
History of Economic Development
Economics 8764
Spring 2019 Tue & Thur 12:30-1:45 p.m., Econ 5

Professor Carol H. Shiue, email shiue@colorado.edu
Office Hours: Econ 206B, TR 1:45-2:45 p.m. and by appointment.

Class participation, 20% of your grade. Those who are not presenting should carefully read the paper that is being presented that day and write-up slides for class discussion that consists of a balanced critique.

Slide 1: What is good about the paper?

Slide 2: What is a weakness of the paper?

Slide 3: An idea for further improvement, or ideas for further research.

After the main presentation, I will randomly call on someone to present his/her three slides. The idea is to initiate more discussion and participation in an environment similar to a seminar.

A midterm 5-page (double-spaced) draft of your paper proposal and presentation, 20% of grade. The proposal should motivate a question in economic history and discuss existing research that is related to that question. Your topic may come from the syllabus, but you may select a topic that is not on the syllabus. In either case, include the reference list. The draft should be a minimum of 5 double-spaced pages. Please send me your draft 4 days before your presentation.

A final 15-page (double-spaced) draft of your paper and in-class presentation, 30% of grade. Ideally this will be the same proposal that you worked on for the midterm presentation. You should include in your proposal reference to potential data sources and how these data can be used to address your key questions; aim to be as specific as you can about your strategy and approach. These presentations will take place during the last week of class. I will be happy to give you feedback on your slides and/or your paper if you send them to me in advance.

The final draft is due by May 7.

Reading List Outline

I. Introduction

What is this course about? What are the questions addressed in economic history? What do economic historians do? Why study economic history? I will also give tips on the class presentations and what the paper proposal for this course should aim for in the introduction and body.

Abramitzky, Ran, 2015. "Economics and the Modern Economic Historian" *Journal of Economic History*, 75(4).

Nunn, Nathan, 2009. "The Importance of History for Economic Development," *Annual Review Economics*, 1:65-92.

Gutmann, Myron et al. 2018. "Big Data in Economic History", *Journal of Economic History*, 78(1).

Solow, Robert M., 1985, "Economic History and Economics," *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings* 75:2 (May), pp. 328-331.

Greif, Avner, 1997. "Cliometrics After 40 years," *American Economic Review*, 87(2), pp. 400-403.

II. Long-Term Trends in Economic Growth: The Stylized Facts

What do we know? What is to be explained? What are overall trends in income, population, mortality, fertility from pre-industrial times to the modern economy? How does the industrialization of the 18th century compare with modernization in developing countries today? Has there been convergence or divergence since the year 1800? Are there differences in historical income trends within Europe

Maddison, Angus, 2003. *The World Economy: Historical Statistics*, Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development.

Mitchell, B. 1981. *European Historical Statistics, 1750-1975*, 2nd edition. New York University Press.

Easterlin, Richard A. 2000. "Worldwide Standard of Living Since 1800," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 14(1): 7-26.

Jones, Charles, 2007, "On the Evolution of the World Income Distribution" *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 11(3): 19-

Laslett, Peter, 1983. *The World We Have Lost: Further Explored*, third edition (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapters 4-5, pp. 81-121.

Winterhalter, Bruce, 1993. "Work, Resources and Population in Foraging Societies," *Man*, vol 28: 321-340.

Fogel, Robert. 2004. *The Escape from Hunger and Premature Death, 1700-2100, Europe, America and the Third World*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-65.

Clark, Gregory, 2005, *Farewell to Alms*, Princeton University Press.

2. Pre-industrial Family Structure

(1/29): Botticini, Maristella, 1999. "A Loveless Economy? Intergenerational Altruism and the Marriage Market in a Tuscan Town, 1415-1436," *Journal of Economic History*,

power was replaced by checks and balances by Parliament. How can this hypothesis be tested? Does the model of predatory power apply to other regions of the world?

Student Presentation (2/21): Dincecco, M. (2009). Fiscal Centralization, Limited Government, and Public Revenues in Europe, 1650–1913. *The Journal of Economic History*, 69(1), 48-103.

Steven Pincus and J. Robinson, 2014. "[What Really Happened During the Glorious Revolution?](#)" in *Institutions, Property Rights and Growth: The Legacy of Douglass North*, New York: Cambridge University Press.

Karaman, Kivanc and Sevket Pamuk, 2010. "Ottoman State Finances in European Perspective (1500-1914)," *Journal of Economic History* 70 (3). pp. 593-629.

Clark, Gregory. 1996. "The Political Foundations of Modern Economic Growth: England, 1540-1800." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, XXVI: (4) 563-588.

Sussman, Nathan and Yishay Yafeh. "Institutional Reforms, Financial Development and Sovereign Debt: Britain 1690–1790." *Journal of Economic History* 66, 4 (2006): 906-935

North, Douglass C., and B. R. Weingast. 1989. "Constitutions and Commitment: Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice." *Journal of Economic History* XLIX, 803-32.

Ma, Debin, 2011. "Rock, Scissors, Paper, the Problem of Incentives and Information in

Kenneth Pomeranz, 2001. *The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy*. Princeton University Press.

Studer, Roman, 2008. "India and the Great Divergence: Assessing the Efficiency of Grain Markets in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century India," *The Journal of Economic History*, vol. 68(02), pages 393-437.

Jorge Baten et al. 2010. "Evolution of living standards and human capital in China in the 18-20th centuries: Evidences from real wages, age-heaping, and anthropometrics," *Explorations in Economic History*, 47(3).

Greif, Avner, and G. Tabellini, 2011. "The Clan and the City: Sustaining Cooperation in China and Europe," <http://tuvalu.santafe.edu/~bowles/ClanCity.pdf>

2. Intergenerational mobility and inequality; migration and assimilation

What does the comparison of intergenerational mobility in Britain and the United States reveal about trends in the two countries in inequality? What explains the persistence of inequality over time? There has also been a renewed interest in mobility, thanks to linking of census records: <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/>

Student Presentation: (4/4): Alexander, R., & Ward, Z. 2018. Age at Arrival and Assimilation During the Age of Mass Migration. *The Journal of Economic History*, 78(3), 904-937.

Perez, Santiago, 2017. "The (South) American Dream: Mobility and Economic Outcomes of First and Second Generation Immigrants in Nineteenth Century Argentina," *Journal of Economic History*, 77(4).

Feigenbaum, J. "Intergenerational Mobility During the Great Depression", mimeo.

Corak, Miles. 2013. "Income Inequality, Equality of Opportunity, and Intergenerational Mobility." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 27 (3).

Chetty, Raj, Nathaniel Hendren, Patrick Kline, and Emmanuel Saez, 2014. "Where is the land of Opportunity? The Geography of Intergenerational Mobility in the United States" *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 129(4).

Chetty, et al. 2014. "Is 279.89 Tm0.208 0.235 0.247 rg0.208ID 24>9eW*

Xie, Y., and Killewald, A. 2013. Intergenerational Occupational Mobility in Great Britain and the United States Since 1850: Comment. *The American Economic Review*, 103(5), 2003-2020.

Piketty, Thomas and Emmanuel Saez, 2014. "Inequality in the Long Run," *Science*, 344(6186).

VIII. Modern Economic Growth Fundamental Explanations

Why are some countries so rich and others so poor? Are there ultimate factors (geography, institutions, and culture) that have significant effects on cross-country performance today? Is there a hierarchy of growth factors, from proximate to deeper, and how might they be related? What are the separate contributions of these factors? What are the mechanisms through which fundamental explanations eventually impact on growth? How do cultural beliefs about gender, religion, honor, and trust shape economic growth?

1. Geography, Institutions, and Factor Endowments

Student Presentation: Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson, 2002. "Reversal of Fortune: Geography and Institutions in the Making of the Modern World Income Distribution," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 117: pp. 1231-1294.

Engerman, Stanley and Kenneth Sokoloff, 2002, "Factor Endowments, Institutions and Differential Paths of Development Among New World Economies" NBER WP 9259.

Diamond, Jared, 1997. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, pp. 53-92, W. W. Norton and Company.

Gallup, John, Andrew Mellinger, and Jeffrey Sachs, 1998. "Geography and Economic Development," NBER Working Paper #6849.

Sachs, Jeffrey, 2001. "Tropical Underdevelopment," NBER Working Paper #8119.

2. Institutional Persistence, Colonial Legacy

Student Presentation: Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson, 2005. "The Rise of Europe: Atlantic Trade, Institutional Change, and Economic Growth," *American Economic Review*, 95(3).

Student Presentation: Melissa Dell, 2010. "The Persistent Effects of Peru's Mining Mita," *Econometrica*, 78(6): 1863-1903.

North, Douglass C. 1990. *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Glaeser, Edward, Rafael La Porta, Florencio Lopez-de-

Fisman, Ray and Edward Miguel, 2007. Corruption, norms, and legal enforcement: Evidence from diplomatic parking tickets,” *Journal of Political Economy*