

Doctoral Program in Economics



Academic year 2020/21

ECONOMIC HISTORY

Period:

Third term: from April 26th to June 4th

Course hours:

18

Teachers:

Gabriele Cappelli (6 hours)
Michelangelo Vasta (12 hours)

Exam methods:

Two-stage assessment:

1. An extended Review Report (RR) for one of the papers presented during the lectures.
2. An Economic History Research Project (RP) that must be written in small groups.

The participation in the class discussion will also be assessed.

Prerequisites:

N/A

Module by Gabriele Cappelli

Program

This Economic History module is to present a broad introduction to the discipline by discussing its central topics as well as frontier research being carried out in the field. This module will also focus on a few specific topics – regional development and gender inequality in education – by presenting original research, while discussing relevant methodology for conducting work in economic history more in general.

Educational objectives

The PhD students will get acquainted with the main topics in Economic History. Furthermore, they will learn how economic theory and quantitative tools can interact with historical analysis and primary sources to shed light on important questions concerning the economy in the past – as well as the present day. Students will also be introduced to the virtues and limitations of different historical sources and methodologies.

References

Alfani, Guido (2020), "Pandemics and asymmetric shocks: Lessons from the history of plagues." Blog entry in voxeu.org – Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) (April 9th, 2020).

Blum, Matthias and Chris Colvin (2018), *An economist's guide to economic history*. London, Palgrave Macmillan.

Cappelli, Gabriele, Emanuele Felice, Julio Martinez-Galarraga, and Daniel Tirado Fabregat (2019), "Divergence in the end? Decomposing income inequality across Italy's regions, 1871 – 2011", *Rivista di storia economica*, a. XXXV, n. 1: 3 – 35.

Cappelli, Gabriele, and Gloria Quiroga Valle (2020), "Fortune is told by women: the feminization of teaching and the rise of mass education in Italy and Spain, c. 1861–1921", Working paper.

O'Rourke Kevin H. (2019), "Economic history and contemporary challenges to globalization", *The Journal of Economic History* 79 (2): 356 – 382.

Module by Michelangelo Vasta

Program

The main idea of this Economic History module is to present how the field relates to Economics. This issue will be presented by using empirical data on articles published both in the top field journals and in the top generalist economics journals. This module focuses also on a few main topics – institutions and human capital accumulation, living standards and innovation – while discussing relevant methodology for carrying out research in economic history more in general.

Educational objectives

The PhD students will explore the connections, as well as similarities and differences, between Economic History and Economics. Furthermore, they will learn how economic theory and quantitative tools can interact with historical analysis and primary sources to shed light on crucial questions concerning the economy in the past – as well as the present day. Students will also be introduced to the virtues and limitations of different historical sources and methodologies.

References

Allen, Robert. C. (2011), *Global economic history: a very short introduction*. Oxford, OUP.

Cappelli, Gabriele and Michelangelo Vasta (2020), "Can school centralization foster human capital accumulation? A quasi-experiment from early twentieth-century Italy." *The Economic History Review* 73 (1): 159 – 184.

Cioni, Martina, Giovanni Federico and Michelangelo Vasta (2019), "Three different tribes: how the relationship between economics and economic history has evolved in the 21st century." CEPR-DP 14192.

Cioni, Martina, Giovanni Federico and Michelangelo Vasta (2020), "The two Revolutions in Economic History", EHES Working Paper No. 192.

Federico, Giovanni, Alessandro Nuvolari and Michelangelo Vasta (2020), "Inequality in pre-Industrial Europe (1260-1850): evidence from the labour share", Department of Economics and Statistics Working Paper, n. 835, University of Siena.

Nuvolari, Alessandro, Gaspare Tortorici and Michelangelo Vasta (2020), "British-French technology transfer from the Revolution to Louis Philippe (1791-1844): evidence from patent data", mimeo.

Squicciarini, Mara, Reka Juhasz and Nico Voigtlander (2020), "Technology Adoption and Productivity Growth: Evidence from Industrialization in France", mimeo.