



Economic and Social History

32nd ANNUAL GRADUATE WORKSHOP

22nd and 23rd of April 2024
Nuffield College | All Souls College

Student Organizing Committee

Ilina Logani, Glenn Armstrong, Egor Kamenshchik,

Daniel Göttlich, Johanne Kjaersgaard

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Thirty-Second Annual Graduate Workshop

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE

Welcome to the Thirty-Second Annual Graduate Workshop in Economic and Social History at the University of Oxford! During the two-day workshop, all first-year Economic and Social History master's students will present their research projects. The topics of research cover a broad range this year, geographically as well as thematically, lending insight on a wide variety of issues, including theories of trade, development, and state-building; questions in historical demography, inequality, and financial economics; the allocation, use, and abuse of land, education, work, protest, and war. The methods employed by our student-researchers are manifold as well, spanning the quantitative and qualitative, the local and global. Each share the concerns of economic and social history – to go beyond historical narratives in search for *explanations* of the past, daring to edge a little closer to the quest for causal inference, all the while attempting to clasp on to the contingency, agency, and complexity that separates our discipline from mainstream economics.

We are also pleased to welcome Professor Joel Mokyr of Northwestern University, United States, to deliver Oxford University's annual Sir John Hicks Memorial Lecture in Economic History. In addition, we will be presenting the MSc Dissertation Thirsk Prize in Economic and Social History to Niclas Griebhaber and the MPhil Dissertation Feinstein Prize in Economic and Social History to Robert Merges Jr.

We hope that the workshop will prove to be insightful for all attendees, providing new approaches and perspectives in the research of economic and social history through both graduate presentations and informal coffee chats which will resemble the intellectual powerhouses of 18th-century British coffee houses (please no insurance brokerage!). We would like to thank everyone for your attending and cordially invite you for a reception in All Souls College on Tuesday.

2024 AGW Organising Committee: *Ilina Logani, Glenn Armstrong, Egor Kamenshchik, Daniel Göttlich, Johanne Kjaersgaard*



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ORGANISATIONAL NOTES

The AGW and Hicks Lecture will be held in hybrid format. In-person attendance will be in the Chester Room at Nuffield College on Monday 22nd of April and in the Old Library at All Souls College on Tuesday 23rd of April. All are welcome.

You can also join remotely on Zoom via the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/2211127757?omn=95159871212>

Meeting ID: 221 112 7757

Each student will be given 20 minutes total to present their research, in which 10-15 minutes will be allotted for their presentation followed by the remainder of the time as Q&A. Due to the tight schedule, participants are asked to adhere to the timetable in their talks and be succinct in their questions and answers to allow time for others to provide input.

Topics are organized into seven panels, each moderated by a chair. Professor Sheilagh Ogilvie has kindly agreed to chair the Hicks Lecture. Chairs will notify the speaker when they reach the ten-minute mark and have five minutes remaining to wrap up.

During the Q&As, chairs will select questions from both those present in-person and those joining online. If you are attending online, please indicate your request to ask a question in the chat bar, and the chair will call on you. Except when asking a question, please keep your microphones muted.

If you have any queries or encounter any difficulties, please contact the committee.



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PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

MONDAY 22nd of April 2024 Chester Room, Nuffield College	
8:30 – 9:00	Morning coffee
9:00 – 9:15	Opening remarks by Professor Sheilagh Ogilvie
9:15 – 10:45	<p>TRADE AND TRANSITIONS Cities, Counties, and Countries</p> <p>Chair: Egor Kamenshchik</p> <p><i>Thomas Bombarde (MSc Programme)</i> The Fruits of Eden: The role of trade in the French Revolution</p> <p><i>Glenn Armstrong (MSc Programme)</i> “The town extended on every side”: Using early trade directories to understand Manchester’s industrial growth and structural economic change, c.1770-1800</p> <p><i>Johanne Kjaersgaard (MSc Programme)</i> “West Berlin of the Far East”: Textile trade agreements and the Hong Kong miracle, 1970s</p> <p><i>Joost Haddinga (MSc Programme)</i> Myth or Inconvenient Truth? The impact of decolonisation on European integration, 1945-1989</p>
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee break



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11:15 – 12:45	<p style="text-align: center;">CARRYING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE State-Building and Institutional Transition</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Glenn Armstrong</p> <p><i>Egor Kamenshchik (MSc Programme)</i> Soviet Shadows and Frozen Transitions: The political economy of Russia in the 1990s and 2000s</p> <p><i>Maiwand Nangyal (MSc Programme)</i> The Fate of Koh-i-Noor: Analysing the economic impact of British colonial policies in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, 1890-2020.</p> <p><i>Fernando Gimo Simango (MSc Programme)</i> Unravelling Economic Disparities in Post-Independence Africa: Botswana's success story in contrast to Mozambique and Angola</p> <p><i>Jeremy Ricketts-Hagan (MSc Programme)</i> The Effect of Militarism on African Economic Growth in the 19th century: Case studies from Ashanti and Ethiopia</p>
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch
13:45 – 14:45	<p style="text-align: center;">MARRIAGE, MONEY, AND MARKETS Topics in Historical Economic Demography</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Daniel Göttlich</p> <p><i>Anabel Sesek (MSc Programme)</i> Interfaith Marriage, Illegitimacy, and Infant Mortality: A demographic study of St. Peter's Cathedral in 19th century Bautzen, Germany</p> <p><i>Helen Murphy (MPhil Programme)</i> The impact of maternal education on infant mortality in London, 1890-1910</p> <p><i>Katharina Möllers (MSc Programme)</i> Unveiling the gender wage gap among day labourers at the turn of the 20th century in Germany</p>



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14:45 – 15:15	Coffee break
15:30 – 16:40	<p>“AGAINST THE BRAIN” Religion, Education and Knowledge Production</p> <p>Chair: Ilina Logani</p> <p><i>Youyan Luo (MPhil Programme)</i> The Effects of Protestantism on Female Human Capital: evidence from China</p> <p><i>Daniel Göttlich (MSc Programme)</i> The Effect of Protestantism on the Scientific Revolution: Evidence from book production in European cities, 1450-1700</p> <p><i>Jem Ruf (MSc Programme)</i> What Happened to the Lettered Men of Cordoba? A study of institutional change and knowledge production in Islamic Spain</p>



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TUESDAY 23rd of April 2024 Old Library, All Souls College	
9:00 – 9:20	Morning coffee
9:20 – 10:30	<p style="text-align: center;">FINANCIAL ECONOMIES Participation and Extension</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Johanne Kjaersgaard</p> <p><i>Jiateng Zhang (MSc Programme)</i> Public participation in the Shanghai Stock Exchange, 1870s to 1940s</p> <p><i>Russel Leibovitch (MPhil Programme)</i> Shareholders in the mid to late 18th century London: The long-run impacts of the South Sea Bubble on trading behaviour</p> <p><i>Marius Hafke (MSc Programme)</i> Finance-Growth Nexus: Evidence from the Reichsbank and the Prussian Bank, 1848–1910</p>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:10	<p style="text-align: center;">WHO GETS WHAT AND WHY Resource Allocation and Political Boundary-Making</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Johanne Kjaersgaard</p> <p><i>Hadiya Hewitt (MPhil Programme)</i> Empire of Insecurity: Britain's turn to imported food and the commoditization of nature</p> <p><i>Ilina Logani (MPhil Programme)</i> Toxic Politics: The causal effects of racial segregation on the placement of superfund sites</p> <p><i>Jessie Wall (MSc Programme)</i> Women and the Commons: Women's role in enclosure protest and the implications for women's work and economic position</p>



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12:10 – 13:00	<p style="text-align: center;">TOP DOGS Elite Power and Control</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Chair: Glenn Armstrong</i></p> <p><i>Karim Boudlal (MSc Program)</i> "Of Saints and Sultans: Religious elite power in 19th-century Morocco</p> <p><i>Thomas Robertson (MPhil Program)</i> Decline or Recovery? Land, power and prosperity in Byzantium, 1071-1204</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	<p style="text-align: center;">THIRSK PRIZE WINNER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Daniel Göttlich</p> <p><i>Niclas Grißhaber</i> Exporting Craft Guilds to Latin America – An Economic and Textual Analysis</p>
15:00 – 15:15	Break
15:15 – 16:15	<p style="text-align: center;">FEINSTEIN PRIZE WINNER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Daniel Göttlich</p> <p><i>Robert Merges Jr</i> De-industrialization and its Management in Gloucestershire, 1660-1760</p>
16:15 – 17:00	Coffee break



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17:00 – 18:30	<p>SIR JOHN HICKS MEMORIAL LECTURE IN ECONOMIC HISTORY</p> <p>Chair: Sheilagh Ogilvie</p> <p><i>Professor Joel Mokyr (Northwestern University)</i> “The Industrial Enlightenment: a Concept Too Many?”</p>
18:30 – 19:30	Reception in the Ante-Chapel / Great Quad of All Souls College



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ABSTRACTS BY SESSION

TRADE AND TRANSITIONS

Cities, Counties, and Countries

Chair: Egor Kamenshchik

Thomas Bombarde (MSc Programme)

The Fruits of Eden: The role of trade in the French Revolution

When workers lose from foreign competition, trade liberalisation risks social unrest. The 1786 Eden Treaty contributed to a 5-fold rise of British imports to France over the space of 5 years. French laments of labour displacement in manufacturing rose in the lead up to 1789, yet recent empirical studies favour cultural and geographic explanations for the Revolution. Did British competition for the French internal market spur social unrest? This dissertation draws on a unique source – the Tableaux des Maximums – to estimate the size of French industries across districts. Product-level import data provides import-exposure per location. This measure feeds into a difference-in-difference type design for the causal effect of import-exposure on local riots. The last years of the Ancien Régime provide a case-study in the impact of international integration on political upheaval.

Glenn Armstrong (MSc Programme)

“The town extended on every side”: Using early trade directories to understand Manchester’s industrial growth and structural economic change, c.1770-1800

This dissertation will study ‘the city’ as a key factor in Britain’s effective shift to an industrial economic structure and in its industrial success in cotton. Early trade directories are some of our best sources for urban change and generative AI can be revolutionary in helping historians extract data from them. However, up to this point historians have failed to use this tool to study the economic structure of a specific urban community. By applying generative AI to Manchester’s seven earliest trade directories, this dissertation will, not only demonstrate a new tool of historical study, but will also shed new light on the question of whether Manchester aided Britain’s Industrial Revolution as a manufacturing, finishing or marketing hub for cotton textiles. It will affirm the underrated role of tertiary development, emphasising the city’s role as a coordinator of economic resources rather than an innovator, and provide a new perspective on the challenges of Britain’s ‘shock’ urban growth in the late 18th century.

Johanne Kjaersgaard (MSc Programme)

“West Berlin of the Far East”: Textile trade agreements and the Hong Kong miracle, 1970s

A key component of the Hong Kong export-led growth miracle was the textile and apparel industries. Social scientists have often attributed the success of these sector to Hong Kong’s small and flexible enterprises, subcontracting and retail linkages, and uninhibited market capitalism in the colony. What has received less attention is the question of how Hong Kong producers were able to access and sell to Western consumer markets, a question of particular importance given that the 1970s saw accelerating protectionism in the textile trade. This paper employs methods from global



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history to reconstitute the making of Hong Kong as the world's greatest apparel exporter in the context of international trade. Shifting focus from the local factors contributing to export competitiveness, I conduct a comparative analysis of trade agreements between Hong Kong and its main markets and those of its regional competitors. I then examine the political processes that led to Hong Kong's comparatively favorable trade position, teasing out the nature of its colonial, but by the 1970s, increasingly geopolitical advantage.

Joost Haddinga (MSc Programme)

Myth or Inconvenient Truth? The impact of decolonisation on European integration, 1945-1989

The common narrative behind European integration is the European powers waking up after WWII and developing a mode of economic and political cooperation to sustainably prevent war in western Europe. In 2022 lecture series, Timothy Snyder emphasised the role of losing imperial wars after WWII instead as a main driver of European integration. This dissertation studies the relative importance of these two narratives - whether the intra-European forces and the experiences of WWII were the main drivers, or rather the ceding influence overseas. Using multiple datasets, I observe trade shares, timings, and extents of wars and territorial changes as well as measures of international power for each country. Employing both a gravity model and synthetic counterfactuals, I find limited evidence for Snyder's hypothesis. This suggests that historical accounts of European integration appropriately report the driving forces behind closer cooperation.

CARRYING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

State-Building and Institutional Transition

Chair: Glenn Armstrong

Egor Kamenshchik (MSc Programme)

Soviet Shadows and Frozen Transitions: The political economy of Russia in the 1990s and 2000s

Russia's history has had only several instances where reform and liberalization were truly possible. Legacies of patrimonialism, clientelism, vertical centralization, and 'informality' are still as present today, as they were during the Soviet rule and Tsarist Russia. The transition from the centrally planned economy to a market economy in the 90s was 'eminently a process of institutional change', and under the conditions of reduced state capacity, the formation of new formal institutions did not prevent the 'legacy of inherited institutions' to persist.

As such, my research focuses on the critical period of institutional formation in the '90s at the subnational level of Russia's 85 regions. I aim to identify the key forces affecting the incomplete transition, namely the effects of regional political competition, reforms of regional court systems, presence of natural resources and patterns mass-privatisation. Using a combination of quantitative and qualitative indicators, including interviews with policy makers, I aim to ultimately answer two questions: what are the causes for the vast regional heterogeneity in regional political-economies, and ultimately, what prevented a complete transition to a liberal-market based system?



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Maiwand Nangyal (MSc Programme)

The Fate of Koh-i-Noor: Analysing the economic impact of British colonial policies in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, 1890-2020

This dissertation will empirically investigate the impact of varying levels of British colonial intensity on long-term development in the western British Indian provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. This variation ranges from (a) direct colonial rule, (b) semi-autonomous rule in terms of judiciary and legislation, (c) Princely state rule by independent local rulers and (d) no colonial rule. Both Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are significantly unstable and economically disadvantaged, having contributed to the Soviet-Afghan war, the US invasion of Afghanistan alongside the multi-billion-dollar opium trade. Crucially, insecurity within Balochistan will impact the \$62 billion Chinese-Pakistani CPEC infrastructure project through Balochistan's Gwadar port city – which is crucial to Pakistan's future economic prospects. Hence, this research will evaluate if modern-day insecurity and economic under-performance in these two provinces can be causally linked to British colonial-era rule or alternatively, if the modern violence and poverty is a direct result of static geographic, topographic or climatic factors which could have acted as a bottleneck to economic prosperity.

Fernando Gimo Simango (MSc Programme)

'Unravelling Economic Disparities in Post-Independence Africa: Botswana's success story in contrast to Mozambique and Angola

Following their independence, many African countries had a common intent of improving their standard of living. The then-young nations of Botswana, Mozambique and Angola, which gained their independence in 1966 and 1975, respectively, also desired to boost their economic growth. However, Botswana stands out as a success story in this regard, as considered by Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson (2012) in post-independent Africa, but Mozambique and Angola have hardly witnessed any growth that would raise their economy and standards of life of their people. So, why did Botswana grow quickly compared to Mozambique and Angola? In simpler words, what happened and why do we have, on the one hand, an economically successful trajectory in Botswana and, on the other hand, an economically unsuccessful history in Mozambique and Angola after their independence? The main objective of this research is to examine why the Mozambican and Angolan economies have been characterised by backwardness compared to Botswana, the so-called [economic] success story of Africa.

Jeremy Ricketts-Hagan (MSc Programme)

The Effect of Militarism on African Economic Growth in the 19th century: Case studies from Ashanti and Ethiopia

This paper analyses the relationship between warfare and state development in the 19th and early 20th century in Africa. With the focus being on the two case studies of the Ashanti Empire and Ethiopian Empire. This period saw a military revolution across the continent, with Ashanti and Ethiopia being some of the strongest forces within this transition. This paper explores the extent of this militarization, and how it altered key political and economic institutions. In particular, how warfare affected state capacity, markets, and social welfare. The results of this analysis will be contextualized within the greater political and economic transitions of the period. Namely, the 'Scramble for Africa' and the 'Great Divergence.'



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MARRIAGE, MONEY, AND MARKETS

Topics in Historical Economic Demography

Chair: Daniel Göttlich

Anabel Sesek (MSc Programme)

Interfaith Marriage, Illegitimacy, and Infant Mortality: A demographic study of St. Peter's Cathedral in 19th century Bautzen, Germany"

This study employs a micro-historical approach to elucidate the impact of interfaith marriage on fertility decisions. While a consensus exists regarding the late nineteenth-century fertility decline in Europe, its precise timing and catalysts remain less defined. To isolate religion's role in the initial demographic transition, this paper focuses on St. Peter's Cathedral in Bautzen, Germany—a *Simultankirche* which has been shared by Catholics and Lutherans since 1524. Crude baptism and marriage rates for interfaith, Catholic, and Lutheran couples are constructed by analyzing St. Peter's baptism and marriage registers from 1850 to 1900. Trends are examined temporally and spatially, with a focus on factors such as illegitimacy, infant mortality, and ages at first marriage. This research addresses a gap in the literature on 19th century interfaith marriages, highlighting their prevalence despite legal restrictions. Additionally, it explores the challenges of coexistence in shared religious space and the demographic implications of religious homogeneity.

Helen Murphy (MSc Programme)

The impact of maternal education on infant mortality in London, 1890-1910

The 1870 Elementary Education Act was the first legislation introduced to tackle the nationwide provision of education in England and Wales. However, it was not until the amended Act of 1880 that education was made compulsory and enforceable for all children aged five to ten. The secular decline in both fertility and infant mortality correlates with this rise in mass compulsory schooling in both England and Europe as a whole, with the effect of female education playing a major role due to women's primary caregiving status. As such, the aim of this project is to estimate the causal effect of maternal education on infant mortality. Analysis exploiting exposure to education following the 1880 Education Act should allow this effect to be quantified.

Katharina Möllers (MSc Programme)

Unveiling the gender wage gap among day labourers at the turn of the 20th century in Germany

Women's historical experience in the labour market is pivotal for understanding economic and social dynamics, and their contribution to economic development. This paper examines the gender pay gap among unskilled day labourers across 160 Prussian counties. To address the question of the extent and nature of the pay gap, data of customary, local, daily wages available for 1892 and 1901 from the ifo Database of Prussian Economic History (iPEHD) is utilised. Subsequently, findings are combined with demographic and structural insights into female labour force participation



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during the same period from a study by Willms-Herget (1980). Preliminary findings anticipate a significant gap in nominal earnings between men and women and across regions with a smaller earnings gap in rural areas than in cities and towns. The gender pay gap appears to be larger between men and women above the age of 16 compared to wages earned by girls and boys under 16. Moreover, nominal daily wages are on average higher in regions with significant industry, pointing towards an early income divide between western and eastern parts of Germany. Challenges of the study include transforming nominal wages into real wages for which the iPEHD source provides data on prices of food items by region but lacks data on other factors, including rent in places other than the large cities.

“AGAINST THE BRAIN”

Religion, Education and Knowledge Production

Chair: Ilina Logani

Youyan Luo (MPhil Programme)

The Effects of Protestantism on Female Human Capital: evidence from China

Protestant missionaries initiated an unprecedented transformation in mass education and healthcare in the 19th and 20th century China. Women, in particular, have significantly benefited from these developments. The missionaries prioritized female education and provided substantial financial support for girls from disadvantaged backgrounds. They conducted campaigns against foot binding that directly conflicts with Protestant values. Using various measures of Protestant activities by 1920 and archival data on female educational attainment and practices of foot-binding, I assess the short-term impact of the Protestant exposure on human capital development. The paper will also shed light on the role of women missionaries in the promotion of female education and the provision of healthcare services.

Daniel Göttlich (MSc Programme)

The Effect of Protestantism on the Scientific Revolution: Evidence from book production in European cities, 1450-1700

Two of the most important episodes in Early Modern European history, the Protestant Reformation and the Scientific Revolution, took place almost simultaneously during the 16th and 17th centuries. For over 150 years, this temporal overlap has prompted scholars to suggest that Protestantism contributed causally to these momentous shifts in scientific thought. I reevaluate this hypothesis using a balanced panel of scientific book production in European cities derived from data on 1.5 million books (editions) in the newly extended Universal Short Title Catalogue. In addition to the raw publication counts, I intend to fine-tune a Transformer LLM to obtain context-specific vector representations of individual titles, which will allow me to create a proxy for the quality of scientific output from the wealth of textual data in my dataset.



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Jem Ruf (MSc Programme)

What Happened to the Lettered Men of Cordoba? A study of institutional change and knowledge production in Islamic Spain

By some estimates, in the year 900, Islamic Cordoba (the crown jewel of the Umayyad caliphate) was the largest, and arguably most intellectually dynamic, city in the world. Beginning in about the year 1000, however, the caliphate began to break apart, and from about 1009 to 1031 a period of extreme institutional instability ensued: subsequently known as the “fitna” of Al-Andalus.

Thereafter, Islamic Cordoba was never the same. The Umayyad caliphate (and its bureaucratic structure) broke apart; Al-Andalus became a loose assemblage of clan-based “taifa” kingdoms.

In this paper, I will attempt to shed light on how this institutional shock affected knowledge production in the city. Using data collected by the Spanish Research Council, I will investigate two broad questions. First: What happened to scholar populations in Cordoba during and after the fitna? Second, how did the fitna affect Cordovan knowledge production?

Broadly, I hope that a historical monograph can put some of the grander narratives about Islamic knowledge production into perspective and help us better understand the relationships between knowledge, institutions, and their specific historical contexts.

FINANCIAL ECONOMIES

Participation and Extension

Chair: Johanne Kjaersgaard

Jiateng Zhang (MSc Programme)

Public participation in the Shanghai Stock Exchange, 1870s to 1940s

My paper will be divided into two parts. In the first part I will trace the history of stock exchange in Shanghai in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. I will point out that there is not a consensus in the current scholarship on the origin and definition of the early Shanghai stock exchange, potentially due to the lack of relevant research and available sources. Through a qualitative review on primary and secondary sources, I aim to interpret the differences in scholarship and clarify the history of Shanghai stock exchange(s). After defining the multiple stock exchanges that existed and the ones that I am interested in exploring in this paper, in the second part I will address the question that, since the introduction of stock exchange in Shanghai as a foreign institution created by and for foreign investors, whether the non-elite Chinese public ever participated in stock investment. By analyzing both qualitative and quantitative evidences (market policies, public perception, time-series data on entire market & specific firms), I will show that from 1870s to 1940s the Chinese public indeed participated in Shanghai stock exchange(s) and there was probably an increasing trend of participation especially towards the end of the Republican era (early-to-mid 20th century).



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Russel Leibovitch (MPhil Programme)

Shareholders in the Mid to Late 18th Century London: The long-run impacts of the South Sea Bubble on trading behaviour

This dissertation aims to shed light on the demographic makeup of London shareholders in the mid to late 18th century. While much literature exists covering the early 18th century, largely owing to the South Sea Bubble there exists little to none for this later period. The analysis will rely on the extensive archival materials held for the most traded shares at the time: The Bank of England, The East India Company, and the New South Sea Annuities. The combination of stock ledgers, alphabet books, and transfer books of these stocks will allow the construction of a database including stockholders' names, occupations, addresses, and transaction information. It is hoped that by collecting this data a better understanding of how the restriction on trading activity following the South Sea Bubble affected the London stock market throughout the 18th century.

Marius Hafke (MSc Programme)

Finance-growth nexus: Evidence from the Reichsbank and the Prussian Bank, 1848–1910

This project will attempt to make a fundamental contribution to research into the finance-growth nexus. It will be the first work on the potential growth effects of central banks, thus testing the influence of state intervention in a 19th century environment. Drawing on a novel data set, my research aims to test the interpretation given by Dieter Ziegler (1993) of German central banks stuck in the “*stone age*” by measuring local development in shaping Germany's rapid progress between 1848 and 1910. In short, this dissertation intends to present the first research on the expansion of German central banks and its potential economic impact. It sheds light on the 19th century finance-growth nexus and will help us to understand the challenges related to economic integration “from above”.

WHO GETS WHAT AND WHY Resource Allocation and Political Boundary-Making Chair: Johanne Kjaersgaard

Hadiya Hewitt (MPhil Programme)

Empire of Insecurity: Britain's turn to imported food and the commoditization of nature

This paper will examine the political processes in the 1860s-1870s that resulted in Great Britain deliberately becoming dependent on imports to feed its industrial proletariat, i.e. deliberately choosing what is now referred to as “food insecurity.” Imperial confidence, backed by the models of classical economists, would result in Britain shifting its agricultural heartlands out of its own lands in favor of its (former) colonies, especially the United States, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, and India. This shift from England to Empire would accelerate commodification of nature, by breaking down pre-existing controls on the production, sale, and use of food, which reflected the sanctity and criticality of food and nature writ large for human survival.



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Ilina Logani (MPhil Programme)

Toxic Politics: The causal effects of racial segregation on the placement of superfund sites

Racial segregation within American cities has long been positively associated with adverse environmental impacts, such as heightened exposure to toxins in air, water, and soil, urban heat deserts, and proximity to hazardous waste. Pinpointing causality in this relationship has been complicated, however, by omitted variable bias and the potential for endogenous migration. This paper attempts to establish a causal link between racial segregation and the location of hazardous waste sites—as designated by the 1980 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act—through the use of an instrumental variable, the nineteenth century arrangement of railroad tracks in the United States, to isolate plausibly exogenous variation in city segregation. I will pair my quantitative findings with archival work in the cities of Binghamton, New York, and York, Pennsylvania, to develop an economic and political theory of the processes through which segregation leads to heightened exposure to toxic waste and, more generally, to environmental hazard.

Jessie Wall (MSc Programme)

Women and the Commons: Women's role in enclosure protest and the implications for women's work and economic position

The study examines the role of women in enclosure protest in 17th and 18th century England. Leveraging new evidence from regional newspapers, women's participation in enclosure protests is compared to women's participation other forms of protest, principally food riots. The participation rates of men and children are also compared. Second, the time of day of the protests will be used to draw preliminary conclusions regarding women's working hours. Thirdly, the study includes an analysis of hypothesized predictors of women's response to enclosure including region-specific poor relief and occupational structure. The results provide suggestive evidence of a need to re-evaluate the current understanding of women's economic position within the family and the marketplace in early industrial England.

TOP DOGS

Elite Power and Control

Chair: Glenn Armstrong

Karim Boudlal (MSc Program)

Of Saints and Sultans: Religious elite power in 19th-century Morocco

My dissertation investigates the power and influence of religious elites in 19th-century Morocco. To do so, I first evaluate whether the production of fatwas increased during periods of crisis (namely, famines caused by droughts or locusts). I then use the mobility of the sultan's court as a shock to state capacity to see how fatwa production differentially increases in contexts of high vs low state capacity.



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Thomas Robertson (MPhil Program)

Decline or Recovery? Land, power and prosperity in Byzantium, 1071-1204

The Byzantine Empire is crucial to understanding the history of Europe and the Near East, yet it has often been neglected. This is misguided; the empire has much to teach us, as an example of a polity that successfully adapted its institutions to changing circumstances, such as via the pronioia system of land grants. Further, it is a notable example of a relatively centralised medieval state deliberately engaging in a partial decentralisation of power, and may have wider implications.

In this presentation I will outline the historical context and my research thus far, including challenges in the sources and how I intend to address them. My provisional thesis is that pronioia benefitted affected areas by tying local elites more closely to the land, shifting their focus away from vying for office in Constantinople and towards ensuring the prosperity and resilience of the areas they depended on for their income.

THIRSK PRIZE WINNER

Chair: Daniel Göttlich

Niclas Griebhaber

Exporting Craft Guilds to Latin America – An Economic and Textual Analysis

TBA

FEINSTEIN PRIZE WINNER

Chair: Daniel Göttlich

Robert Merges Jr

De-industrialization and its Management in Gloucestershire, 1660-1760

TBA
