth century, a period in which skin color was explicitly coded in population censuses as White, Black, or Mulatto. To explore the role of the more social aspect that might be associated with being Black, we then focus on individuals who passed for White, an important social phenomenon at the time. To do so, we identify individuals coded Mulatto as children but White as adults. Passing for White meant that individuals changed their racial affiliation by changing their social ties, while skin color remained unchanged. Passing was associated with substantially higher earnings, suggesting that race in its social form could have significant consequences for economic outcomes. The second setting is an online employer-freelancer matching platform freelancer.com. I study the effect of a freelancer’s country-of-origin on the employer’s decision of whether to hire them. I find that freelancers from developing countries are less likely to be hired when they have no individual reputation, and as individual reputation becomes better this country effect disappears. Moreover, I show that following a good match with a freelancer, employers are more likely to hire freelancers from the good match’s country. I discuss how these findings contributes to our understanding of matching, learning, and discrimination in online settings.

Advisors: Ran Abramitzky (Stanford University, Chair); Liran Einav, Avner Greif, Gavin Wright
Presidential Address:

Philip Hoffman
California Institute of Technology


Saturday, September 13
4:45-5:45 p.m.

Location: Hayes A
Paper Abstracts

Session: Sunday, September 14
8:30–10:00 a.m.

12. Corporations

Chair: Jeremy Atack (Vanderbilt University)

Morin, Miguel (University of Cambridge): “The labor market consequences of electricity adoption in the concrete industry during the Great Depression”
The 1920s and 1930s witnessed changes in the US labor market, with a shift away from dexterity-intensive occupations, a productivity speedup, and low job creation. This paper asks whether the adoption of electricity can explain these changes. The identification strategy uses a state’s initial loading on the technology to generate electricity—hydroelectric power or coal power—as an instrument for changes in the price of electricity. It also uses a newly digitized dataset for the concrete industry from 1929 to 1935 to provide plant-level measures of labor market outcomes. Technical progress in electric utilities caused, in the downstream industry of concrete, a decrease in employment and in the labor share of income, as well as an increase in labor quantity productivity and electrical intensity.

Discussant: Joshua Lewis (University of Montreal)

Gregg, Amanda (Yale University): “Factory Productivity and the Concession System of Incorporation in Late Imperial Russia”
In the Russian Empire, incorporation required a time-consuming and expensive Imperial concession, yet over four thousand Russian firms incorporated before 1914. This paper documents the characteristics of incorporating firms by examining a novel panel database of manufacturing enterprises from Russian factory censuses conducted in 1894, 1900, and 1908. In the cross-section, corporation-owned factories are larger and more productive. When factories are matched across years, more productive factories are more likely to incorporate; after incorporating, these factories have greater machine power per worker and even greater revenue per worker, suggesting the importance of incorporation for capital accumulation.

Discussant: Jeremy Atack (Vanderbilt University)

The history of London’s water supply industry in the eighteenth century has relevance for the history of the Industrial Revolution. Established around 1600, companies were supplying water directly to tens of thousands of houses by 1700 and continued to grow thereafter. This water supply was anomalous as compared to other cities in Europe which were much smaller. The industry developed in Britain in part due London’s status as a commercial hub and the willingness of both local and national government to support the project. Joint-stock financing was important for water companies. Finally, this history shows the existence of technological inventiveness outside the manufacturing sectors.

Discussant: Jessica Hennessey (Furman University)
Paper Abstracts

Session: Sunday, September 14
8:30–10:00 a.m.

13. Priests, War, and Property

Chair: Sumner LaCroix (University of Hawaii)

La Parra Perez, Alvaro (University of Maryland): “Fighting Against Democracy: Military Factions in the Second Spanish Republic and Civil War (1931–1939)”
My paper studies the failure to consolidate democracy in Spain during the Second Republic (1931-1939). Existing explanations rely on “block views” in which major players are treated as homogenous groups. In contrast, I focus on the Army and show that the military was a heterogeneous political player. I build a new data set to estimate how republican military reforms related to officers’ likelihood to support the rebel coup that ended the Republic. Results indicate that the Army was not a monolithic organization. Officers and factions whose professional and economic prospects deteriorated under the Republic were more likely to revolt.

Discussant: Lee Alston (Indiana University)

Cosgel, Metin (University of Connecticut) and Thomas Miceli (University of Connecticut): “Theocracy over Time”
Political authorities have historically had a mysterious tendency towards theocracy, exemplified by their religious titles, close affiliations with religious figures, or even divine powers. To examine theocracy over time, we constructed two unique datasets, one that includes information on the political and religious characteristics of over five hundred polities observed in history and another that uses today’s nations as units of analysis and tracks in 50-100 year intervals which polities have ruled in these lands. Combining the information from the two datasets, we examine the evolution of theocracy over time and its variation across geographic regions and religious traditions.

Discussant: Jared Rubin (Chapman University)

Vechbanyongratana, Jessica (Chulalongkorn University): “Property Rights, Land Markets, and Land Use in Bangkok: Consequences of Siam’s 1901 Land Act”
This paper assesses the impact of Siam’s 1901 Land Act on land markets and land use in Bangkok. Using a sample of orchard title deeds issued in the 1880s, this study investigates the incidence of land transfers and subsequent land use patterns both before and after the transition from usufruct to full private ownership rights as a result of the 1901 Act. Survival analysis shows that introducing full private property rights led to an acceleration of urban orchard title transfers. In addition, qualitative analysis suggests that institutional change facilitated land use diversification away from agriculture and towards alternative economic activities.

Discussant: Sumner LaCroix (University of Hawaii)
Paper Abstracts

Session: Sunday, September 14
8:30–10:00 a.m.

14. Education

Chair: Latika Chaudhury (Naval Postgraduate School)

Kantor, Shawn (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute & NBER) and Alexander Whalley (University of California, Merced & NBER) “Research Proximity and Productivity: Long-Term Evidence from Agriculture”

We use the late 19th century establishment of agricultural experiment stations in the United States to estimate the importance of proximity to research for productivity growth. Our analysis of county-level agricultural census data from 1870 to 2000 reveals three results. First, research proximity effects from permanent station opening grew for about 20 years and then subsequently declined until becoming largely absent today. Second, proximity to station-based innovations affected local farmers’ productivity for 20 to 40 years after the discovery. Third, research proximity effects remain today where stations historically focused on basic research and where nearby farmers were producing with frontier technology.

Discussant: Joshua Rosenbloom (University of Kansas)

Thomson, Ross (University of Vermont): “Government- Led Innovation in a Period of Small Government: The United States, 1820 to 1941”

In conventional interpretations, U.S. technological innovation was overwhelmingly private before 1941. Building on studies of biological and mineral innovation, I utilize historical biographies to contend that from 1820 through 1941, the government targeted, structured, and undertook technological innovations across wide ranges of the economy. Fifty-six percent of 1,336 major innovators learned from government employment and contracting in ways that shaped their innovations. State and local governments were almost as active as the federal government. Such innovation concentrated in civilian uses. Studies of the USDA, the USGS, urban water-supply agencies, and land-grant colleges reveal how small government generated so much innovation.

Discussant: Petra Moser (Stanford University)
Paper Abstracts

Session: Sunday, September 14
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

15. Something Blue

Chair: Trevon Logan (Ohio State University)

This article explores the determinants of price level fluctuations in Britain during the first suspension of the gold standard over the 1797-1821 period. I find that the contemporary price level was determined by world gold prices and expectations regarding the resumption of the gold standard at the pre-war parity. As the latter hinged on market participants’ expectations concerning the financial burden of the Napoleonic Wars, my contribution establishes the importance of fiscal factors for the determination of the price level.

Discussant: Hugh Rockoff (Rutgers University)

Eichengreen, Barry (University of California, Berkeley), Livia Chițu (European Central Bank), and Arnaud Mehl (Paris School of Economics): “Network Effects, Homogeneous Goods and International Currency Choice: New Evidence on Oil Markets from an Older Era”
Conventional wisdom has it that network effects are strong in markets for homogenous goods, leading to the dominance of one settlement currency in such markets. The alleged dominance of the US dollar in global oil markets is said to epitomize this phenomenon. We question this presumption with evidence for earlier periods showing that several national currencies have simultaneously played substantial roles in global oil markets. That several national currencies could simultaneously play a role in international oil settlements suggests that a shift from the current dollar-based system toward a multipolar system in the period ahead is not impossible.

Discussant: Rui Esteves (University of Oxford)

Glaser, Darrell and Ahmed Rahman (US Naval Academy): “Human Capital on the High Seas - Job Mobility and Returns to Technical Skill During Industrialization”
This paper examines the effects of engineer-oriented and technical experience on job mobility during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. We exploit longitudinal data on British and American naval officer careers to show how various types of technical experience and managerial positions affected the probability of job switches between the 1870s and early 1900s. Further, following a Topel and Ward (1992) based framework, we impute annual rates of return to education and technical training. To our knowledge these are the earliest estimates of returns to any type of technical skill for an advanced economy.

Discussant: Trevon Logan (Ohio State University)
Paper Abstracts

Session: Sunday, September 14
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

16. Borrowing and Shocks

Chair: Susan Wolcott (SUNY-Binghampton)

Chaudhary, Latika (Scripps College) and Anand Swamy (Williams College): “Protecting the Borrower: An Experiment in Colonial India”
We study the background and impact of the Deccan Agriculturists’ Relief Act (DARA), a legislation to protect debtors that was adopted in the Bombay Presidency in colonial India. Our analysis is relevant to two literatures. To the discussion of “legal origins” of developing-country legal systems we present DARA as an example of explicit repudiation of legal importation by a British colonial state. To developing country policy-makers DARA may be instructive as a credit-market intervention in which borrowers were protected from lenders (and maybe even themselves) without, apparently, hurting economic growth.

Discussant: Susan Wolcott (SUNY-Binghampton)

Xue, Meng (George Mason University): “Textiles and the Historical Emergence of Gender Equality in China”
This paper seeks to better understand the historical determinants of son preference among Han Chinese. I test the hypothesis that historical textile production led to a decline in son preference. I exploit exogenous variation in historical textile production at the county level to casually identify the effect of textiles on son preference. I find that historical textile production is positively correlated with female labor participation, and negatively correlated with sex ratio imbalances and sex-specific parental investment. I use an instrumental variable strategy to account for potential endogeneity and measurement error. My results are robust to the use of different sub-samples and propensity score matching.

Discussant: Bill Collins (Vanderbilt)

Fenske, James (University of Oxford) and Namrata Kala (Yale University): “1807: Economic Shocks, Conflict, and the Slave Trade”
Suppression of the slave trade after 1807 increased the incidence of conflict between Africans. We use geo-coded data on African conflicts to uncover a discontinuous increase in conflict after 1807 in areas affected by the slave trade. In West Africa, the slave trade declined. This empowered interests that rivaled existing authorities, and political leaders resorted to violence in order to maintain their influence. In West-Central and South-East Africa, slave exports increased after 1807 and were produced through violence. We validate our explanation using Southwestern Nigeria and Eastern South Africa as examples. Present-day conflict is more severe in regions where slave exports rose after 1807.

Discussant: Gavin Wright (Stanford University)
## Graduate Student Poster Session

**Friday, September 12 and Saturday, September 13**

Friday, 1:00-5:00 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

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<td>Impact of Federal Preemption on Competition in the United States Telegraph Market</td>
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<td>Alex Hollingsworth</td>
<td>University of Arizona</td>
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<td>Anne Ruderman</td>
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<td>Conor Lennon</td>
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<td>Slave Escape and Regional Price Variation: Evidence from the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850</td>
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<td>When Does Government Spending Matter? Evidence from a New Measure of Anticipated Defense Spending, 1938-2010</td>
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<td>Hoa Nguyen</td>
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<td>Automobile Diffusion in U.S in the Early 20th Century</td>
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<td>James Feigenbaum</td>
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<td>Family Planning and Fertility in South Africa under Apartheid</td>
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<td>Jonathan Chapman</td>
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<td>Death, Taxes and the Franchise</td>
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<td>Judge Glock</td>
<td>Rutgers University</td>
<td>The Birth of the Government Sponsored Enterprise in the United States</td>
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<td>Lucas Puente</td>
<td>Stanford University</td>
<td>The Politics Behind the Structure of the Federal Reserve</td>
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<td>Megan Fasules</td>
<td>American University</td>
<td>The Impact of Medicare on Personal Bankruptcy</td>
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**Graduate Student Poster Session**

**Friday, September 12 and Saturday, September 13**

Friday, 1:00-5:00 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**CONTINUED**

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<td>Yale University</td>
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EHA ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Friday Workshop:**
*Job Market Tips and Tales*
Gregory Niemesh (Miami University) and Taylor Jaworski (Queen’s University)

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Meeting Room 32

A *must* for graduate students!

_________________________

**Friday Evening Graduate Student and Faculty Mentors Dinner**

9:00-11:30 p.m.

Hosted by: Jessica Bean

Location: Columbus Brewing Company
(http://www.columbusbrewingco.com/).
Departure directly from the reception with Jessica.

_________________________

**Sunday Full Buffet Breakfast**

Sponsored by: *Global Financial Data*

7:00-8:30 a.m.

Hayes A

Everyone is welcome to attend!
FRIDAY EVENING RECEPTION

6:00—8:00 p.m.

Ohio Statehouse

http://www.ohiostatehouse.org/

Sponsored by Ohio State University.

It is located two blocks from the conference hotel, about a three minute walk. Those wishing to walk as a group, gather in the hotel lobby latest by 5.45 pm.
EHA ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Annual Business Meeting

Saturday 1:00–2:00 p.m.
Hayes A

Everyone Attends!

Be present for election results, committee reports, announcements of upcoming conferences, and the transfer of the gavel from President Philip Hoffman to incoming President Robert Margo.

---

BOOK EXHIBIT

Location: Hayes DE

Books from several publishers are on display. Before 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, put your name on the card in a book if you want a chance to purchase it. Buyers will be selected from book cards at 5 p.m. that day.

The lucky purchaser will get to buy the book at 50 per cent off the list price. Everyone else can order the book from the convention flyer at the publisher’s discount. Books may be paid for from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon and 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. Books not reclaimed by 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning will be sold to whoever is first to purchase them.

See the flyer in your registration packet for more information.

If you wish to order a book, please be sure to use the press’s convention flyer. Publishers decide whether to exhibit based on the number of books ordered with convention flyers.
EHA ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Presidential Banquet and Awards Ceremony

7:30 p.m. in Hayes BC

A few additional tickets may be available for the banquet.

Please check at the registration desk.

_________________________________________________________________

Awards to Be Presented:

*Alexander Gerschenkron Prize*

For the best dissertation in economic history dealing with an area outside the United States or Canada

*Allan Nevins Prize*

For the best dissertation in U.S. or Canadian economic history

*Arthur H. Cole Prize*

For the best article published in the *JEH* since September of previous year

*Best Article Published in Explorations in Economic History Prize*

*Alice Hanson Jones Biennial Prize*

For an outstanding book in economic history of North America

*Jonathan Hughes Teaching Prize*

For excellence in teaching economic history
EHA ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President’s Party
Saturday
10:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.
Meeting Room 30

Hosted by Philip Hoffman, sponsored by California Institute of Technology.

Everyone is Invited!

Historians’ Breakfast
6:45-8:00 a.m.
Meeting Room 30

Christopher Lloyd (University of Tampere, Finland, and University of New England, Australia):
“How Can History Be Put Back into Economic History?”

Teachers’ Breakfast
6:45-8:00 a.m.
Executive Meeting Room

David Weiman (Barnard College):
"Primary Sources and Empirical Reasoning in Curriculum"
Economic History Association Meeting  
September 11-13, 2015  
Nashville, Tennessee

Diversity in Economic History

President Robert Margo will host the 2015 meeting at the Sheraton Nashville Downtown hotel.

Program proposals will be due January 31, 2015 and can be submitted via the EHA Meetings website (to be activated by November 1). More details will be posted on this later.

Jeremy Atack will chair the local arrangements committee and has already arranged support locally.

Contact Meetings Coordinator Jari Eloranta (elorantaj@appstate.edu) for more information.
The Economic History Association would like to thank, in addition to those directly involved with making the conference a success, the following for their support:

David Blau (Ohio State University, Economics)
Peter Hahn (Ohio State University, History)
Joseph Steinmetz (Ohio State University, Provost)
Alex Hollingsworth (University of Arizona, Fishback’s assistant)
Lana Sooter (EHA Administrative Coordinator)
Global Financial Data
Cambridge University Press
2014 Economic History Association Annual Meeting

2014 Contributors to Support Graduate Student Participation at the Annual Meetings:

Ran Abramitzky
Lee Alston
Jeremy Atack
Dan Bogart
Leah Boustan
Alain Bresson
Joyce Burnette
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Hugh Rockoff
Eric Schneider
Richard Steckel
Broadberry Stephen
Richard Sylla
Werner Troesken
Marianne Wanamaker
Thomas Weiss
Gavin Wright
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2014 EHA Award Recipients:

Sokoloff Fellowship:
James Lee (Harvard University); Elizabeth Perlman (Boston University)

Graduate Dissertation Fellowships:
Daniel Gross (University of California, Berkeley); Anne Ruderman (Yale University); Marlous van Waijenburg (Northwestern University)

Exploratory Travel and Data Grants:
Andrea Maerean (University of Southern Denmark); Ariell Zimran (Northwestern University); Carlos Eduardo Hernandez (University of California, Los Angeles); Cong Liu (University of Arizona); Edward S. Fertik (Yale University); Fan Fei (University of Michigan); Guillermo Ruiz-Stovel (University of California, Los Angeles); Haikun Zhu (Tilburg University); Michela Giorcelli (Stanford University); Ruth Maria Schueler (Ifo Center for the Economics of Education and Innovation); Seyedeh Soudeh Mirghasemi (University of Arizona); Shameel Ahmad (Yale University)

Arthur H. Cole Grant:
Katherine Eriksson & Gregory Niemesh (California Polytechnic State University and Miami University); Eric Schneider (University of Sussex); Jessica Bean (Denison University); William Walker Hanlon (University of California, Los Angeles)
Call for Papers
40th Annual Conference
La Crosse, WI
May 28-30, 2015

The Economic and Business History Society (EBHS) is now accepting proposals for our 40th annual conference, to be held at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse. Proposals for presentations on any aspect of economic or business history are welcome, as are proposals for whole panels. We welcome submissions from graduate students and non-academic affiliates.

The keynote speaker at the conference dinner will be Professor Jeffrey Williamson, Laird Bell Professor of Economics, Emeritus, Harvard University. In addition to the sessions, we will be organizing some social activities that should be of interest to all participants.

Proposals should include an abstract of no more than 500 words and contact details. The deadline for submission of proposals is February 15, 2015. The Program Chair will send a notification of acceptance of abstracts by March 1, 2015. Online registration will be available soon at www.ebhsoc.org. Proposals may be submitted through the EBHS website at www.ebhsoc.org, by email to ebhs2015@ebhsoc.org, or to the Program Chair by postal mail: Mike Haupert, Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin - La Cross, 1725 State St., La Crosse, WI 54601, USA. If you have further questions about the meeting or organization please contact Program Chair Mike Haupert, mhaupert@uwla.x.edu, or EBHS President Erik Benson, erik.benson@comerstone.edu

EBHS also operates a peer-reviewed open access journal, Essays in Economic and Business History, edited by Jason Taylor (Central Michigan University). Conference papers and non-conference papers alike may be submitted to Essays for consideration. We invite you to visit our website, www.ebhsoc.org, to see our editorial board and policies, as well as back issues.

We look forward to welcoming you to La Crosse!
OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2015 Annual Cliometric Society Conference

The annual Cliometric Society Conference in 2015 will be held on the weekend of Friday 15 May through Sunday 17 at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan and hosted by the University of Michigan and the National Science Foundation.

The conference is designed to provide extensive discussion of new and innovative research in economic history. We consider applicants from all continents and papers addressing important topics in economic history for all countries. We particularly encourage interdisciplinary research and seek a diverse set of papers addressing local, country, regional, and global issues. Applications to present papers or to attend the conference are welcome from graduate students, junior faculty, and senior faculty in economic history as well as distinguished faculty in other fields who have research interests in economic history.

Typically, twelve papers are selected for presentation and discussion. These are sent out to all conference participants in advance. Each paper is a single session, in which authors have five minutes to make an opening statement and the rest of the hour session is devoted to discussion among all conference participants. All participants are required to have read all papers and to attend the entire conference, i.e., arrive before the opening session on Friday and leave after the closing session on Sunday. At least one author must be a member of the Cliometric Society. For membership information contact Professor Michael Haupert at mhaupert@uw.lax.edu.

Proposals and requests to attend the conference will be accepted beginning Monday 17 November 2014. The deadline to submit a paper proposal or a request to attend the conference is Wednesday 21 January 2015. Those wishing to present a paper should provide an abstract and a 3-5 page summary of the proposed paper. In choosing papers and participants, the host committee will assign priority to those who have not attended recently or who have never attended. Graduate students wishing to attend or submit a paper proposal must obtain a letter of recommendation from their dissertation advisor. Those whose papers are selected for presentation will be notified by Wednesday 18 February 2015 and are expected to provide a completed draft of the paper in the proper format for the conference volume no later than Wednesday 1 April 2015.

We STRONGLY PREFER that applicants submit their materials via the web at the following site: http://eh.net/2015-cliometrics-conference-proposal-submission/.

Proposals (including addresses, phone numbers and email addresses) may also be e-mailed to clio2015@hawaii.edu or sent via snail mail to Cliometric Society Conference Administrator, University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization, 2424 Maile Way, Rm 540, Honolulu, HI, 96822 USA.
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Studies in Economic History

Aims and Scope
This series from Springer provides a platform for works in economic history that truly integrate economics and history. Books on a wide range of related topics are welcomed and encouraged, including those in macro-economic history, financial history, labor history, industrial history, agricultural history, the history of institutions and organizations, spatial economic history, law and economic history, political economic history, historical demography, and environmental history.

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