

Lecture Economic History: Empirical Economic History

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POSTDOC AT THE CHAIR OF QUANTITATIVE ECONOMIC HISTORY

1 Topic

The course is structured into two parts:

Part one follows the economic development of Germany and its predecessor states chronologically from the 15th century to the beginning of the 20th century. Topics will center around the causes and consequences of three important turning points in German Economic History: 1) the Protestant Reformation, 2) the Age of Enlightenment, and 3) the Industrial Revolution.

Part two will center around the importance of history for long-term economic development in Sub-Saharan Africa. Topics will include the effect of the transatlantic slave trade on cultural attitudes, colonial origins of comparative development as well as the persistent effect of pre-colonial institutions on current day development.

Next to depicting the economic and political background, the course will discuss recent academic publications that stress the role of religion/culture, institutions, and human capital for economic development. This course aims at marrying descriptive style economic history with recent econometric approaches to economic history and long-run development. The course will discuss recent literature that assesses the economic development in a rigorous quantitative manner using the latest econometric tools.

The course will consist of lectures and student presentations. Students will then themselves be required to read and present the content of academic papers. Discussing empirical questions and methodological aspects that allow for causal inferences will be an important part of the course. It is required that students are familiar with estimation methods taught in *Empirische Wirtschaftsforschung I* as this course concentrates on the application of these methods.

2 Organisation

Instructor: Markus Ludwig

Email: markus.ludwig@uni-bayreuth.de

Office location: Room 1.68 (RW II)

Office hours: by appointment (other good times to talk: after classes)

3 Target Group

The course “Empirical Economic History” addresses Bachelor students of Economics and International Economics and Development (Internationale Wirtschaft & Entwicklung).

For questions regarding the eligibility of the seminar please contact the corresponding lecturer of the respective courses and/or your study program manager.

4 Course Requirements

It is expected that you have completed the compulsory sequence of econometric classes EWF I and Macroeconomics I.

Your grade will give you 5 ECTS points (3 SWS) and is based on the following:

- A presentation (30 minutes) and chairing the corresponding discussion (15 min). Both presentation and discussion will be based on one academic paper (see below for a list of papers).
- A written exam (60 minutes) covering the content of the lecture (excluding the student presentations).

To summarize, your raw final grade is composed of the following:

- Presentation and Discussion: 50%
- Exam: 50%

Exam: The Final exam will be on Wednesday, February 06, 2019, 10:00-11:00h (s.t.). Room: S54 (RWIIEG0.58).

Language: The language of the course is English, hence your slides and your presentation should be in English. The exam can be written in German or in English, respectively (all the literature will be in English).

5 (Tentative) Course Outline

Combined lecture and tutorials (*in italics*) at Wednesday 9:00 am to 11:15 am. Room: S54 (RWIIEG0.58).

- Wed, October 17 - 9–11.15h: Introduction and Econometric Methods
- Wed, October 24 - 9–11.15h: Econometric Methods

Part One: Germany

- Block 1 - The Protestant Reformation:
 1. Wed, October 31 - 9–11.15h: Adoption of Protestantism
 2. Wed, November 7 - 9–11.15h: Adoption of the Printing Press

- Block 2 - The Era of Enlightenment:
 1. Wed, November 14 - 9–11.15h: Skilled Migration
 2. Wed, November 21 - 9–11.15h: Revolution and Reforms
 3. Wed, November 26 - 9–11.15h: Trade and Growth

Part Two: Africa

- Block 4 - Long-run Effects of Colonization:
 1. Wed, December 6 - 9–11.15h: Persistence and Path Dependence - Railways and Urbanization
 2. Wed, December 13 - 9–11.15h: Colonization and Development
- Block 5 -Pre-colonial Institutions and Development:
 1. Wed, December 20 - 9–11.15h: The Transatlantic Slave Trade
 2. Wed, January 10 - 9–11.15h: Pre-colonial Institutions and Development
- Block 5 - Tutorials and Exam:
 1. Wed, January 17 - 9–11.15h: *Student Presentations I*
 2. Wed, January 24 - 9–11.15h: *Student Presentations II*
 3. Wed, January 31 - 9–11.15h: *Recap, Q&A Session*
 4. Wed, February 07 - 9–15h: Exam

6 Literature

These papers (and likely more) will be the basis for the lectures. The papers and lecture slide will be posted on E-learning before classes.

Block 1:

- Becker, S. O. and Woessmann, L. (2009). Was weber wrong? a human capital theory of protestant economic history. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 124(2):531–596
- Cantoni, D. (2015). The economic effects of the protestant reformation: Testing the weber hypothesis in the german lands. *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 13(4):561–598
- Dittmar, J. (2011). Information technology and economic change: The impact of the printing press. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 126:1133–1172

Block 2:

- Hornung, E. (2014). Immigration and the diffusion of technology: The huguenot diaspora in prussia. *American Economic Review*, 104(1):84–122

- Acemoglu, D., Cantoni, D., Johnson, S., and Robinson, J. A. (2011). The consequences of radical reform: The french revolution. *American Economic Review*, 101(7):3286–3307
- Juhasz, R. (Forthcoming). Temporary protection and technology adoption: Evidence from the napoleonic blockade. *American Economic Review*

Block 4:

- Jedwab, R. and Moradi, A. (2016). The permanent effects of transportation revolutions in poor countries: Evidence from africa. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 98(2):268–284
- Huillery, E. (2009). History matters: The long-term impact of colonial public investments in french west africa. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 1(2):176–215
- Acemoglu, D., Johnson, S., and Robinson, J. A. (2001). The colonial origins of comparative development: An empirical investigation. *American Economic Review*, 91(5):1369–1401
- Glaeser, E. L., Porta, R. L., de Silanes, F. L., and Shleifer, A. (2004). Do institutions cause growth? *Journal of Economic Growth*, 9(3):271–303
- Albouy, D. Y. (2012). The colonial origins of comparative development: An empirical investigation: Comment. *American Economic Review*, 102(6):3059–3076

Block 5:

- Nunn, N. and Wantchekon, L. (2011). The slave trade and the origins of mistrust in africa. *American Economic Review*, 101(7):3221–3252
- Alsan, M. (2015). The effect of the tsetse fly on african development,. *American Economic Review*, 105(1):382–410

7 Student Presentations

Papers for student presentations will be recent papers that relate to the topics presented in the lectures. The papers will be posted on E-learning before the course starts. From the list below, chose three papers, ranked according to your preference.

Students are asked to sign up via email to markus.ludwig@uni-bayreuth.de. Applications will be accepted until December 12th, 2018 (after the ninth session). Please indicate in the application:

- your name,
- your study program,
- your student ID (“Matrikelnummer”),
- your previous knowledge in statistics and empirical economics,
- three topic suggestions, ranked according to preference.

Things to remember:

- You will be also responsible to act as "discussion leader" for your session, meaning that after the presentation you will lead the discussion and make sure that a lively debate ensues.
- The slides for your presentation have to be handed in two days before the presentation.

List of potential papers that can serve as a basis for the student presentations:

- Paper 01 Adena, M., Enikolopov, R., Petrova, M., Santarosa, V., and Zhuravskaya, E. (forthcoming). Radio and the rise of the nazis in prewar germany. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*
- Paper 02 Dittmar, J. and Seabold, S. (2015). Media, markets, and institutional change: Evidence from the protestant reformation. Technical report, LSE
- Paper 03 Rubin, J. (2014). Printing and protestants: An empirical test of the role of printing in the reformation. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 96(2):270–286
- Paper 04 Buggle, J. (2016). Law and social capital: Evidence from the code napoleon in germany. *European Economic Review*, 87:148–175
- Paper 05 Semrad, A. (2015). Modern secondary education and economic performance: The introduction of the gewerbeschule and realschule in nineteenth-century bavaria. *Economic History Review*, forthcoming
- Paper 06 Wahl, F. (2015). Participative political institutions and city development 800-1800. Working Paper 73, EHES
- Paper 07 Voigtlaender, N. and Voth, J. (2014). Highway to hitler. Working Paper 20150, NBER
- Paper 08 Jedwab, R., Kerby, E., and Moradi, A. (2017). History, path dependence and development: Evidence from colonial railroads, settlers and cities in kenya. *The Economic Journal*
- Paper 09 Teso, E. (Forthcoming). The long-term effect of demographic shocks on the evolution of gender roles: Evidence from the transatlantic slave trade. *Journal of the European Economic Association*
- Paper 10 Chanda, A., Cook, C. J., and Putterman, L. (2014). Persistence of fortune: Accounting for population movements, there was no post-columbian reversal. *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 6(3):1–28
- Paper 11 Lowes, S. and Montero, E. (2017b). Mistrust in medicine: The legacy of colonial medical campaigns in central africa. *Working Paper*
- Paper 12 Lowes, S. and Montero, E. (2017a). Blood rubber: The effects of labor coercion on institutions and culture in the democratic republic of congo. *Working Paper*