



Conference 2008 - Melbourne

Highlights

- Society Conference 2008
Trinity College Melbourne
- Conference 2009: Tokyo
- Economic History Annual
Conference at Nottingham
- Sep. 2008 SA Workshop

We're on the web

[www.uow.edu.au/
commerce/econ/ehsanz](http://www.uow.edu.au/commerce/econ/ehsanz)

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NEWSLETTER OF THE
ECONOMIC HISTORY
SOCIETY OF
AUSTRALIA AND NEW
ZEALAND

After meetings in Brisbane in 2006 and Sydney in 2007, the 3rd Asia Pacific Economic and Business History Conference was held at Trinity College, University of Melbourne on 13-15 February 2008. The theme was 'Responses to environmental change', though many of the papers were on other topics. About fifty speakers, from most corners of the globe, including Brazil, Canada, South Africa, and the UK, as well as Australasia and East Asia, presented papers. It was especially pleasing to welcome a substantial group of delegates from Japan and East Asia.

Their involvement demonstrates that this series of conferences is genuinely Asia-Pacific in focus, as well as inclusive in methodological approach.

Professor Paul Johnson, the Vice Chancellor of La Trobe University, Melbourne, gave the keynote address entitled 'Mammon's cradle: the rise of incorporation in 19th-century Britain'. There was a special session on 'Insurance, Economy



and Environment', a round table discussion on the teaching of Australian economic history, chaired by Maxine Darnell, and a presentation by Stephen Kates and Alex Millmow on the recent debate over proposals by the Australian government to assign the history of economic thought and economic history to a disciplinary classification outside economics. Stephen Legg (Monash University) was awarded the prize for the best paper at the conference, entitled 'Deforestation and the business response: Victoria before 1918'.

Trinity College proved an agreeable venue and the conference arrangements ran smoothly. EHSANZ is grateful to Wiley-Blackwell Pub-

lishing, Swiss Re Corporation, Trinity College, and the Department of Economics at Melbourne University for supplying material assistance.

Lesley Simes (University of Wollongong) provided excellent administrative support and managed the conference website. Strong interest was expressed in building on the relationship that has developed with economic historians in Japan and East Asia. Consequently it was proposed that the 2009 conference should take place in Tokyo.



From the President

Simon Ville

I am very pleased to welcome the first edition of the Society's newsletter. This initiative was proposed at the 2008 AGM in Melbourne and we are greatly indebted to Larry Lepper who has taken on the task of newsletter editor. The aim is to facilitate information sharing among the economic history community in general and members and supporters of the Society in particular. While the principal meeting point of society members is the annual conference, the bi-annual newsletter will provide an opportunity for virtual communication between these annual events and will also reach out to members and supporters unable to attend the conference each year. If you have any comments on the newsletter or would like to contribute to it please contact Larry [larryl@extra.co.nz].

As noted on the next page, we will be holding APEBH 2009 in Tokyo. This is the first in this annual series of conferences to be held outside Australasia and is consistent with our vision that it become a truly Asia-Pacific event, in location as well as attendance. We hope that Australian and New Zealand members will support this event as enthusiastically as the three previous meetings in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne respectively. The society is in discussions with the McComish Fund at Trinity College to see if funding can be secured towards the travel costs of a graduate student. A website for the conference will be established

shortly on the EHSANZ home page (<http://www.uow.edu.au/commerce/econ/ehsanz/>).

In the last few weeks the new Australasian research classifications system has been released on the ABS website: (<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/ProductsbyRelease-Date/5D99AEA1DD8AA8E0CA2574180005421C?OpenDocument>)

Last year, a draft version proposed relocating economic history from the economics section to that of history. The Society executive actively opposed this proposal on the basis that most economic historians are located in Commerce rather than Arts faculties and therefore it would impact adversely upon how their research is viewed and assessed. The final version maintains economic history within the economics section although it is regrouped as part of applied economics rather than sitting with history of economic thought. Unexpectedly, the final version has created a separate business history listing; this is good news but its location in history is a mistake, again because business historians are largely located in Commerce not Arts. We will be writing to the ABS to draw this matter to their attention.

Another important piece of research news released in the last few weeks is the journal ranking list developed by the Australian Business Deans Council, again



finalising an earlier draft. While such an exercise was originally motivated by the now defunct RQF policy of the previous Howard government, it will no doubt still be of value for the new ERA research strategy of the Rudd Labor government. The list ranks over three thousand journals into four quality tiers A*, A, B, and C. One economic history journal, *Economic History Review*, is ranked A* and a number of other leading journals in our field have an A rating including *Journal of Economic History*, *Explorations in Economic History*, *Business History*, *Business History Review*, and *Enterprise and Society*. Our own *Australian Economic History Review* is also A rated along with *Economic Record*. The list is naturally highly subjective and far from perfect in execution; for example, some journals are listed several times and ranked differently across disciplines. The full list, which includes all of the main economic and business history journals, can be found at:

<http://www.abdc.edu.au/3.36.0.0.1.0.htm>

Australian Economic History Review

Wiley-Blackwell is pleased to bring you highlights from 2007 for *Australian Economic History Review*:

The most accessed article was *Export-led industrialisation and growth: Korea's economic*

miracle, 1962-1989, by Charles Harvie and Hyun-Hoon Lee.

The total number of libraries with access to *Australian Economic History Review* increased by 12 % through the Wiley-Blackwell consortia sales programme.

The total number of readers registered for *Australian Economic History Review* email alerts increased by 13% – click [here](#) to register.

For more information, please visit www.blackwellpublishing.com

Conference 2009

18-20 Feb. 2009

The 2009 Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History Conference will be held 18-20 February 2009 at Gakushuin University in Tokyo (Japan).

Professor Takeshi Yuzawa has kindly offered to organise the conference, which is a very good opportunity to internationalise the event beyond Australia and New Zealand. The EHSANZ executive hopes that this will be a further step towards association of economic historians in the Asia-Pacific region. The theme of the conference will be decided

shortly, after which a call for papers will be broadly distributed.

Takeshi Yuzawa (http://www.bhs-japan.org/bhsj-e/index_e.html) is president of the Japan Business History Society and has already started preparations for the 2009 Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History Conference. He will be joined in the local organising committee by Osamu Saito at Hitotsubashi University, who has been a member of the editorial

board of the Australian Economic History Review since 2000, and by Kaoru Sugihara at Kyoto University, who gave the 2006 Noel Butlin lecture.

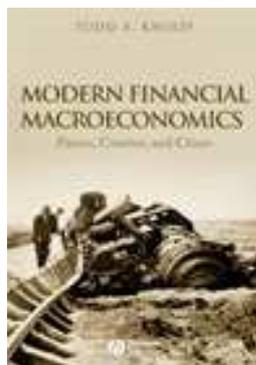
Gakushuin University (<http://www.gakushuin.ac.jp/univ/english/>) is a prestigious university in Japan. It was established in 1847 as the educational institution of the Japanese Imperial Court. Emperor Meiji gave it its present name and the university was relocated to Tokyo, where it continued to educate members of the Japanese royal family, as well as other students. The university is located in Mejiro, not far from Shinjuku, one of Tokyo's nightlife hotspots. The university is easily accessible from Narita, Tokyo's international airport. Further information about the conference will appear on the EHSANZ website

(<http://www.uow.edu.au/commerce/econ/ehsanz/index.html>) as soon as it becomes available.



News on Publications

New from Wiley-Blackwell



Modern Financial Macroeconomics: Panics, Crashes, and Crises

By: Todd Knoop (Cornell College)

ISBN: 978-1-4051-6181-7

Paperback

288 pages

April 2008, Wiley-Blackwell

Modern Financial Macroeconomics takes a non-technical approach in examining the role that financial markets and institutions play in shaping outcomes in the modern macro economy.

- Reviews historical and contemporary macroeconomic theory
 - Examines governmental influence on moderating (or exacerbating) economic fluctuations
- Discusses both empirical and theoretical links between financial systems and economic performance, as well as case studies detailing the role of finance in specific business cycle episodes. Click [here](#) for more information or to order this book online.

Economic History Society—Annual Conference 2008

The annual conference of the Economic History Society took place at Nottingham University from 28-30 March 2008. This is the largest UK meeting of economic historians and attracted over 150 delegates this year from the UK, Asia, Europe and North America.

As always a highlight was the new researchers' sessions on the Friday, which attracted 31 participants from the UK, Europe, North and South America. The strength and breadth of submissions is testament to the future strength of the discipline. Almost one third of these papers were on medieval and early modern topics and the winners of best paper were 2 on early modern topics and one on early 20th century US. The inaugural EHS dissertation prize was awarded to Danielle van den Heuvel for her work on Women and

Entrepreneurship 1550-1820. This is clear evidence of the resurgence in research on this period.

The main academic sessions were packed with 52 papers over two days ranging from 17th century infant mortality to the 1984 miners' strike. As usual the geographic concentration was on Britain, Europe and the USA but there were two sessions on Africa and Asia, albeit in a colonial context. We hope for more paper submissions on Australasian topics next year.

The Tawney Lecture delivered by Professor Bruce Campbell of Queen's University Belfast was a dazzling performance on the use of environmental data to inform our understanding of long term social and economic change in the medieval and early modern period

(including tree samples from New Zealand). The talk was accompanied by a stunningly dynamic visual presentation of data. The lecture was videoed and will be available for viewing on the EHS website: <http://www.ehs.org.uk/>.

The call for papers for the next annual conference to be held in Warwick on 3-5 April 2009 is available on the EHS website, with deadlines in September 2008. Colleagues should also note the opportunities for new scholars in the undergraduate and PhD dissertation prizes and for colleagues in the teaching prize offered by the society.

Catherine Schenk

Treasurer-elect, Economic History Society

What is economic history?

Economic history is the study of our past development, particularly in relation to economics, labour, and business. It includes, for example, the economic development of nations, the growth of business enterprise, and the organisation of work.

While economic history draws extensively on its close relationships with the disciplines of economics and history, its ultimate strength lies in its broad inter-disciplinary connections across a wide range of social science and business subjects. It encourages diverse but rigorous approaches to understanding our economic past, which draw upon theories, concepts, and a wide range of historical information sources.

Breaking News!!

The Department of Economics, Stellenbosch University of South Africa are well underway in their planning for a two day workshop to be held during September 2008 that builds on previous initiatives to build a database on the subject of building a research network on economic history in South Africa. Please contact Dr Sophia du Plessis Sophia@sun.ac.za for further information.



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