

JULIUS KOSCHNICK

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EMPLOYMENT:

University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark
DIAS Assistant Professor and Marie Curie Fellow,
Department of Economics

Since 15th of
August 2024

EDUCATION:

London School of Economics, London, UK

2019-2024

PhD in Economic History

Thesis Title: *On the Shoulders of Science – Early Science as a Driver of Innovation During the Early Industrial Revolution*

Supervisors: Prof. Max-Stephan Schulze and Dr. Jeremiah Dittmar

Title awarded on 30 April 2024

Northwestern University, Evanston, USA

Fall 2022

Visiting Scholar, hosted by Prof. Joel Mokyr

London School of Economics, London, UK

2018-2019

MSc Economic History

University Bayreuth, Bayreuth, Germany

2013-2017

BA Philosophy & Economics

Columbia University, New York, USA

Fall 2015

Visiting Student Program

PUBLICATIONS:

Flow of Ideas: Economic Societies and the Rise of Useful Knowledge (with Francesco Cinnirella and Erik Hornung)

The Economic Journal, 135(669), 2025 1496-1535.

DOI: [10.1093/ej/ueae115](https://doi.org/10.1093/ej/ueae115), [Policy Column at VOX EU](#)

Abstract: Economic societies emerged during the late eighteenth-century. We argue that these institutions reduced the costs of accessing useful knowledge by adopting, producing, and diffusing new knowledge. Combining location information for the universe of 3,300 members across active economic societies in Germany with those of patent holders and World's Fair exhibitors, we show that regions with more members were more innovative in the late nineteenth century. This long-lasting effect of societies arguably arose through agglomeration economies and localized knowledge spillovers. We provide evidence to support this claim that suggests an immediate increase in manufacturing, an earlier establishment of vocational schools, and a higher density of highly skilled mechanical workers by mid-nineteenth century in regions with more members. We also show that regions with members from the same society had higher similarity in patenting, suggesting that social networks facilitated spatial knowledge diffusion and shaped the geography of innovation.

WORKING PAPERS:

“Teacher-Directed Scientific Change: The Case of the English Scientific Revolution”

EHES Working Paper [No. 274](#)

Abstract: While economic factors in directed technical and scientific change have been widely studied, the role of teacher-directed scientific change has received less attention. This paper studies teacher-directed scientific change for one of the largest changes in the direction of research, the Scientific

Revolution. Specifically, the paper considers the case of the English Scientific Revolution at the English universities of Oxford and Cambridge. It argues that exposure to different teachers shaped students' direction of research and can partly account for the successful trajectory of English science. For this, the paper introduces a novel dataset on the universe of all 111,242 students at English universities in the seventeenth and early eighteenth century and matches them to their publications. Using machine learning, the paper is able to quantify personal interest in different research topics. To derive causal estimates of teacher-student effects, the paper exploits a natural experiment based on the expulsion of fellows following the English Civil War and uses an instrumental variable design that predicts students' choice of college based on their home regions. The paper finds strong empirical evidence of teacher-directed change in the English Scientific Revolution. These results illustrate how teacher-directed change can contribute to paradigm change.

"Did a Feedback Mechanism Between Propositional and Prescriptive Knowledge Create Modern Growth?"

ArXiv Preprint: [arXiv:2512.16587](https://arxiv.org/abs/2512.16587)

Abstract: What was the origin of modern economic growth? Joel Mokyr has argued that self-sustained modern economic growth originated from a feedback loop between propositional (theoretical) and prescriptive (applied) knowledge, which turned positive in the eighteenth century during the "Industrial Enlightenment". While influential, this thesis has never been directly tested. This paper provides the first quantitative evidence by estimating the impact of knowledge spillovers between propositional and prescriptive knowledge on innovation in England, 1600-1800. For this, it introduces two new text-based measures for 1) the innovativeness of publications and 2) knowledge spillovers. The paper finds strong evidence that a feedback loop between propositional and prescriptive knowledge became positive during the second half of the eighteenth century. It also documents that this process had positive effects on the real economy as measured through patents. Overall, the findings provide empirical support for Mokyr's original hypothesis.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:

"The Complementarity of Education and Skills in Pre-Industrial England" (with Alexandra de Pleijt and Patrick Wallis)

"Alienated Intellectuals? Exploring the Political Consequences of the Educational Revolution in Early Modern England" (with Alexandra de Pleijt)

"The Grub Street Origin of the Revolution" (with Noah Sutter)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Trends in Applied Economics, University of Southern Denmark	Fall term 2024
Teaching Assistant for "Principles of Economics" King's College, School of Politics & Economics	2021/2022
Teaching Assistant for "Statistics for Political Science" King's College, School of Politics & Economics	Spring term 2022
Teaching Assistant for EH101 "The Internationalisation of Economic Growth" London School of Economics, Economic History Department	2020/2021
Teaching Assistant for "Academic Writing and Presentations" University Bayreuth, for Dr. Czaniera, at the Chair of Philosophy of Science and Ethics	Spring term 2016, 2017

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS:

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Postdoctoral Fellowship, European Commission, 2025 Project : IDEAS-SEED, Funding: 247 553 EUR	2025
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2023 Referee Prize for exceptional contribution in academic peer reviewing for The Economic Journal during 2023	2023
Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Doctoral Centre Studentship	2019-2023
German National Academic Foundation Scholarship based on academic merit	2013-2019
Winner of the Hunt Prize awarded to the candidate with the best marks for the dissertation in the MSc Economic History (Research degree)	2019
Winner of the prize for the best overall performance in the Department of Economic History Master Programmes 2018-19	2019

PRESENTATIONS:

2025:

- Society of Fellows Seminar, Danish Institute of Advanced Study; Departmental Seminar, Department of Economic History, LSE; Bridging Approaches in the Sciences Studying Science, Munich; Economic History Society Annual Conference, Glasgow; Workshop on Technology and Long-Term Development, University of Valencia; Junior Historical Political Economy Workshop, Madrid; 11th International Conference on Computational Social Science, Norrköping; World Economic History Congress, Lund; Economic History Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia; Workshop on Economic History in the Age of AI at Stellenbosch University; Workshop on History LLMs' at the University of Zurich

2024:

- 13th annual workshop on "Growth, History and Development", University of Southern Denmark; 7th Monash-Warwick-Zurich Text-as-Data Workshop; Hayek Workshop on Institutions and Political Economy in Historical Perspective, LSE; 9th Annual HEDG Mini-Workshop for Young Scholars, Fall 2024, University of Southern Denmark; XIIIth Atelier Heloïse Workshop, „From East to West and back. Circulations of knowledge in pre-modern and modern Europe: actors, institutions and spaces", Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

2023:

- RHI seminar, Economic and Environmental History, Wageningen University; Economic History Society Annual Conference, University of Warwick; Graduate Economic History Seminar, LSE; World Cliometrics Conference, Dublin; European Historical Economics Society Conference, Vienna; Economics Seminar Series, UC Louvain; Economic and Social History Graduate Seminar, University of Oxford; 8th Annual HEDG Mini-Workshop for Young Scholars, University of Southern Denmark

2022:

- Graduate Economic History Seminar, LSE; Economic History Society Annual Conference, Cambridge, poster presentation; European Historical Economics Society Conference, Groningen; World Economic History Congress, Paris, poster presentation; 4th Monash-Warwick-Zurich Text-as-Data Workshop; Economic History Lunch Seminar, Northwestern

2021:

- Virtual Zurich FRESH Meeting; IV. Congress for Economic and Social History, Vienna; Warwick FRESH Summer School; ASE Economic History Workshop, Rome; Internal research seminar on Economic History, Mannheim University; Internal research seminar on Economic History, Humboldt University Berlin

2020:

- ASREC 24h online conference

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

Professional service:

Member of the FRESH board (Frontier Research in Economic and Social History)

Refereeing:

The Economic Journal

German Economic Review

Explorations in Economic History

TECHNICAL SKILLS:

- *Statistical Software:* Stata, R, Python
- *GIS Software:* ArcGIS
- *Programming:* Python, Java, Javascript
- *Languages:* German (native speaker), English, Latin (German "Latinum")