

Matthias Weigand

✉ mweigand@g.harvard.edu • 🌐 <https://matthiasweigand.github.io>

Education

Harvard University

PhD

2021–

Economics

Brown University

Pre-Doctoral Fellow

2019–2020

Economics

University of Oxford

Visiting Student

2018–2019

Mathematics, Economic and Social History, and Social Data Science

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich

B.Sc. in Economics

2015–2018

Publications

The Rise of Fiscal Capacity: Administration and State Consolidation in the Holy Roman Empire (with Davide Cantoni and Cathrin Mohr). *Econometrica*, 92(5), pp.1439-1472.

Working Papers

Crisis, State Capacity, and the Making of Autocracy: A Design-based Analysis of the Thirty Years' War (with Luis Bosshart). [2025 PEDD Young Scholar Award]

Identity and Institutional Change: Evidence from First Names in Germany, 1700–1850 (with Davide Cantoni and Cathrin Mohr).

Work in Progress

The Success of the Embedded State in Britain (with Leander Heldring, Davis Kedrosky, and James Robinson).

The Inefficacy of Party Bans: Evidence from 128 Countries (with Andrew Kao).

Scholarships and Awards

2025-2026: ACES Dissertation Fellowship; Harvard Graduate Society Merit Fellowship; Weatherhead Center Dissertation Writing Grant

2024-2025: Thomas C. Cochran Fellowship in Business and Economic History, Harvard University

2021-2023: ERC Program of the German National Academic Foundation

2018-2020: German National Academic Foundation

2016-2017: Munich Honors Program in Economics

2015-2021: Maximilianeum Foundation; Max Weber Program

Affiliations

Center for European Studies, Center for History and Economics, Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs

Teaching Experience

Introduction to Quantitative Economics (Graduate), Teaching Fellow for Jesse Shapiro, 2025
History of Human Capital (Graduate), Teaching Fellow for Claudia Goldin and Larry Katz, 2024
The History of Economic Growth (Undergraduate), Teaching Fellow for Melissa Dell, 2024
Quantitative Methods in Economics (Undergraduate), Teaching Fellow for Phillip Heiler, 2024

Data

"Princes and Townspeople: A Collection of Historical Statistics on German Territories and Cities.", Harvard Dataverse:

"City Locations and Border Maps" (with Edyta P. Bogucka and Davide Cantoni, 2019).

"Territorial Histories" (with Cathrin Mohr and Davide Cantoni, 2019).

"Town Charters and First Mentions" (with Cathrin Mohr and Davide Cantoni, 2020).

"Markets" (with Cathrin Mohr and Davide Cantoni, 2020).

"Construction Activity" (with Davide Cantoni, 2020).

"Conflict Incidents and Wars" (with Davide Cantoni, 2021).

Research Grants

Weatherhead Center Business and Government Grant (2025); Pre-dissertation Grant (2024); Economic History Association Early Stage Dissertation Grant (2024); GSAS Summer Predissertation Fellowship (2023); IQSS Research Grant (2023); Kenneth C. Griffin Economics Research Fund ("Political Economy and Development") (2023, 2025); Chae Family Economics Research Fund ("The Economics of Crises") (2022)

Presentations

2025: Political Economy of Dictatorship and Democracy, Münster; IfW Berlin; Humboldt University Social and Economic History Colloquium, Berlin; Yale Economic History Lunch

2024: ASSA 2024 Conference, San Antonio; Arthur Lewis Lab, Manchester; Economic History Association Annual Meeting, Sacramento; MIT Organizational Economics Lunch; NEUDC, Boston; CEPR Symposium, Paris; GEA, ifo Munich

2023: Economic History Seminar, Northwestern University; 27th Annual ISNIE/SIOE Conference, Goethe University Frankfurt; ASREC 2023 Conference, Cambridge; RSIT Tübingen

2022: 26th Annual ISNIE/SIOE Conference, University of Toronto

2019: Annual Economic and Social History Conference, University of Oxford

Academic Service

Co-chair of seminar series *European Development in a Historical Perspective*, Center for European Studies, Harvard University

Reviewer for *B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy*; *Journal of Development Economics*; *Journal of Economic History*; *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*; *Journal of Political Economy*; *Journal of Urban Economics*; *Quarterly Journal of Economics*; *Review of Economic Studies*

Organizer of *Economic History Graduate Student Workshop*, Harvard University

Mentor for *Harvard and MIT Application Assistance and Mentoring Program*; *Harvard Undergraduates for Inclusion in Economics*; *Harvard Graduate Student Peer Mentoring Program*