

CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC HISTORY

RESEARCH SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

JULY 2019 ISSUE 27



Australian
National
University

Friends of the ANU Centre for Economic History,

Welcome to this issue of the CEH newsletter. It includes a report on our conference on Progress and Change in India and a feature on the 75th anniversary of Bretton Woods, as well as the programme for the upcoming AusClio workshop. As usual there are announcements of lots of conferences and events as well as recent CEH discussion papers. Once again, thanks for your interest in the Centre for Economic History.

Tim Hatton, CEH Director

Conference Report: Progress and Change in India

This CEH conference, which took place in 11th and 12th July, focused on a country rather than an economic issue and it brought together leading historians and development economists with common interests in the development of India. James Fenske (Warwick) opened the proceedings with a very long run perspective, which focused on the persistent effects of conflicts between the myriad of states in precolonial India. These wars created a legacy of increased state capacity and infrastructure building that is still evident in local development as measured by night-time luminosity.

Chinmay Tumbe (Indian Institute of Management) showed that urbanisation in post-independence India was service-based and it was relatively slow, partly because birth rates were lower in urban than in rural areas. That raised the question of why rural-urban migration was not as large as might have been expected, which led to discussion of a range of potential constraints on mobility. Manoj Pandey (ANU) charted the decline in the poverty rates from more than 50 percent in the post-independence decades to less than 30 percent in 2000. But progress varied widely between states, depending on initial poverty rates and on the fortunes of different economic sectors.

Sabyasachi Das (Ashoka) noted that female participation in political leadership matters for a range of socioeconomic outcomes but that this is conditioned by pre-existing gender norms. He found that in more gender biased districts women were more likely to vote for female candidates and so the emergence of female politicians need not be constrained by slowly changing gender norms. Education is a key to advancement and Priya Mukherjee (William and Mary) used an experiment with a provider to investigate the price sensitivity of after-



Chinmay Tumbe



Sabyasachi Das

Progress and Change in India, continued

school private tutoring. She found that demand for enrolment was downward sloping but, ironically, participation had little effect on test scores.

The contribution of railways to economic growth is a long-standing debate in economic history but in India the effect seems to have been smaller than elsewhere. Dan Bogart (UC Irvine) disaggregated the social savings in freight transport by district and commodity, emphasising the concentration on minerals for export with limited linkages to other sectors. Shifting to modern times, the focus has been on improving roads that connect rural communities to the wider economy and Sam Asher (World Bank) compared villages that were provided with paved roads with those that were not. The former experienced little direct increase in economic activity within the village but paved roads did increase the residents' access to education and employment in urban centres.



Bishnu Gupta with organiser Tim Hatton

The keynote address (doubling as the F H Gruen public lecture) was given by Bishupriya Gupta (Warwick) who provided a compelling analysis of the long sweep of Indian history from pre-colonial times to the present. She used economic statistics from recent research to debunk a range of popular myths. The negative effect of deindustrialisation on growth during the colonial era (a prominent claim) could only have been marginal in an overwhelmingly agricultural economy. And while growth in the early post-independence decades may have been slow relative to the Asia Tigers (an oft-cited comparison), it was a significant improvement on India's past. The negative legacies of colonialism included lack of irrigation

in agriculture and poor basic education, but on the positive side, strong tertiary education supported growth in the hi-tech service sector.

The second day of the conference was opened by Yusuf Negggers (Michigan) who reported on an experiment to improve bureaucratic efficiency in the allocation of funds under the work employment guarantee scheme (MGNREGA). Providing a mobile phone app to different levels of management reduced payment delays, especially when given to middle management. Gaurav Khanna (UC San Diego) examined the political fallout for the ruling BJP from the infamous withdrawal of high denomination banknotes in November 2016. In state elections the BJP were punished in under-banked districts but were rewarded in districts with higher bank density. Aditya Balasubramanian (ANU) followed with an analysis of the economic thought of Pandit Deandayal Upadhyaya (1916-1968) who has become an icon of the BJP. His economic ideas focused on decentralisation, promoting small scale industry and farming, and national self-sufficiency, which, while appealing to some constituencies, only partially align with the current policies of the BJP.

Progress and Change in India continued

The afternoon session began with two presentations on the effect of gender laws. Eddy Tam (Oxford) examined the effect of the 1929 act that raised the minimum age of marriage for girls to 14 only in the areas of direct British rule and not in the princely states. The initial effect was to raise marriages among 10-15 year-olds in anticipation of the law but the long run effects of lower child marriage and higher educational enrolment among females persisted in former direct rule districts to the end of the century. Lakshmi Iyer (Notre Dame) reported that earlier work had shown that the election of women to local councils was associated with reduced crime rates, especially for crimes against women. Exploiting changes in the quotas for women legislators she found that more (as distinct from any) women legislators produced no additional reduction in crime.

Pushkar Maitra (Monash) investigated the effects of delegating the delivery of agricultural credit to local intermediaries who were recommended by private agents as compared with those recommended by government agents. Those recommended by private agents allocated resources to more productive farms but their greater success was largely due to closer engagement between the agent and farmer. Last but not least, Umair Khalil (Monash) asked whether chief ministers in office from 1992 to 2008 used their positions to enhance prosperity in their own constituencies. The evidence from luminosity suggests that they did, but only during their tenure in office and only if the district they represented was not their birth district. After an intensive two days of presentation and discussion the speakers were rewarded with a relaxed dinner hosted by the Director of the Rabea Tourky. --TH



Umair Khalil--on the horns of a dilemma?

Centre for Economic History Discussion Paper Series

The CEH website hosts a discussion paper series on a variety of topics in economic history. Recent additions include the following:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 2019-05 | “Stop! Go! What can we learn about family planning from birth timing in settler South Africa, 1800-1910?” by Jeanne Cilliers and Martine Mariotti. |
| 2019-06 | “Identifying Colonial Roads in Southern New Jersey: An application of field and archival methods to document the locations and roles of critical American Revolutionary War supply routes,” by Cameron E. Gordon, Caroline N. Peters and Jonathan R. Peters. |
| 2019-07 | “Emigration from the UK 1870-1913: Quantity and Quality,” by Timothy J. Hatton. |
| 2019-07 | “Always Egalitarian: Australian Earnings Inequality 1870-1910,” Laura Panza and Jeffrey G. Williamson. |

Centre affiliates and visitors are encouraged to submit working papers to the series. All papers are available at: <https://ideas.repec.org/s/auu/hpaper.html>

Australian Cliometrics Workshop at UNSW

Preliminary Programme, Friday October 4th 2019

9:00 – 9:30	Arrival and Welcome
9:30 – 10:30	Presenter: Emilio Depetris-Chauvin (Universidad Católica de Chile): Borderline Disorder: (De facto) Historical Ethnic Borders and Contemporary Conflict in Africa Discussant: Federico Masera (UNSW)
10:30 – 11:30	Presenter: Weijia Li (Monash): Meritocracy, Decentralization, and Local Dual Leadership: Theory and Historical Evidence Discussant: Jane Zhang (UNSW)
11:30 – 12:30	Presenter: Fernando Arteaga (George Mason): The Historical Legacy of (Pre?) Colonial Indigenous Settlements in Mexico Discussant: Florian Ploeckl (Adelaide)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch:
13:30 – 14:30	Presenter: Nathan Lane (Monash): Manufacturing Revolutions: Industrial Policy and Networks in South Korea Discussant: Javier Mejia (NYU)
14:30 – 15:30	Presenter: Sarah Walker (UNSW): Women's Labor Force Participation and Household Technology Adoption Discussant: Paul-Vincent Lombardi (San Jose State)
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 – 17:00	Presenter: Maxim Anayev (Melbourne): Roots of Intolerance: Impact of Religious Missions on Modern Anti-Gay Sentiments in Sub-Saharan Africa Discussant: Victoria Baranov (Melbourne)
17:00 – 18:00	Presenter: Martine Mariotti (ANU): Stop! Go! What can we learn about family planning from birth timing in settler South Africa, 1800-1910? Discussant: Valentina Duque (Sydney)

For further details, contact Pauline Grosjean at: p.grosjean@unsw.edu.au

CEH news and working papers at: <https://www.rse.anu.edu.au/research/centres-projects/centre-for-economic-history/>

The CEH welcomes courtesy announcements from affiliates and interested parties for inclusion in our newsletter (subject to editing). Please send news items to: CEH.RSE@anu.edu.au

All CEH affiliates who are registered with RePEc are invited to add the Centre as an affiliation on IDEAS: <https://edirc.repec.org/data/cpanuau.html>

Feature: Bretton Woods at 75

Conference Report: From Bretton Woods to the Financial Crisis: The Rise and Fall of Global Economic Governance

On 2-3 May 2019, CEH affiliates Aditya Balasubramanian and Frank Bongiorno descended upon the University of Melbourne's historic Carlton campus for a packed two days of presentations and discussion about the postwar international economic order developed out of discussions at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, in 1944. The 'Bretton Woods System' of fixed exchange rates underwritten by the US dollar backed in gold held between 1945 and 1973. After it unraveled, a new order of floating exchange rates and greater international capital mobility emerged. That new order itself has come under challenge over the last decade, following the Global Financial Crisis. The conference aimed to tackle the following questions: How did the 'Bretton Woods' global economic order come to be? Can the institutions designed between the 1930s and the 1950s deal with these new challenges, especially in an age of increased populism and discontent with some aspects of globalization? How do these concerns relate specifically to Australia as a nation and as part of the Asia-Pacific region?

The workshop brought together a range of distinguished economists, historians and practitioners at the newly opened, state-of-the-art Arts West building. Over two days, participants considered such issues as the reconciliation of tension between national and general interests, how institutions can be structured to enhance cooperation, the interrelation between economic and other objectives, how to make rules binding and enforceable, and what the nature of distributive justice can be in the world economy.

To kick off the event, organizer Professor Trevor Burnard (Melbourne) welcomed the participants. He described the workshop as the first step towards a new economic history programme at the University. Although details are still being threshed out, this will include courses on world economic history and the Australian economy for undergraduates and involve collaboration between economics and history departments. It is being endowed by the benefaction of Peter Griffin AM, a Melbourne alumnus and former director of N.M. Rothschild and Sons.

Jim Tomlinson (Glasgow) opened the research part of the workshop with his remarks on national economic management in a world of globalization. He argued that the embedded liberalism paradigm for thinking about the Bretton Woods system—a form of multilateralism combined with requirements for domestic stability—continues despite the dominant understanding that this has been discarded. He turned especially to statistics about social sector expenditure as proportion of the GDP in the OECD countries to substantiate this point.

The next three papers took up the question of Australia and the global economy. David Vines (Oxford) profiled the contributions of such economists as Trevor Swann and H.C. Coombs, both figures with strong ANU connections—to describe how Australia became a more outward looking economy during the Bretton Woods era. Sean Turnell (Macquarie) spoke of the Australian delegation at the Bretton Woods conference. Building upon CEH affiliate Selwyn Cornish's work (featured below) to show how Australia pushed for a more expansionary monetary order consistent with the defeated Keynesian plan for a clearing union, at the conference and beyond.

From Bretton Woods to the Financial Crisis cont.

CEH affiliate Frank Bongiorno brought discussions back to domestic concerns, looking at the Labour government in the 1980s and the floating of the Australian dollar, examining the importance of rhetoric and Labour's anti-inflation relationship with unions. To bring the day to a close, Aditya Balasubramanian's paper took the workshop away from Australia and examined the politics of aid conditionality in the 1980s around India's loan as IMF and World Bank became more seminal lending institutions and boundaries between their respective roles blurred.

Two keynote lectures brought the first day of the conference to a close and opened up the second day. In his remarks before a sold-out audience at the Prest Theatre, Professor Martin Daunton (Cambridge) described the evolution of multilateralism at Bretton Woods and the threats to the system. The next day Vanessa Ogle (Berkeley) spoke of how financialization and tax havens had destabilized the Bretton Woods system.

To draw the conference to a close, David Merrett (Melbourne), Simon Ville (Wollongong) and Claire Wright (Macquarie) examined the history of foreign direct investment in Australia, which has expanded continuously since the 1950s, with the exception of a brief period in the 1970s. It now accounts for about 37% of GDP.

The conference was a great success and inspired a number of conversations. In the coming years, Melbourne will look to appoint new faculty members and sponsor further conferences and workshops on similar themes to build its economic history programme.--AB

Selwyn Cornish on the Australian Delegation at Bretton Woods

Yale University Press published in July a collection of papers on the international monetary conference at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, that took place 75 years ago. The papers had been presented earlier at a conference held at Yale. The book – *The Bretton Woods Agreements: Together with Scholarly Commentaries and Essential Historical Documents*, was edited by Naomi Lamoreaux and Ian Shapiro. As well as the papers, the book includes a number of documents prepared originally for the Bretton Woods conference. It is the third publication in a series called *Basic Documents in World Politics*. Previous volumes include *Charter of the United Nations*, edited by Ian Shapiro and Joseph Lampert (2014), and *Charter of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization*, edited by Ian Shapiro and Adam Tooze (2018).

Selwyn Cornish (ANU and Reserve Bank) and Kurt Schuler (US Treasury) contributed a paper entitled 'Australia's Full-Employment Proposals at Bretton Woods: A Road Only Partly Taken'. It focuses on the attempt by the Australian delegation to have a commitment to maintaining full employment written into the charter of the Bretton Woods institutions (the IMF and the World Bank). Australia failed in this endeavour, though its quota and drawing rights increased, and secured agreement on greater exchange rate flexibility for countries experiencing 'fundamental disequilibrium' in their balance of payments.

Other contributors to the book include Jeffrey Frieden, Barry Eichengreen, Douglas Irwin, Martin Daunton, Eric Helleiner, Michael Bordo and Harold James.

***APEBH Conference 13th – 15th February 2020:
Colonization and Indigenous Populations***

Research School of Economics, Australian National University

The Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand (EHSANZ) invites papers and proposals for sessions for the Asia Pacific Economic and Business History (APEBH) Conference to be held at the Australian National University on February 13-15, 2020. The organizers welcome proposals for contributions on the conference theme, “Colonization and Indigenous Populations,” from any aspect in economic history. While submissions for papers or panels on the conference topic will be given preference, submissions on all topics in economic history are welcome.

It has been approximately 600 years since modern colonization took off in earnest around the globe. While there was regional variation in the indigenous response to the experience, by and large, in a relatively short period, the colonizers took over the lands they conquered leaving the indigenous populations on the economic periphery. What have the economic, social, and cultural impacts been on indigenous populations across the world?

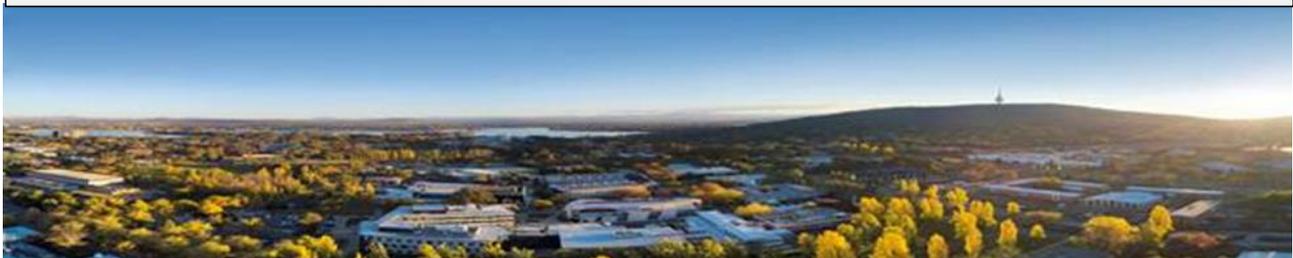
Our theme could be approached from a number of perspectives, including those of the cliometrician, the economic historian, the economic theorist, the business historian, the applied economist, as well as the social historian. There is ample scope for new interpretations, new findings, as well as syntheses of existing work.

The Keynote Butlin Lecture will be given by Deborah Oxley, University of Oxford.

Researchers across a broad range of disciplines are warmly welcomed. Early career researchers are encouraged to participate. The conference organisers are also particularly interested in attracting papers that examine topics in the context of the Asia-Pacific region and papers that provide an international comparative perspective, especially in relation to pre-contact and settler-economies such as Australia, New Zealand and the wider Pacific.

Current students, and recent PhDs (awarded since February 2018) who do not have institutional support and who present a paper at the Conference will receive free registration, and a free ticket to the conference dinner. If you require any particular arrangements, for example refereeing of your paper, please let us know with your submission.

All abstracts, proposals for sessions, or papers for refereeing should be emailed to apebh2020@anu.edu.au by 31 November 2019. Papers received before the deadline will be reviewed earlier.



Conference Announcement:***Demythologising Australia's Federation Episode***

The conference will take place on Friday 22 November 2019 at the Fremantle campus of the University of Notre Dame, Australia. It will gather scholars and thinkers to challenge the uncritically laudatory stance of almost all historiography of Australia's Federation episode of 1889-1914. It aspires to voice a 'new history of Australian Federation' by airing criticisms, doubts, and disappointments about this foundational chapter.

The conference is specifically designed for undergraduate, honours and postgraduate students, but all interested parties are very welcome. Confirmed speakers include Dr. Hal Colbatch, Dr. William Coleman, Professor Henry Ergas, Dr. Zachary Gorman, and Dr. Peter Phelps.

More information is available at:

<https://www.notredame.edu.au/about/schools/fremantle/business/freedom-to-choose>

Please register with Angela Ifkovich (Conference Administration): angela.ifkovich@nd.edu.au

For further queries, please contact the organisers: William Coleman:

william.coleman@anu.edu.au or Gregory Moore: greg.moore@nd.edu.au.

Conference Announcement:***History of Economic Thought Society of Australia Conference, 2019***

The 32nd HETSA Conference will be held at the University of Sydney, from 17.30 Wednesday 2nd October to 18.00 Friday 4th October 2019.

The conference is supported by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the School of Economics at the University of Sydney. The conference convenor is Professor Tony Aspromourgos, email: tony.aspromourgos@sydney.edu.au.

The KEYNOTE SPEAKER will be Professor Fabio Petri, University of Siena who will present: 'Capital Theory, 1874–2019, and the State of Macroeconomics'.

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/fabiopetripapers/home>.

REGISTRATION for the Conference is required by Friday 2nd August 2019 (AU\$220.00; fulltime students AU\$150.00; Conference dinner AU\$90.00). The website for registration, for the conference programme, for other information, and for access to the conference papers (after 18th September) is at: <https://fass.e-newsletter.com.au/hetsa-2019>.

NOTE: Participants are advised to book flights and accommodation early as a major football final will be taking place in Sydney on Sunday 6th October and Monday 7th October is the Labour Day public holiday.

Conference Announcement:
Asian Studies Association of Australia Conference, 2020

Organised by an interdisciplinary committee, the ASAA 2020 conference is open to scholars, students and community members with an interest in Asia. The conference will be held at, and sponsored by the University of Melbourne from 6-9 July 2020. The theme of our conference is Future Asias.

Global recognition of the multiplicity of Asian communities, within Asia and in diverse Asian diasporas, including those in Australia, highlights the plurality of Asian identities. The dynamism of the Asian region is acknowledged across the disciplines. The organisers of ASAA 2020 ask that presenters explore this diversity and past or contemporary understandings of Asia, to reflect on where these plural Future Asias are headed.

We will be organising a series of roundtable discussions on the following interdisciplinary themes, including economics and economic/business history. Individual paper and panel submissions related to the following themes are particularly welcomed.

- Shifting inequalities in Asia
- Mobilities across Asias
- Australia in Asia/Asia in Australia
- Civil society in Asia
- Australia-Asia relations
- New spatio-political-economies of Asia
- Transitional justice
- Language diversities across Asia

Call for proposals for pre-conference flexible format meetings, seminars or workshops

Prior to the commencement of the main conference, the afternoon of Monday 6th July is set aside for pre-conference gatherings. If you would like to hold a pre-conference workshop, seminar or meeting please contact the conference organisers (by email) to request an appropriate space for your event depending on your anticipated attendance. The deadline for submissions is 5pm, Friday 1 November 2019. However, spaces are limited, so it is advised that requests are made early.

Call for Papers and Panels

Proposal submissions open 12 June 2019 for panels, individual papers and flexible format meetings and workshops. Panels should consist of 4 abstracts. Multiple sessions on a single panel topic are permitted, up to a maximum of three sessions (i.e. 12 abstracts), submitted as separate panels of 4 abstracts each. The ASAA encourages submissions from postgraduate scholars. The deadline for submissions is 5pm, Friday 1 November

The live call for papers and conference website is at: [Call for Papers ASAA 2020](#)