## 2025-10-03 Meeting notes Oxford: Sandra & Victoria, Online 14:00

## Research setup:

* Persons:
  + Stephen Broadberry
  + Victoria Gierok
  + Sandra de Pleijt
  + Me
    - Personal availability: Fridays (all day) and Tuesdays (morning) alternatively
    - 8 work hours per week, availability until 28 February 2026 (looking for PhD afterwards)
* Knowledge gap: ?
* Research objective:
  + External: Identify whether investment in capital changed after the Black Death
  + Internal: By digitizing (Latin) historical accounts through writing scripts that convert text into data, cleaning and processing large historical datasets, and assessing and revising medieval accounting documents (classifying expenditure, income and agricultural production items).

## Questions

Background:

* Is this part of a larger, ongoing research project?
  + How far along is the research project and when do you aim to publish?
* What are the core/seminal papers?
  + Is there any supporting documentation available?
  + How does this research connect to your or Stephen Broadberry’s previous publications?
    - For example, does this research seek to build on Broadberry’s recent publication about historical economic performance and the impact of structural change, technological change, demographic change and stabilization policy on it?
  + Asking since I cannot identify any publications about the Black Death (1346-1353) specifically unless you simply take it as a drastic demographic change
* Should I familiarize myself with any specific theoretical frameworks?
* What findings do you expect for the entire research?
  + Is the point to look for macro trends across the entirety of England or rather identify regional differences or tends in-between manors and the types of economic activities that they engaged in?

Methodological:

* Is there a document categorizing expenditures, incomes and agricultural production items that I can consult?
  + Deductive versus inductive categorization
* Will the dataset that I create be made public in the future or will it be for internal use only?
* How much of the work do you expect to be automated with code versus manual verification?

Practical:

* What formats is the data available in? I presume just pictures
* What is the preferred practice for downloading data, storing intermediate results, and uploading final results?
  + Do you use Git?
* Any intermediate deadlines tied to conferences/workshops/etc.?
* What are the final and intermediate expected results of the research assistantship?
* Will you or Sandra be my primary contacts?
* Would you like to receive weekly written updates with biweekly meetings?