Gabriel F. Geisler Mesevage

Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse, 21 allée de Brienne, 31015, Toulouse, France > +33(0)640384827 \bowtie gabriel.mesevage@iast.fr

Education

2011–2016 PhD History minor in Economics, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.

2009–2011 Masters in International Studies, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.

2005–2009 MA International Relations and Anthropology, University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews.

PhD thesis

Title Information Bubbles: The Market for Financial Information and the Railway Mania of 1845,

Defended 19 September 2016, Summa Cum Laude

Committee Marc Flandreau, Rui Esteves, Jean-Louis Arcand, Carolyn Biltoft

Description My thesis studies the railway mania of 1845, company promotion, and the role of the financial press in contributing to the bubble. I constructed a new database of railway companies, allowing me to demonstrate how the bubble prompted the creation of low-quality and fraudulent railway projects, and how these companies were able to market themselves by advertising heavily in the press, and offering newspapers inducements to cover their stock favorably. I then show how the media market responded with a proliferation of start-up finance journals, created to help market railway stock. In the aftermath of the mania the market for information re-adjusted, with the newspapers that profited most from the mania being punished through a loss of market-share, and those newspapers created to promote the stock going out of business. The thesis offers a framework within which to understand the links between bubbles and the financial press, and offers important revisions to the way we understand the railway mania.

Employment

2017–Present

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse. Postdoctoral Fellow in history and economics in an interdisciplinary research institute housed within the Toulouse School of Economics.

2015 - 2017

Marie Curie Early Stage Research Fellow, Department of Economics, University of Oxford.

Commenced a research fellowship on political corruption in mid-Victorian Britain jointly with Rui Esteves.

Developed methods for the detection of vote-trading in the British Parliament using social network analysis and spatial econometric models.

October 2016 Visitor in Economics, Caltech.

Invited to present current research and visit at the University of Caltech.

2013–2014 **Teaching Assistant**, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.

Worked on a range of graduate-level courses, including:

- History & Development
- Power, Poverty and Wealth in Africa from the Slave Trades to the Present
- Résistances et protestations au Moyen-Orient: une perspective socio-historique
- 2010–2012 **Research Assistant**, Geneva Center for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, Geneva.

Researched Parliamentary control of intelligence agencies by conducting interviews with relevant European MPs and civil servants. Organized training workshops on parliamentary oversight of intelligence agencies for MPs in the Balkans.

2009–2010 Research Assistant, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.

Worked on a research project led by Marc Flandreau comparing the economic history of the French and British press.

Publications

Peer Reviewed

- "Network Analysis", in Matthias Blum and Christopher L. Colvin (Eds.) An Economist's Guide to Economic History, London: Palgrave, 2018.
- with Marc Flandreau, "The Opaque Origins of the Business of Transparency: Mercantile Agencies, the Law and the Lawyers (1851-1916)," *Enterprise & Society*, Vol. 15, No. 2, 2014.
 - Winner of the Philip Scranton Prize for Best Article published in Enterprise & Society in 2014.
- with Marc Flandreau, "The Separation of Information and Lending and the Rise of Rating Agencies in the United States (1841-1907)," Scandinavian Economic History Review, Vol. 62, Issue 3, 2014.

Working Papers

- with Rui Esteves, "Social Networks in Economic History: Opportunities and Challenges", R&R at Explorations in Economic History
- "Fraud and Financial Manias: Estimating the number of 'Bubble' Companies during the Railway Mania of the 1840's", March 2019, under review.
- with Rui Esteves, "The Rise of New Corruption: British MPs during the Railway Mania of 1845," CEPR Discussion Paper 12182, July 2017, under review.
- "Havas and the Foreign Loan Market, 1889 to 1921," Centre for Finance and Development, Student Working paper Series, No. 2, 2013.

Work-in-Progress

- "Bubbles, IPO waves, and information quality: evidence from media market structure during the British Railway Mania"
- with Rui Esteves, "Measurement Error in Peer-Effects Estimators"

Policy Papers

- o "A Primer on US Government Shutdown," Current Affairs in Perspective, Fondation Pierre du Bois, No. 7, 2013.
- with Hans Born, "Introducing Intelligence Oversight," in Hans Born and Aiden Wills (eds.), Overseeing Intelligence Services: A Toolkit, DCAF, 2012 (Translated into Albanian, Bosnian-

- Croatian-Serbian, and Macedonian).
- with Hans Born, Aidan Wills and Matthias Erny, "External Oversight and Control," in *Toolkit on Police Integrity*, DCAF, 2012 (Translated into Albanian, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, and Macedonian).

Talks

- "The Rise of New Corruption: British MPs during the Railway Mania of 1845," ASSA Philadelphia, January 2018.
- "The Rise of New Corruption: British MPs during the Railway Mania of 1845," Research Seminar in Applied Economics and Management, Solvay School of Economics & Management, Brussels, December 2017.
- o "Fraud and Financial Manias: Estimating the Number of 'Bubble' Companies during the Railway Mania of the 1840's," *Tuesday Lunch Seminar*, IAST, Toulouse, November 2017.
- "The Rise of New Corruption: British MPs during the Railway Mania of 1845," *Political Economy Working Group IAST*, Toulouse, October 2017.
- "The Rise of New Corruption: British MPs during the Railway Mania of 1845," Institute d'Etudes Politique, Toulouse, September 2017.
- "The Rise of New Corruption: British MPs during the Railway Mania of 1845," Macrohist Conference, Porto, June 2017.
- "Fraud and Financial Manias: Estimating the Number of 'Bubble' Companies during the Railway Mania of the 1840's," *Business History Conference*, Denver, April, 2017.
- "Logrolling for Private Interest: British MPs during the Railway Mania of 1845," Centre for Economic History, Queen's University, Belfast, February 2017.
- "Bubble Companies: Fraud and the Railway Mania of 1845," Oxford, Warwick and LSE Workshop (OWL), London School of Economics, January 2017.
- o "Logrolling for Private Interest: British MPs during the Railway Mania of 1845," Caltech Social Science History Seminar, Pasadena, 2016.
- "The Political Economy of Regulation: The British Railway Mania of the 1840's," Macrohist Conference, Geneva, 2015
- "The Separation of Information and Control and the Rise of Rating Agencies in the United States," Business History Conference, Miami, 2015.
- "The Press and the Regulation of Investment Quality in the Railway Mania of 1845: The Case of the Times and the Railway Press," *Economic History Society*, Warwick, 2014.
- o "The Press and the Regulation of Investment Quality in the Railway Mania of 1845: The Case of the Times and the Railway Press," Oxford Seminar in Economic and Social History, Oxford, 2013
- "Havas and the Foreign Loan Market, 1889-1921," Pierre du Bois Conference on Government Debt Crises: Politics, Economics and History, Geneva, 2012.

Workshops

- Business Cycle Analysis with Matlab, Macrohist Marie Curie Workshop, Universidad Carlos III and Bank of Spain, Madrid, 2016.
- Housing and the Economy, Macrohist Marie Curie Workshop, Humboldt University, Berlin, 2016.
- Introduction to Causal Identification, *Macrohist Marie Curie Workshop*, University of Oxford, Oxford, 2016.
- o Programming for Historians, British Library, London, 2015
- Time Series Econometrics with Matlab, MacroHist Marie Curie Workshop, Paris, 2015.
- Allianz Summer Academy, The EU in the International Arena, Munich, 2011.

o Norges Bank Summer School, Finance, Institutions and History, Venice, 2010.

Awards

- Phillip Scranton Prize: For best article published in *Enterprise & Society*, 2015.
- Tuition Scholarship: Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Merit-based scholarship.
- Pirie Prize: University of St. Andrews, 2009. Awarded for best essay in the department of International Relations in my year.
- Leonard Marks Foundation Essay Competition, Runner-up Prize, American Academy of Diplomacy, 2009
- American Scholarship, St. Andrews, 2005-2009. Merit-based scholarship.

Languages

English Mother-tongue

French Proficient

Computing

Advanced programming in R, including experience using R for data visualization, statistical modeling, geo-coding, GIS, web-scraping, and social network analysis. Familiar with Stata, and have basic Python and Matlab programming experience. Experienced with document preparation in Latex and Markdown. Proficient with MS Office and Open Office utilities including Excel/Powerpoint.