

## **The Emergence of a Global Economic Center: an Economic History of London, c.1200-c.1939**

### **Teaching Team**

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### **Synopsis:**

Today London is a global economic centre. It is the largest city in western Europe, being home to around 9 million inhabitants, around 40% of which have immigrated to the city from abroad. Its gross regional product represents around a quarter of UK GDP, in large part thanks to its financial services industry. It is served by a vast transport network, including the famous Tube, which serves 272 different stations across the city.

To understand London's economic prominence today, we need to understand its past. How did a city which was marginal in around 1200 become the largest city in Europe by the nineteenth century? To explore this question, we will consider several themes including London's infrastructure and place in the UK's economic geography, the living standards, health and welfare of its population, the growth of financial markets, and the lived experience of immigrants.

After two preparation seminars, we will go on a field trip to London in mid-November. Here students will have the opportunity to consider the economic history of the city in situ. We will visit an archive, museum and several standing buildings to understand the economic evolution of the city, and students will share presentations based on their research on the topics of the course. While we will part-fund this field trip using university funds, students will also need to make an own contribution.

Please note that due to the need to organise the field trip, students must commit to taking this course in June. Students who drop out of the course after they have registered, may be liable to pay the full fees for the trip, including the part funded by the university.

### **Dates:**

Preparation session: 11.09.24 – 17.15-18.45, in L7, 3-5, room P043.

Preparation session: 09.10.24 – 17.15-18.45, in L7, 3-5, room P043.

Fieldtrip: 12.11.24-14.11.24 – All day

### **Preparation and organisation:**

We will book return flights from Frankfurt to London and organise cheap shared accommodation. Please be aware that you will need to meet part of the costs of the fieldtrip yourselves.

### **Assessments:**

All teaching and assessment will be English.

Hausarbeit (written essay) 15-20 pages: 60% of final grade – deadline: 6.11.24

Oral presentation: 30% of final grade – deadline: 12.11.24

Discussion and participation: 10% of final grade

## Topics:

1. Economic Geography within London and the city's place in the British Economy
2. Transport and Infrastructure
3. Labour and Living Standards
4. Health and Demography
5. Financial Markets and 'Gentlemanly Capitalism'
6. Immigration and Emigration
7. Poverty and Welfare Systems
8. Policing the Populous

## General and Introductory:

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### **Poverty and Welfare Systems**

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### **Policing the Populous**

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