

# Third Einstein-Cartan-Evans (ECE) Conference Swansea and Aberystwyth, Wales July 2013

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“All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed.  
Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being  
self-evident.” Schopenhauer

# Agenda

- Economics – what is it, what are our challenges?
- Intersection of physics and economics
  - Methodologies
  - Thermodynamics
  - Shared people
- South Wales industrial history
- My interests
- Importance of energy in economic systems; hence, the importance of ECE theory in future economic systems
- The role of AIAS in the next great positive supply shock

# What do economists do?

- Attempt to model complex social systems – Macroeconomics – equilibrium-based models
- Attempt to explain individual (consumer/firm) behaviour – Microeconomics – constrained optimization
- Attempt to link them – microfoundations of macroeconomics, network systems with emergent behaviours, stochastic agent-based models.  
N.B. the “Fallacy of Composition” makes the emergent properties of network systems (graph theory) a very compelling methodology, at least in economics

# Challenges of economics

- Macro models do not forecast well
- Macro models (DSGE) tend to have many adjustable parameters, are very complex
- Empirical (statistical) models offer some relief, but . . .
- Few repeatable experiments

## Similarities/dissimilarities with physics

- Use maths in several ways (physics envy?)
  - Theory – so use mostly the same algebras you do (especially linear), although so far no tensor calculus
  - Applied – since difficult to repeat experiments, have evolved a wide set of statistical methods
  - Simulation
- Use scientific methods, processes (publish, etc.)
- Have models with many adjustable parameters – Myron's admonitions apply equally well to economics
- Share people – Fredrick Soddy, Wall Street “quants”

## Similarities/**dissimilarities** with physics

- Narrow vein of thermodynamicists (Sergei Podolinski, Georgescu-Roegen, Timothy Garrett) to whom economics is a thermodynamic system
- Must incorporate institutions and history
- Again, very little repeatability – difficult to “rewind” a macroeconomy since people are involved

# Industrial history of South Wales

Century	Company	Location	Product	Customer
16 <sup>th</sup> –17 <sup>th</sup>	Mineral and Battery Company	Tintern	brass, wire	woolcards
	Mines Royal	Cornwall	copper mining	
		Neath	copper smelting (coal)	
	various	Swansea, Tenby	coal mining	export
	various	Brecon, Monmouth	iron (charcoal)	
18 <sup>th</sup> (1 <sup>st</sup> half)	various	Pontypool	tinplate	
	Humphrey Mackworth	Melincryddan	lead, copper	
	John Lane	Landore	copper smelting	
	various	Swansea	copper smelting	
	various	Taibach	copper smelting	
	various (16)	various (small)	iron (charcoal)	
	Powicke Forge	Hirwaun	iron (coal)	Seven Years' War
1750–1850	Llanishen	Merthyr	mineral lease (iron)	Merthyr Furnace
	Merthyr Furnace	Dowalis	iron (coal)	war
	Cyfarthfa	Merthyr	mineral lease (iron)	war
	Pennydarren	Merthyr	mineral lease (iron)	war
	Plymouth Works	Merthyr	mineral lease (iron)	war
	Cyfartha Works	Merthyr	cannon	US Revolution
	Cyfartha Works	Merthyr	puddling process	wrought iron
	various (4)	various	tramroad canals	transport
	Pen-y-Darren Ironworks	Merthyr Tydfil	steam engine	hammer
	Richard Trevithick (1804)		locomotive	transport
1815–1850	various	various	iron, tinplate, copper, coal	
1727–	Robert Morris, others	Swansea	non-ferrous smelting	input story cheap coal near ores

## Pen-y-darren engine replica, National Waterfront Museum, Swansea





# Blast furnaces 1709 (coke), Blists Hill, Coalbrookdale, Shropshire



## My interests

- Long time background physics interest, bemusement over great divide

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- Last year I “came out of the heterodox closet” by writing Myron on cold fusion; I am humbled by the response and truly feel I am on the sidelines of a revolution
- So, onto the importance of energy in economic systems:<sup>1</sup>

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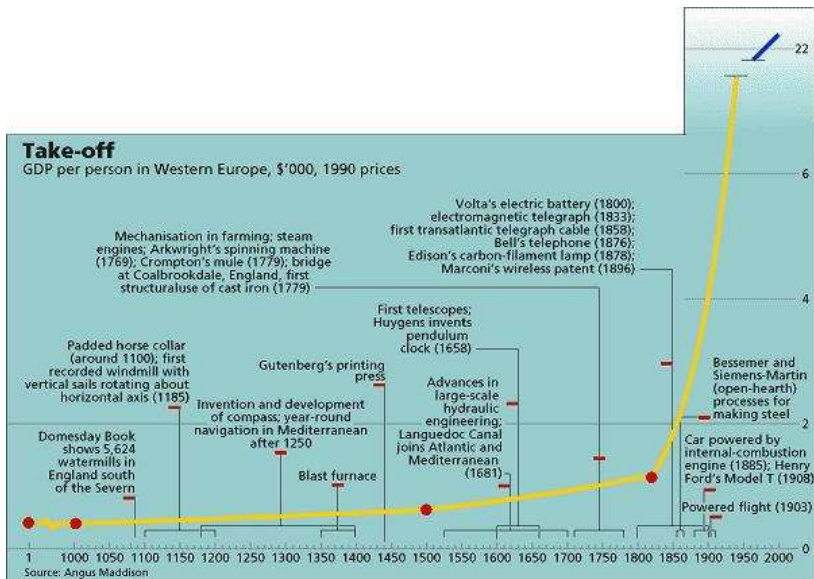


# English Industrial Revolution, 1590 - 1876

- Modern economic growth
- Unconstrained quantity of fossil carbon energy – an *energy* revolution (in fact two!) led by a demand revolution
- Little statistical space for institutional or cultural events – except to explain structural breaks

## Take-off

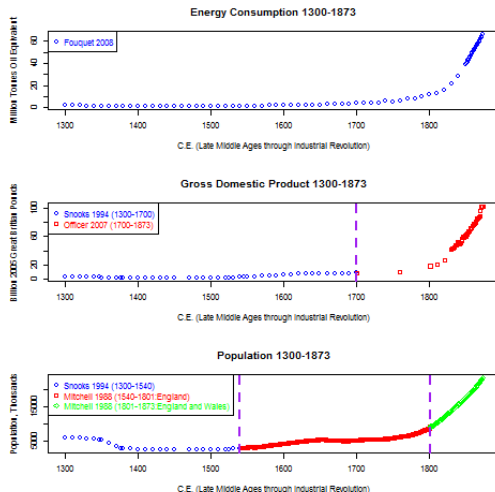
GDP per person in Western Europe, \$'000, 1990 prices



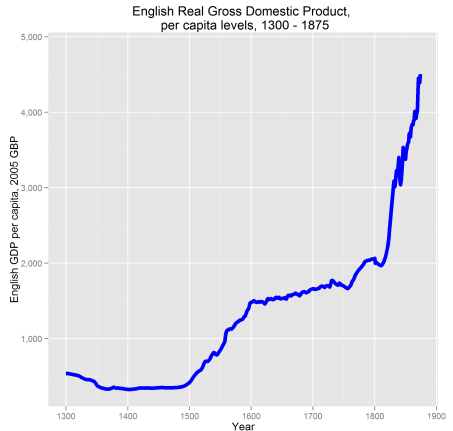
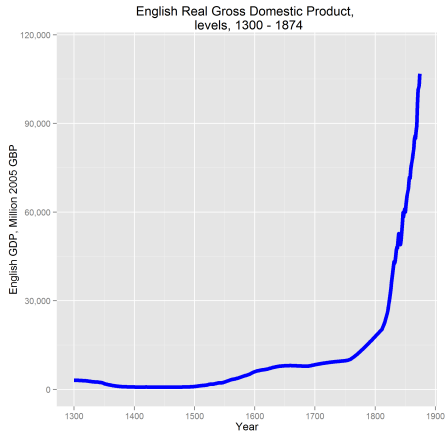
# Taxonomy of EIR explanations

Label	Examples
English exceptionalists	Landes (1969), McCloskey (2010), Mokyr (1992,2010)
Partial culturalists	Cipolla (1966), Pomeranz (2001), Allen (2009)
Primarily energetic	Cottrell (1955), Wrigley (1988,2010), Malanima (2010), Nef (1932)
Thermodynamicists	Georgescu-Roegen (1975), Ayres (2003), Garrett (2009)

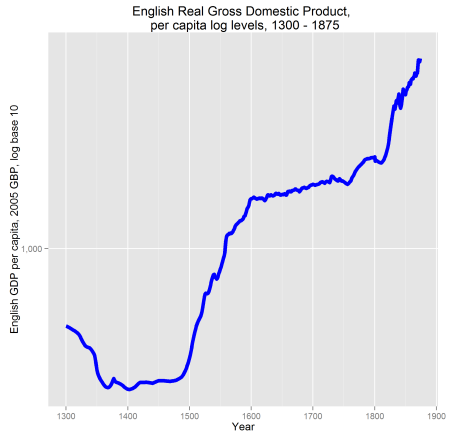
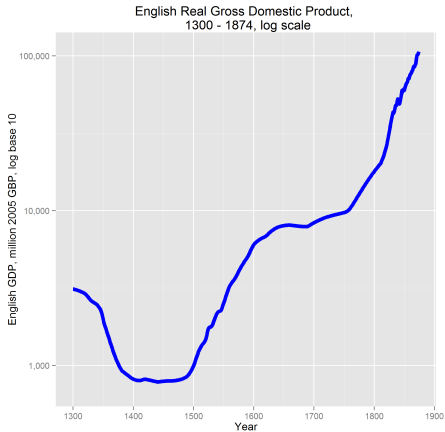
# Author/time-span series of energy consumption, GDP, and population



# English real gross domestic product, levels and per-capita

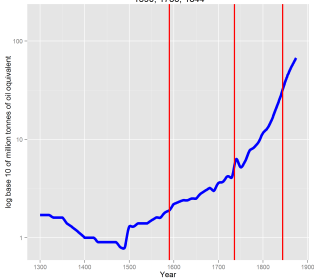


# English real gross domestic product, log levels and log per-capita

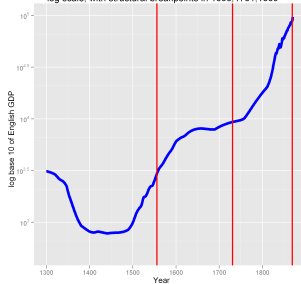


# Structural break comparison

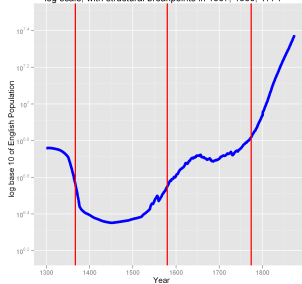
Annual English energy consumption,  
log scale, with structural breakpoints at  
1590, 1736, 1844



English Gross Domestic Product, 1300 - 1874  
log scale, with structural breakpoints in 1556, 1731, 1869



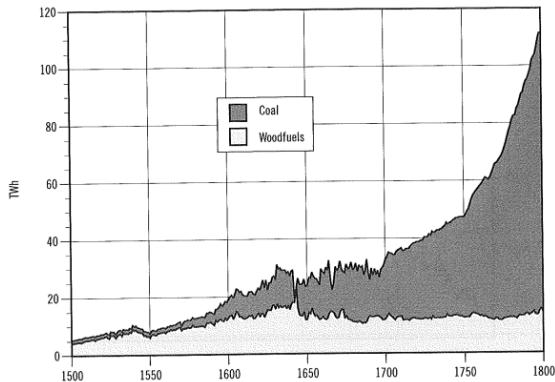
English Population, 1300 - 1874  
log scale, with structural breakpoints in 1367, 1580, 1774



# Coal and wood energy sources

Source: Pearson & Fouquet

Figure 4: Energy consumption by final users (terawatt hours (TWh)), 1500–1800

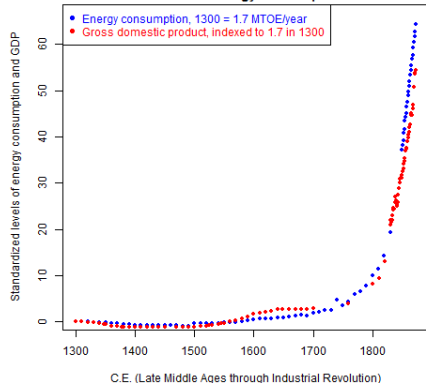


*Note:* The consumption of candles is not visible in this graph; even by 1800, it was only equivalent to 0.5TWh, while in 1500 it was only 0.1TWh. As a percentage share, it is just visible between 1500 and 1700, with its maximum value being around 4% of energy used (see Figure 10).

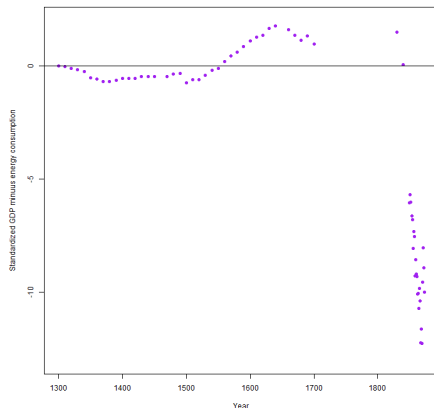


# Energy consumption vs. standardized GDP

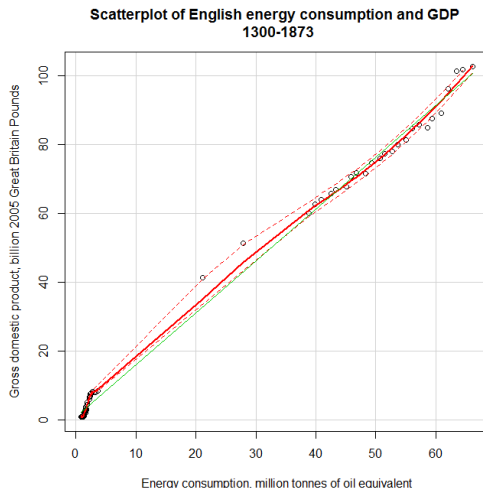
Energy consumption and GDP, 1300-1873.  
A spaghetti chart using GDP standardized  
to 1300's energy consumption



Difference between levels of energy consumption  
and GDP standardized at 1300 to energy consumption



# Scatterplot of energy consumption vs. GDP



No “Solow” residual

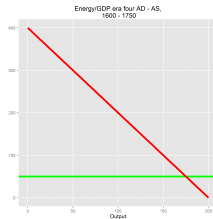
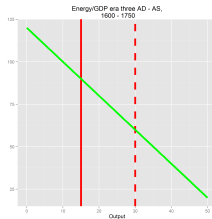
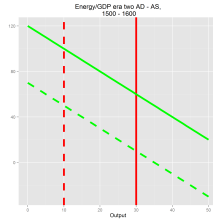
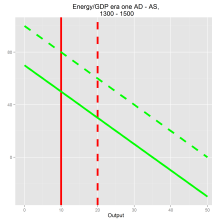
# Granger tests of energy/GDP dynamics

Era	Energy ~ GDP Pr(>F)	GDP ~ Energy Pr(>F)	AS/AD regime
1300 – 1500	0.0106	0.0003	EMP <sup>2</sup> , Black Death: increasing wages, family income
1500 – 1600	0.1939	0.6126	Positive demand shock
1600 – 1750	0.3529	0.5185	Energy supply constraint
1750 – 1873	0.0024	0.1100	Positive supply shock: “virtuous” macro feedback cycle
1300 – 1873	0.0002	0.0361	Total study period

<sup>2</sup>European marriage pattern (Hajnal)

# Aggregate Supply - Aggregate Demand

## Four energy/GDP regimes



# Desaguliers manuscript

rection P  $\phi$ , and a Quantity of Water per Minute  
be lifted up, and run out at P. This may be done 15 or 16 times in a  
Minute, because each Man would pull down but 30 Pounds at a time,  
after the manner that People ring Bells. But as no Time is to be lost, lest  
the Mine be overflow'd by the Springs below, there must be 100 more  
Men to relieve these when they are weary. Now as it must be a rich  
Mine indeed whose Profit can afford to keep 200 Men at this Work;  
that

O o o 2

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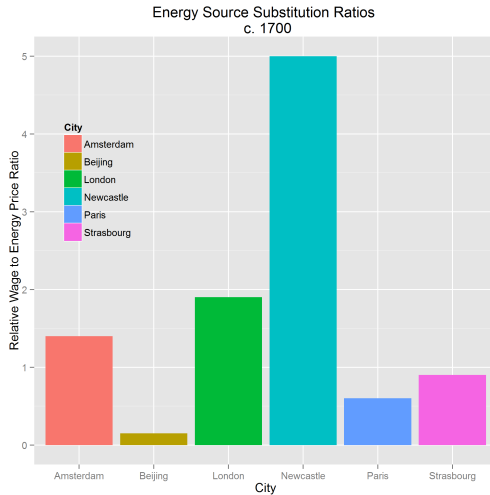
## FIRE-ENGINE.

Left. XII. that Thought must be laid aside. We'll consider therefore what can be  
done by Horses. As an Horse is equal to five Men, we must work 20  
Horses at a time to raise the Water requir'd; and as Horses must be re-  
liev'd even more than Men, about 50 Horses must be kept to carry on  
this Work constantly, and bring down the End of the Beam  $b$ , 16 times  
in a Minute, and make the number of Strokes requir'd in the Pump,  
the Weight of whose Rod after every Stroke will bring down the End  
 $b$  2, by drawing along the Tangent  $i$  H. It is plain to any body, that  
tho' the Horses may be had cheaper than Men, yet that will be a very  
expensive way. For the next Contrivance, we'll suppose a Philosopher  
to come, and find a means to bring down the End of the Beam, with-  
out Men or Horses, in this manner. To the Chain H L he fixes a

Place 36.

# Real wage to energy ratios

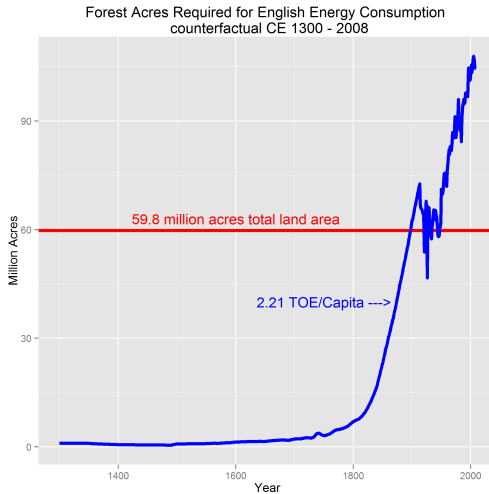
Source: Robert Allen (2009)



# Microeconomic theory

$$\frac{\text{Marginal Revenue Product}_{\text{organic energy joule}}}{\text{Price}_{\text{organic energy joule}}} = \frac{\text{Marginal Revenue Product}_{\text{fossil energy joule}}}{\text{Price}_{\text{fossil energy joule}}} \quad (1)$$

# English wood energy supply constraint





# The role of AIAS in future economic systems

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- What can I do to help?

Figure: Standardized English energy intensity of GDP

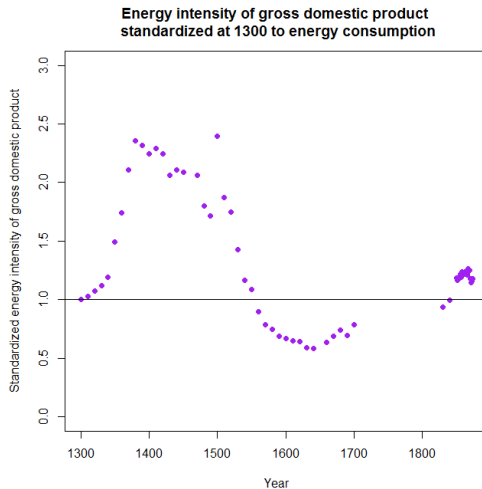


Figure: Log of GDP, with structural breaks

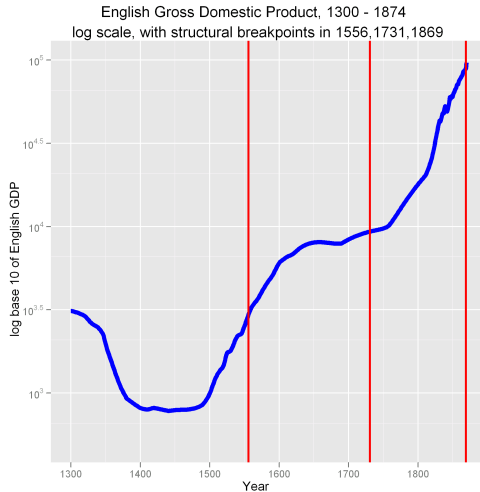
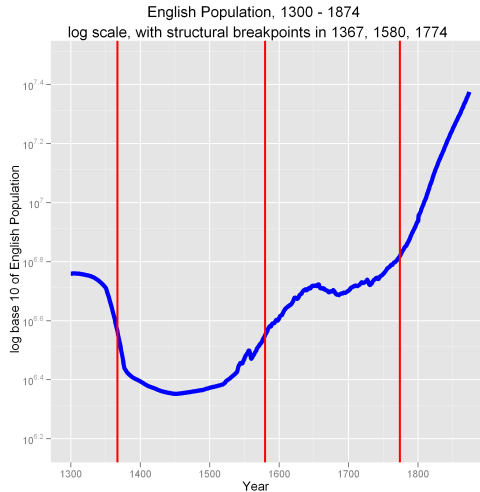


Figure: Log of population, with structural breaks





## Data Sources

Data series	Year range	Geography	Source
Energy consumption	1300 – 1873	England/Wales	Roger Fouquet (2008)
Gross domestic product	1300 – 1700	England	Graeme Snooks (1994)
	1741 – 1873	England/Wales	Lawrence Officer (2009)
Population	1300 – 1540	England	Graeme Snooks (1994)
	1541 – 1800	England	B. R. Mitchell (1988)
	1801 – 1873	England/Wales	B. R. Mitchell (1988)

Table: growth rates by century

Year	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1801	1873	Total
GDP Million								
2005 GBP	3114.7541	815.1288	994.4571	6031.953	8361.5911	18110	102811	
Century-over-century rate of growth		-0.738	0.220	5.066	0.386	1.166	4.677	32.008
Compounded annual rate of growth		-0.013	0.002	0.018	0.003	0.008	0.024	0.006
Energy consumption	1.7	1	1.3	2.2	3.6	11.6	66.1	
Century-over-century rate of growth		-0.412	0.300	0.692	0.636	2.222	4.698	37.882
Compounded annual rate of growth		-0.005	0.0026	0.005	0.005	0.012	0.024	0.006
Per-capita GDP								
2005 GBP	542	329	421	1,484	1,663	1,999	4,392	
Century-over-century rate of growth		-0.393	0.282	2.521	0.121	0.202	1.198	7.108
Compounded annual rate of growth		-0.005	0.002	0.013	0.001	0.002	0.011	0.004

Table: Energy and GDP fit tests

Test	Statistic	p-value
Pearson's correlation	0.998	
Paired t-test	5.592	4.991e-07
Chi-square	2864	0.0004998