

2014 Newsletter

Happy 2015, I hope you have had a productive 2014 as we did at the International Economic History Association (IEHA).

With the XVIIth World Economic History Congress (WEHC) (Kyoto, August 3-7 of 2015) just eight months away, I am sending you this newsletter to inform the most important activities pertaining to the preparation of the Congress and the relevant decisions at the recent IEHA Executive Committee (EC) meeting in Amsterdam in Nov. of 2014.

CONGRESS MATTERS

Session proposals

We are very pleased that the second call for session proposals in 2014 has brought in another record number of proposals. A total of 154 proposals were submitted covering a diverse range of themes, approaches and geographic coverage. In addition to a continued strong showing of submissions from Western Europe and North America, we are very heartened by the surge of good quality proposals (and expected participation) from Asia, notably from Japan and China.

To accommodate this surge of interest in participation, the IEHA and Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the Kyoto World Congress have coordinated and made booking of additional seminar rooms and also decided to accept some two hour-sessions in addition to the regular three hour sessions in the second round. So, for this round, we have accepted a total of 71 three-hour and 36 two-hour sessions. Adding the 71 three hour sessions already accepted in the first round (in 2013), we will have a total of 142 three hour sessions and 36 two hour sessions, which make it the largest number of parallel sessions in WEHC history. Information on all the accepted sessions is available at the WEHC website at <http://www.wehc2015.org/>.

Dissertation Nominees

The IEHA dissertation committees (composed of Mathieu Arnoux, Tirthankar Roy, Jan Luiten Van Zanden, Martin Shanahan, Irina Potkina, Salomon Kalmanovicz, Min Ma, Catherine Schenck, Franco Amatori, Price Fishback, Pablo Martin Aceña) have received a total of 48 dissertations from 21 different nationalities. After careful deliberation, the committees have made the following short list of nominees for the three categories of historical time periods:

The Early Modern Period

Pepijn BRANDON, *Masters of War. State, capital, and military enterprise in the Dutch cycle of accumulation (1600-1795)*, Univ. Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Johan FOURIE, *An inquiry into the nature, causes and distribution of wealth in the*

Cape Colony, 1652-1795, Univ. Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Murari Kumar JHA, *The Political Economy of the Ganga River: Highway of State Formation in Mughal India, c.1600-1800*, Univ. Leiden, the Netherlands.

The long 19th century

Atsushi Kobayashi, *The Development of Intra-Southeast Asian Trade in the Nineteenth Century: With Reference to the Role of Singapore* (Kyoto University, Japan)

Henry Willebald, *Natural Resources, Settler Economies and Economic Development during the First Globalization: Land Frontier Expansion and Institutional Arrangements* (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain)

Laura Panza, *Globalisation and the Ottoman Empire A study of integration between Ottoman and world cotton markets* (La Trobe University, Australia)

The 20th century

Eric Monnet, *Monetary policy and credit policy during France's Golden Age, 1945-1973*, (EHESS, Paris School of Economics, France).

Matthias Schmelzer: *The hegemony of growth: the making and remaking of the economic growth paradigm and the OECD, 1948-2010*. (Humboldt- University, Berlin, Germany)

Taylor Jaworski: *The Warring Forties: The Economic Consequences of World War II* (University of Arizona, USA)

Congratulations to these nominees. As with previous WEHCs, all dissertation nominees are invited to present in Kyoto in August with final awards announced towards the end of the Congress.

LOC Congress preparation

Tetsuji Okazaki, the chair of the LOC reported good progress for Congress preparation in terms of funding, programs, hotel reservations etc. The LOC will also administer travel funding for participants pledged by the IEHA. The LOC is also very happy to report a good list of eminent speakers committed to give keynote lectures and round table discussions. They include Professors Abhijit Banerjee (MIT), Nicholas Crafts (Warwick), Avner Greif (Stanford), Osamu Saito (Hitotsubashi University in Japan) and Bin Wong (UCLA). Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, the Ex-Prime Minister of Japan, is invited to address the Congress. We all look forward to the Kyoto WEHC which holds the promise of an exciting and monumental event for the discipline of economic history.

IEHA MATTERS

The IEHA officers for 2015-2018

An important agenda at the EC meeting held in Amsterdam in Oct. 31st – Nov. 2nd of 2014 was to make a few key decisions on personnel change to be submitted to the General Assembly for approval in Kyoto. By August 2015, Luis Bertola will have finished his second term as a treasurer. Due to increasing personal and professional commitments, I have decided, with due regret, to serve as Secretary General for one term only until 2015. At the meeting, the EC has approved the nomination of Professor Marjolein 't Hart to succeed Luis Bertola as the new treasurer and Jari Eloranta as the new Secretary General from August 2015.

Marjolein 't Hart is a Professor at VU University Amsterdam and is also the current Dutch EC member of IEHA. She will bring to the post of IEHA treasurer extensive administrative and treasury experiences in various national and international academic associations. Jari Eloranta is currently professor of history at the Appalachian State University in the US. Professor Eloranta has an exceptionally strong record of service to the economic history community, being coordinator for the Economic History Association annual conference in the US and serving on various association boards in Europe for the past few years. EC believes both are highly qualified and well-prepared for the tasks at IEHA.

According to the IEHA statutes, Tetsuji Okazaki, the current IEHA Vice-president and chair of the LOC for Kyoto WEHC is due to succeed Professor Grietjie Verhoef as the new President in 2015-2018. The IEHA vice presidency in 2015-2018 will be taken up by Professor Anne McCants of MIT, the incoming chair of the Local Organizing Committee for the XVIIIth WEHC to be held in Boston in 2018. Grietjie Verhoef will be the next honorary President.

New IEHA EC members and member association

By August 2015, seven EC members Franco Amatori (Italy), Luis Bertola (Uruguay), Price Fishback (USA), Salomon Kalmanovitz (Colombia), Tirthankar Roy (India and UK), Martin Shanahan (Australia), and Catherine Schenk (UK) will leave the EC having completed their two terms. After careful review of the nominations made by IEHA member associations, the EC endorsed the nomination of the following seven candidates for the 2015-2018 term:

Marco Belfanti (Italy);
Stephen Broadberry (UK);
Latika Chaudhary (India and USA);
Sandra Kuntz-Ficker (Mexico);
Les Oxley (New Zealand);
Andrés Regalsky (Argentina);
John Wallis (USA).

At the meeting, the IEHA EC also endorsed the application for a new IEHA membership from *Asociación Peruana de Historia Económica* (Peruvian Economic History Association) APHE.

Financial Report

The EC reviewed and approved the financial report prepared by the treasurer Luis Bertola for this fiscal year. Continuing the trend of recent years, the report reveals a strong financial position of the IEHA with a good and cumulative surplus, for which we thank the contributions and support from our member associations. In particular, the IEHA EC wants to

give special thanks to the external audit committee composed of Joost Dankers, Mark Geiger and Bishnupyria Gupta for their careful review and approval of the IEHA financial report and for excellent recommendations.

Academic Program

At the meeting, a half day academic program was organized where two important research projects were showcased to the EC. Both projects are led separately by two former IEHA Secretary Generals, Joerg Baten and Jan Luiten van Zanden. Professor Joerg Baten of University of Tuebingen is organizing and editing an outstanding volume titled *A History of the Global Economy, 1500 to the Present*. The volume brings together contributions by recognized leading scholars in the field – most of whom are current or former IEHA EC members – to provide a succinct and lucid account on major themes on global economic history and the economic history of the major world regions for the last five hundred years. The book, in collaboration with IEHA, is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press.

The second research project is presented by a team of scholars based in the Netherlands and Europe under the rubric of a large scale project titled Clio-Infra, led by Jan Luiten van Zanden. The project, which is publicized at <https://www.clio-infra.eu/>, constructs long-term series on a broad set of quantitative indicators of global well-being. Both of these research projects demonstrate the exemplary economic history scholarship that IEHA is keen to promote.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jan Luiten van Zanden, Marjolein 't Hart and staffs at the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam (IISG) for the excellent logistical arrangement for the EC meeting in Amsterdam.

XVIIITH WEHC IN BOSTON IN 2018!

The IEHA is delighted to have received three strong and carefully prepared bids for the site of the next WEHC to be held in 2018. After careful review and vote by ballot, the IEHA EC has decided to endorse Boston as the next location for the XVIIIth WEHC. The Boston WEHC will be chaired by Professor Anne McCants of the History Department of MIT, supported by the Economic History Association and Cliometric Society of the United States. The choice of Boston for 2018 is particularly opportune as it also marks the return of WEHC to the US the first time in 50 years since the WEHC held in Bloomington, Indiana.

The IEHA thanks all three bidders for their interest and efforts in putting forward the wonderful bids and also extends its gratitude to the four EC members, Mathieu Arnoux, Kris Inwood, Catherine Schenk and Tirthankar Roy for taking their time to make the on-site visits to the three locations.

PERSONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is with a deep sense of regret as well as honour that I approach my own final year as Secretary General and EC member of the IEHA. I feel particularly privileged to have come into the IEHA at a time when the WEHC was transiting from the first Congress held in the southern tip of Africa in 2012 to another first to be held in the North-eastern end of Asia in

2018. It is great to be part of IEHA at a time when the organization is growing from strength to strength and the discipline of economic history is not only strengthening at the core but also rapidly expanding onto new global frontiers. I am also truly grateful to have been working with a great group of EC colleagues in the IEHA, in particular, the highly dedicated officers of Grietjie Verhoef, Tetsuji Okazaki, Luis Bertola and last but not the least, Jan Luiten van Zanden, the honorary president. With another strong group of incoming EC members and officers to the IEHA and with the next Congress due in the capable hands of the organizers in Boston in 2018, the future indeed looks bright not just for the organization, but also for the profession around the world.

At my home institution, the economic history department of LSE, I want to give special thanks, amongst many other colleagues, to Tirthankar Roy, Xun Yan, Leigh Gardner, Stephen Broadberry and Judy Stephenson for advice and assistance whenever called upon. The IEHA secretariat also gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the UK Economic History Society.

With best wishes for the Year of the Goat.

Debin Ma

Secretary General
International Economic History Association (IEHA)

IEHA web: <http://www.ieha-wehc.org/>