

Lecture

Topics in Economic History

(Fall Semester 2021)

– Syllabus –

Structure of the course and grading:

The course **Topics in Economic History** (E5100 for Master students, E8042 for PhD students) consists of a **lecture** and an **exercise session**. The lectures will take place on Tuesday and the exercise sessions on Thursday (with some exceptions). You find the detailed schedule including information about the relevant literature below. Every course participant has to discuss one of the papers that are scheduled for the exercise sessions. I will provide more information about the allocation of paper presentations in the first lecture on 7 September 2021. At the end of the course, you have to pass an exam (100 minutes). The exam accounts for 70% of the final grade, the paper discussion accounts for 20%, and the participation in the course discussions for 10%.

Additional requirements for PhD students:

In addition to the regular course work, PhD students have to write a short empirical **research paper** on a topic that will be developed together with the course instructor. The regular course work (exam, presentation, and discussion participation) and the research paper account for 50% of the overall grade, respectively. On Thursday, 9 September, there will be an additional session for PhD Students, in which I provide more details concerning the writing of the research paper, including potential topics.

Course schedule and literature:

1. Introduction (7 September)

General suggestions for overviews of research in Economic History (not required):

- Bisin, Alberto/Frederico, Giovanni (Eds.) (2021): *The Handbook of Historical Economics*, London: Academic Press.
- Blum, Matthias/Colvin, Christopher L. (Eds.) (2018): *An Economist's Guide to Economic History*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Diebolt, Claude/Hauptert, Michael (Eds.) (2016): *Handbook of Cliometrics*, Heidelberg: Springer.
- Nunn, Nathan (2009): The Importance of History for Economic Development, in: *Annual Review of Economics* 1, pp. 65-92.

2. Geography and the Neolithic Revolution (14 September)

Literature discussed in the lecture:

- Ashraf, Quamrul/Michalopoulos, Stelios (2015): Climatic Fluctuations and the Diffusion of Agriculture, in: *Review of Economics and Statistics* 97(3), pp. 589-609.
- Olsson, Ola/Paik, Christopher (2020): A Western Reversal Since the Neolithic? The Long-Run Impact of Early Agriculture, in: *Journal of Economic History* 80(1), pp. 100-135.

Reading suggestions (not required):

- Diamond, Jared (1997): *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, New York: Norton.
- Galor, Oded (2011): *Unified Growth Theory*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

3. Trade and economic development in the ancient world (16 September)

Literature discussed in the lecture:

- Bakker, Jan D./Maurer, Stephan/Pischke, Jörn-Steffen/Rauch, Ferdinand (2020): Of Mice and Merchants: Connectedness and the Location of Economic Activity in the Iron Age, in: *Review of Economics and Statistics*, forthcoming.
- Flückiger, Matthias/Hornung, Erik/Larch, Mario/Ludwig, Markus/Mees, Allard (2021): Roman Transport Network Connectivity and Economic Integration, in: *Review of Economic Studies*, forthcoming.

Reading suggestions (not required):

- Barjamovic, Gojko/Chaney, Thomas/Coşar, Kerem/Hortaçsu, Ali (2019): Trade, Merchants, and the Lost Cities of the Bronze Age, in: *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 134(3), pp. 1455-1503.
- Temin, Peter (2006): The Economy of the Early Roman Empire, in: *Journal of Economic Perspective* 20(1), pp. 133-151.

4. Institutions I: Institutional change in Europe (21 and 23 September)

Literature discussed in the lecture:

- Acemoglu, Daron/Johnson, Simon/Robinson, James A. (2005): The Rise of Europe: Atlantic Trade, Institutional Change, and Economic Growth, in: *American Economic Review* 95(3), pp. 546-579.
- North, Douglass C./Weingast, Barry R. (1989): Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England, in: *Journal of Economic History* 49(4), pp. 803-832.

Literature discussed in the exercise session:

- Acemoglu, Daron/Cantoni, Davide/Johnson, Simon/Robinson, James A. (2011): The Consequences of Radical Reform: The French Revolution, in: *American Economic Review* 101(7), pp. 3286-3307.
- Cantoni, Davide/Yuchtman, Noam (2014): Medieval Universities, Legal Institutions, and the Commercial Revolution, in: *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 129(2), pp. 823-887.

- Markevich, Andrei/Zhuravskaya, Ekaterina (2018): The Economic Effects of the Abolition of Serfdom: Evidence from the Russian Empire, in: *American Economic Review* 108(4-5), pp. 1074-1117.

Reading suggestions (not required):

- Acemoglu, Daron/Robinson, James A. (2012): *Why Nations Fail. The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*, New York: Crown Publishing.
- De Long, J. Bradford/Shleifer, Andrei (1993): Princes and Merchants: European City Growth before the Industrial Revolution, in: *Journal of Law and Economics* 36(2), pp. 671-702.
- North, Douglass C. (1990): *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

5. Institutions II: Colonial institutions (28 and 30 September)

Literature discussed in the lecture:

- Acemoglu, Daron/Johnson, Simon/Robinson, James A. (2002): Reversal of Fortune: Geography and Institutions in the Making of the Modern World Income Distribution, in: *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 117(4), pp. 1231-1294.
- Glaeser, Edward L./La Porta, Rafael/ Lopez-De-Silanes, Florencio/Shleifer, Andrei (2004): Do Institutions Cause Growth?, in: *Journal of Economic Growth* 9, pp. 271-303.

Literature discussed in the exercise session:

- Dell, Melissa (2010): The Persistent Effects of Peru's Mining Mita, in: *Econometrica* 78(6), pp. 1863-1903.
- Dell, Melissa/Olken, Benjamin A. (2020): The Development Effects of the Extractive Colonial Economy: The Dutch Cultivation System in Java, in: *Review of Economic Studies* 87(1), pp. 164-203.
- Nunn, Nathan (2008): The Long-term Effects of Africa's Slave Trades, in: *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123(1), pp. 139-176.

Reading suggestions (not required):

- Acemoglu, Daron/Johnson, Simon/Robinson, James A. (2001): The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation, in: *American Economic Review* 91(5), pp. 1369-1401.
- Albouy, David Y. (2012): The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation: Comment, in: *American Economic Review* 102(6), pp. 3059-3076.
- Sokoloff, Kenneth L./Engermann, Stanley L. (2000): History Lessons. Institutions, Factor Endowments, and Paths of Development in the New World, in: *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 14(3), pp. 217-232.

6. Religion (5 and 7 October)

Literature discussed in the lecture:

- Becker, Sascha O./Woessmann, Ludger (2009): Was Weber Wrong? A Human Capital Theory of Protestant Economic History, in: *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 124(2), pp. 531-596.

- Kersting, Felix/Wohnsiedler, Iris/Wolf, Nikolaus (2020): Weber Revisited: The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Nationalism, in: *Journal of Economic History* 80(3) pp. 710-745.

Literature discussed in the exercise session:

- Valencia Caicedo, Felipe (2019): The Mission: Human Capital Transmission, Economic Persistence, and Culture in South America, in: *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 134(1), pp. 507-556.
- Cantoni, Davide/Dittmar, Jeremiah/Yuchtman, Noam (2018): Religious Competition and Reallocation: the Political Economy of Secularization in the Protestant Reformation, in: *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 133(4), pp. 2037-2096.
- Voigtländer, Nico/Voth, Hans-Joachim (2012): Persecution Perpetuated: The Medieval Origins of Anti-Semitic Violence in Nazi Germany, in: *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 127(3), pp. 1339-1392.

Reading suggestions (not required):

- Becker, Sascha O./Rubin, Jared/Woessmann, Ludger (2020): Religion in Economic History: A Survey, in: Bisin, Alberto/Frederico, Giovanni (Eds.) (2021): *The Handbook of Historical Economics*, London: Academic Press, pp. 585-640.
- Johnson, Noel D./Koyama, Mark (2019): *Persecution and Toleration: The Long Road to Religious Freedom*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Rubin, Jared (2017): *Rulers, Religion, and Riches: Why the West Got Rich and the Middle East Did Not*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

7. Human capital (12 and 14 October)

Literature discussed in the lecture:

- Squicciarini, Mara P./Voigtländer, Nico (2015): Human Capital and Industrialization: Evidence from the Age of Enlightenment, in: *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 130, pp. 1825-1883.

Literature discussed in the exercise session:

- Cinnirella, Francesco/Streb, Jochen (2017): The Role of Human Capital and Innovation in Economic Development: Evidence from Post-Malthusian Prussia, in: *Journal of Economic Growth* 22, pp. 193-227.
- De Pleijt, Alexandra/Nuvolari, Alessandro/Weisdorf, Jacob (2020): Human Capital Formation During the First Industrial Revolution: Evidence from the Use of Steam Engines, in: *Journal of the European Economic Association* 18(2), pp. 829-889.
- Dittmar, Jeremiah E./Meisenzahl, Ralf R. (2020): Public Goods Institutions, Human Capital, and Growth: Evidence from German History, in: *Review of Economic Studies* 87(2), pp. 959-996.

Reading suggestions (not required):

- Mokyr, Joel (2016): *A Culture of Growth: The Origins of the Modern Economy*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

8. Patents, innovation, and technological change (19 and 21 October)

Literature discussed in the lecture:

- Mokyr, Joel (2009): Intellectual Property Rights, the Industrial Revolution, and the Beginnings of Modern Economic Growth, in: *American Economic Review* 99(2), pp. 149-355.
- Moser, Petra (2005): How Do Patent Laws Influence Innovation? Evidence from Nineteenth-Century World's Fairs, in: *American Economic Review* 95(4), pp. 1214-1236.

Literature discussed in the exercise session:

- Hanlon, Walker W. (2015): Necessity is the Mother of Invention: Input Supplies and Directed Technical Change, in: *Econometrica* 83(1), pp. 67-100.
- Kelly, Morgan/Ó Gráda, Cormac (2016): Adam Smith, Watch Prices, and the Industrial Revolution, in: *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 131(4), pp. 1727-1752.
- Lehmann-Hasemeyer, Sibylle/Streb, Jochen (2016): The Berlin Stock Exchange in Imperial Germany: A Market for New Technology?, in: *American Economic Review* 106(11), pp. 3558-3576.

Reading suggestions (not required):

- Frey, Carl Benedikt (2019): *The Technology Trap: Capital, Labor, and Power in the Age of Automation*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Mokyr, Joel (1990): *The Lever of Riches: Technological Creativity and Economic Progress*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Moser, Petra (2016): Patents and Innovation in Economic History, in: *Annual Review of Economics* 8, pp. 241-258.

9. Trade, market integration, and globalization (2 and 4 November)

Literature discussed in the lecture:

- Donaldson, Dave/Hornbeck, Richard (2016): Railroads and American Economic Growth: A “Market Access” Approach, in: *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 131(2), pp. 799-858.

Literature discussed in the exercise session:

- Gao, Pei/Li, Yu-Hsiang (2021): Communication Infrastructure and Stabilizing Food Prices: Evidence from the Telegraph Network in China, in: *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 13(3), pp. 65-101.
- Pascali, Luigi (2017): The Wind of Change: Maritime Technology, Trade, and Economic Development, in: *American Economic Review* 107(9), pp. 2821-2854.
- Steinwender, Claudia (2018): Real Effects of Information Frictions: When the States and the Kingdom Became United, in: *American Economic Review* 108(3), pp. 657-696.

Reading suggestions (not required):

- De Zwart, Pim/Van Zanden, Jan Luiten (2018): *The Origins of Globalization: World Trade in the Making of the Global Economy, 1500–1800*, New York: Cambridge University Press.

- Fogel, Robert W. (1964): *Railroads and American Economic Growth: Essays in Econometric History*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press.
- O’Rourke, Kevin H. (2019): Economic History and Contemporary Challenges to Globalization, in: *Journal of Economic History* 79(2), pp. 356-382.
- O’Rourke, Kevin H./Williamson, Jeffrey G. (1999): *Globalization and History The Evolution of a Nineteenth-Century Atlantic Economy*, Cambridge: MIT Press.

10. Long-run development of financial markets (9 and 11 November)

Literature discussed in the lecture:

- Jordà, Òscar/Knoll, Katharina/Kuvshinov, Dimitry/Schularick, Moritz/Taylor, Alan M. (2019): The Rate of Return on Everything, 1870-2015, in: *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 134(3), pp. 1225-1298.
- Schmelzing, Paul (2020): Eight centuries of global real interest rates, R-G, and the ‘suprasecular’ decline, 1311–2018, Bank of England, Staff Working Paper No. 845.

Literature discussed in the exercise session:

- Pascali, Luigi (2016): Banks and Development: Jewish Communities in the Italian Renaissance and Current Economic Performance, in: *Review of Economics and Statistics* 98(1), pp. 140-158.
- Schularick, Moritz/Steger, Thomas M. (2010): Financial Integration, Investment, and Economic Growth: Evidence from Two Eras of Financial Globalization, in: *Review of Economics and Statistics* 92(4), pp. 756-768.
- Schularick, Moritz/Taylor, Alan M. (2012): Credit Booms Gone Bust: Monetary Policy, Leverage Cycles, and Financial Crises, 1870-2008, in: *American Economic Review* 102(2), pp. 1029-1061.

Reading suggestions (not required):

- Reinhart, Carmen M./Rogoff, Kenneth S. (2009): *This Time Is Different. Eight Centuries of Financial Folly*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

11. Inequality and its consequences (16 and 18 November)

Literature discussed in the lecture:

- Bartels, Charlotte (2019): Top Incomes in Germany, 1871-2014, in: *Journal of Economic History* 79(3), pp. 669-707.
- Piketty, Thomas/Saez, Emmanuel (2003): Income Inequality in the United States, 1913-1998, in: *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 68(1), pp. 1-39.

Literature discussed in the exercise session:

- Cinnirella, Francesco/Hornung, Erik (2016): Landownership Concentration and the Expansion of Education, in: *Journal of Development Economics* 121, pp. 135-152.
- Jaremski, Matthew/Fishback, Price V. (2018): Did Inequality in Farm Size Lead to Suppression of Banking and Credit in the Late Nineteenth Century, in: *Journal of Economic History* 78(1), pp. 155-195.
- Suesse, Marvin/Wolf, Nikolaus (2020): Rural Transformation, Inequality, and the Origins of Microfinance, in: *Journal of Development Economics* 143.

Reading suggestions (not required):

- Clark, Gregory (2014): *The Son Also Rises: Surnames and the History of Social Mobility*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Piketty, Thomas (2014): *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, MA 2014
- Saez, Emmanuel/Zucman, Gabriel (2016): Wealth Inequality in the United States since 1913: Evidence from Capitalized Income Tax Data, in: *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 131(2), pp. 519-578.

12. Epidemics (23 and 25 November)

Literature discussed in the lecture:

- Alfani, Guido (2013): Plague in Seventeenth-Century Europe and the Decline of Italy: an Epidemiological Hypothesis, in: *European Review of Economic History* 17(4), pp. 408-430.
- Voigtländer, Nico/Voth, Hans-Joachim (2013): The Three Horsemen of Riches: Plague, War, and Urbanization in Early Modern Europe, in: *Review of Economic Studies* 80, pp. 774-811.

Literature discussed in the exercise session:

- Jedwab, Remi/ Johnson, Noel/Koyama, Mark (2019): Negative Shocks and Mass Persecutions: Evidence from the Black Death, in: *Journal of Economic Growth* 24(4), pp. 345–395.
- Clay, Karen/Lewis, Joshua/Severnini, Edson (2018): Pollution, Infectious Disease, and Mortality: Evidence from the 1918 Spanish Influenza Pandemic, in: *Journal of Economic History* 78(4), pp. 1179-1209.
- Parman, John (2015): Childhood Health and Sibling Outcomes: Nurture Reinforcing Nature during the 1918 Influenza Pandemic, in: *Explorations in Economic History* 58, pp. 22-43.

Reading Suggestions (not required):

- Alfani, Guido/Murphy, Tommy E. (2017): Plague and Lethal Epidemics in the Pre-Industrial World, in: *Journal of Economic History* 77(1), pp. 314-343.

13. Migration (30 November and 2 December)

Literature discussed in the lecture:

- Bauer, Thomas K./Braun, Sebastian Till/Kvasnicka, Michael: The Economic Integration of Forced Migrants: Evidence for Post-War Germany, in: *Economic Journal* 123(571), pp. 998-1024.
- Braun, Sebastian/Mahmoud, Toman Omar (2014): The Employment Effects of Immigration: Evidence from the Mass Arrival of German Expellees in Post-war Germany, in: *Journal of Economic History* 74(1), pp. 69-108.

Literature discussed in the exercise session:

- Hornung, Erik (2014): Immigration and the Diffusion of Technology: The Huguenot Diaspora in Prussia, in: *American Economic Review* 104(1), pp. 84–122.
- Moser, Petra/Voena, Alessandra/Waldinger, Fabian (2014): German Jewish Émigrés and US Invention, in: *American Economic Review* 104(10), pp. 3222-3255.

- Waldinger, Fabian (2012): Peer Effects in Science: Evidence from the Dismissal of Scientists in Nazi Germany, in: *Review of Economic Studies* 79(2), pp. 838-861.

14. Environmental pollution and climate change (7 December)

Papers discussed in the lecture:

- Hanlon, Walker W. (2020): Coal Smoke, City Growth, and the Costs of the Industrial Revolution, in: *Economic Journal*, 130(626), pp. 462-488.

Reading Suggestions (not required):

- Kelly, Morgan Ó'Gráda, Cormac (2014): Change Points and Temporal Dependence in Reconstruction of Annual Temperature: Did Europe Experience a Little Ice Age?, in: *Annals of Applied Statistics* 8(3), pp. 1372-1394.

15. Q&A Session (9 December)