

Econ 279: Topics in Economic History
Spring 2021
TTH: 1:00-2:20, Virtual
Instructor
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Office Hours: Tuesday: 9:30-10:30 and Thursday 2:30-3:30

My goal in this class is to give an exposure to the literature in economic history. To write a good dissertation in economic history you need to understand what has been written previously. Without that foundation you will struggle in this field or any other field. But you should be ‘forward looking,’ while taking this course. You should be writing down ideas for research or discussing them with me and your colleagues. Once the Spring quarter is done you should begin working on those ideas. In my view, summer is the perfect time to write a second-year paper. At that point, you have had full exposure to a set of courses.

Throughout the course we will analyze a series of topics, mostly in European Economic History, but a few in American economic history. The histories of these major economies are often studied separately. But they share some similarities and it is valuable to study them side-by-side. The topics will broadly include (i) institutions and development, (ii) markets and trade, (iii) inequality and public policy. Each class will focus on two papers on the reading list below. The papers are paired by topic.

Our classes will be organized as a seminar with discussion of the papers. I will assign the papers to one student. They will give a brief overview, including discussion of its strengths (i.e. what we learn from this paper) and perhaps its limitations. The presenter should also discuss where research on this topic could go next, that is how to expand knowledge on this issue. The student presenter should provide slides summarizing their points, which they can upload on canvas before class. Note I will interrupt often to ask questions and make this conversational. Other students should do the same. That should be easy with a small class. So in sum, I expect everyone to offer some thoughts on each paper in the discussion.

At the end of the quarter, I want you to write an essay where you summarize some aspect of the literature, and propose an idea of how you can extend that literature. It could read almost like an introduction to a paper. Note, you don’t need to do the analysis yet. Just be clear on what is known and how your proposed paper could add.

Course grading will be based on your essay, your slides examining papers, and your presentations in class.

Course schedule

Week 1

Introduction to course

Discussion of my former students and the publications that came out of their dissertation.

Glance at the following:

Testa, Patrick. "The economic legacy of expulsion: Lessons from postwar Czechoslovakia." *Forthcoming Economic Journal*.

Dimitruk, Kara. "'I Intend Therefore to Prorogue': the effects of political conflict and the Glorious Revolution in parliament, 1660–1702." *European Review of Economic History* 22.3 (2018): 261-297.

Lombardi, Paul. "Examining the effect of economic shocks on the schooling choices of southern farmers." *European Review of Economic History* 23.2 (2019): 214-240.

Siodla, James. "Razing San Francisco: The 1906 disaster as a natural experiment in urban redevelopment." *Journal of Urban Economics* 89 (2015): 48-61.

Lee, Woong. "Slack and Slacker: Job Seekers, Job Vacancies, and Matching Functions in the US Labor Market during the Roaring Twenties and the Great Contraction, 1924-1932." *The Journal of Economic History* 76.3 (2016): 840.

Tiagi, Raaj. "Economic gains from migration to the urban western frontier in the United States, 1900–1910: A longitudinal analysis." *Historical Methods: A Journal of Quantitative and Interdisciplinary History* 49.3 (2016): 157-168.

Theme 1: institutions and development in history

Week 2, April 6:

Wahl, Fabian. "Political participation and economic development. Evidence from the rise of participative political institutions in the late medieval German Lands." *European Review of Economic History* 23.2 (2019): 193-213.

Dittmar, Jeremiah E., and Ralf R. Meisenzahl. "Public goods institutions, human capital, and growth: Evidence from German history." *The Review of Economic Studies* 87.2 (2020): 959-996.

Week, April 8:

Van Zanden, Jan Luiten, Eltjo Buringh, and Maarten Bosker. "The rise and decline of European parliaments, 1188–1789." *The Economic History Review* 65.3 (2012): 835-861.

Cox, Gary W. "Political institutions, economic liberty, and the great divergence." *The Journal of Economic History* 77.3 (2017): 724-755.

Week 3, April 13:

Anderson, Robert Warren, Noel D. Johnson, and Mark Koyama. "Jewish persecutions and weather shocks: 1100–1800." *The Economic Journal* 127.602 (2017): 924-958.

Malinowski, Mikołaj. "Economic Consequences of State Failure—Legal Capacity, Regulatory Activity, and Market Integration in Poland, 1505–1772." *The Journal of Economic History* 79.3 (2019): 862-896.

Week 3, April 15:

Lecce, Giampaolo, and Laura Ogliari. "Institutional Transplant and Cultural Proximity: Evidence from Nineteenth-Century Prussia." *The Journal of Economic History* 79.4 (2019): 1060-1093.

Becker, Sascha O., and Erik Hornung. "The Political Economy of the Prussian Three-Class Franchise." *The Journal of Economic History* 80.4 (2020): 1143-1188.

Week 4, April 20:

Aidt, Toke S., and Raphael Franck. "What Motivates an Oligarchic Elite to Democratize? Evidence from the Roll Call Vote on the Great Reform Act of 1832." *The Journal of Economic History* 79.3 (2019): 773-825.

Dower, Paul Castaneda, et al. "Collective action and representation in autocracies: Evidence from Russia's great reforms." *American Political Science Review* 112.1 (2018): 125-147.

Week 4, April 22

Naumenko, Natalya. "The Political Economy of Famine: the Ukrainian Famine of 1933." *Journal of Economic History*

Galofré-Vilà, Gregori, et al. "Austerity and the Rise of the Nazi Party." *The Journal of Economic History* (2017): 1-33.

Theme 2: markets, trade, and colonialism

Week 5, April 27

Federico, Giovanni, Max-Stephan Schulze, and Oliver Volckart. "European Goods Market Integration in the Very Long Run: From the Black Death to the First World War." *The Journal of Economic History*: 1-33.

Yanfeng GU and James Kai-sing KUNG, Malthus Goes to China: The Effect of 'Positive Checks' on Grain Market Development, 1736-1910,

Week 5, April 29

Pascali, Luigi. "The wind of change: Maritime technology, trade, and economic development." *American Economic Review* 107.9 (2017): 2821-54.

Juhász, Réka. "Temporary protection and technology adoption: Evidence from the napoleonic blockade." *American Economic Review* 108.11 (2018): 3339-76.

Week 6, May 4

Becuwe, Stéphane, Bertrand Blancheton, and Christopher M. Meissner. *The French (Trade) Revolution of 1860: Intra-Industry Trade and Smooth Adjustment*. No. w25173. National Bureau of Economic Research, 2018.

Chilosi, David, and Giovanni Federico. "The effects of market integration during the first globalization: a multi-market approach." *European Review of Economic History* 25.1 (2021): 20-58.

Week 6, May 6

Mitchener, Kris James, and Marc Weidenmier. "Trade and empire." *The Economic Journal* 118.533 (2008): 1805-1834.

Frankema, Ewout, Jeffrey G. Williamson, and P. J. Woltjer. "An economic rationale for the West African scramble? The commercial transition and the commodity price boom of 1835-1885." *The Journal of Economic History* (2018): 231-267.

Week 7, May 11

Bogart, Dan, and Latika Chaudhary. "Regulation, ownership, and costs: A historical perspective from Indian railways." *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 4.1 (2012): 28-57.

González, Felipe, Mounu Prem, and Francisco Urzúa. "The privatization origins of political corporations: Evidence from the Pinochet regime." *The Journal of Economic History* 80.2 (2020): 417-456.

Week 7, May 13

Hornung, Erik. "Railroads and growth in Prussia." *Journal of the European Economic Association* 13.4 (2015): 699-736.

Donaldson, Dave, and Richard Hornbeck. "Railroads and American economic growth: A "market access" approach." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 131.2 (2016): 799-858.

Theme 3: Inequality, labor markets, and redistribution

Week 8, May 18

Zimran, Ariell. "Transportation and health in the antebellum United States, 1820–1847." *The Journal of Economic History* 80.3 (2020): 670-709.

Tang, John P. "The Engine and the Reaper: Industrialization and mortality in late nineteenth century Japan." *Journal of health economics* 56 (2017): 145-162.

Week 8, May 20

Naidu, Suresh, and Noam Yuchtman. 2013. "Coercive Contract Enforcement: Law and the Labor Market in Nineteenth Century Industrial Britain." *American Economic Review*, 103(1): 107-44.

Persaud, Alexander. "Escaping Local Risk by Entering Indentureship: Evidence from Nineteenth-Century Indian Migration." *The Journal of Economic History* 79.2 (2019): 447-476.

Week 9, May 25

Troesken, Werner. "The limits of Jim Crow: Race and the provision of water and sewerage services in American cities, 1880–1925." *The Journal of Economic History* 62.03 (2002): 734-772.

Troesken, Werner. "Race, disease, and the provision of water in American cities, 1889-1921." *Journal of Economic History* (2001): 750-776.

Week 9, May 27

Abramitzky, Ran, Leah Platt Boustan, and Katherine Eriksson. "A nation of immigrants: Assimilation and economic outcomes in the age of mass migration." *Journal of Political Economy* 122.3 (2014): 467-506.

Ward, Zachary. "The not-so-hot melting pot: The persistence of outcomes for descendants of the age of mass migration." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 12.4 (2020): 73-102.

Week 10, June 1

Rose, Evan K. "The rise and fall of female labor force participation during World War II in the United States." *The Journal of Economic History* 78.3 (2018): 673-711

Feigenbaum, James J., and Hui Ren Tan. "The Return to Education in the Mid-Twentieth Century: Evidence from Twins." *The Journal of Economic History* 80.4 (2020): 1101-1142.

Week 10, June 3

Bailey, Martha J., and Nicolas J. Duquette. "How Johnson fought the war on poverty: The economics and politics of funding at the office of economic opportunity." *The journal of economic history* 74.2 (2014): 351-388.

Bailey, Martha J. "Reexamining the impact of family planning programs on US fertility: evidence from the War on Poverty and the early years of Title X." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 4.2 (2012): 62-97.