

50th Economic and Business History Society Conference

Forging New Frontiers in Economic and Business History

Birmingham, Alabama

May 29th-31st, 2025

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28TH

Young Scholar's Initiative Workshop 9:00AM-5:00PM

Registration 5:00PM-7:00PM

Opening cocktail and heavy hors d'oeuvres reception: 5:00PM-7:00PM

THURSDAY, MAY 29TH

Registration 8:00AM-5:00PM

SESSION 1: 8:30AM-10:00AM

PANEL 1 – ECONOMICS AND POLITICS (Skipwith I)

Chair: Jari Eloranta

The Political Economy of Manumission Restrictions: Evidence from Late Antebellum Legislatures

Sean-Patrick Alvarez (Jacksonville State University)

Ennio Piano (University of Mississippi)

Loyal Opposition, Economic Policy and Civil Strife: The Democrat Party and Political Economy during the American Civil War

John Moore (Walsh College)

Politics and Religion in Ancient China and Rome

Der Yuan Yang (NKUST)

Tieqiang Yi-His (Soochow University)

Li Lee (Central China Normal University)

PANEL 2 – TRYING TO SOLVE SOME PUZZLES (Hamilton II)

Chair: Eline Poelmans

Roosevelt's Brew Deal: Beer's Role in the Expectations-Induced Recovery of 1933

Jason Taylor (Central Michigan University)

Finding the Water: Groundwater sources for Piped Supply in England and Wales

Nicola Tynan (Dickinson College)

Can Protective Tariffs Induce Industrial Consolidations? Theory and Evidence from the Great Merger Movement

Alonso Ahumada (Boston University)

10:00AM-10:30AM MIDMORNING BREAK

SESSION II: 10:30AM-12:00PM

PANEL 3 – MOVING PARTS: TRANSPORT, INNOVATION, AND INDUSTRIAL CHANGE (Skipwith I)

Chair: Theresa Finley

Dissipating the Steam: How Spatial Spillovers influenced the Diffusion of Steam Engines during the British Industrial Revolution

Sara Savini (Università degli Studi dell'Insubria)

Supplying the Boomtown: The Indispensable Bicycles of Interwar Tel Aviv

Dror Goldberg (The Open University of Israel)

Decline in aviation patenting during World War I

Peter Meyer (Independent Researcher)

PANEL 4 – TREASURY, TRUST, AND ECONOMIC CONTROL (Skipwith II)

Chair: John Dove

There's Something About the Treasury

Jane Flaherty (Blinn College)

Corruption Perceptions, The Pendleton Act, and Sovereign Borrowing Costs

John A. Dove (Troy University)

Noah Trudeau (Troy University)

The Obscene Politics of Price Control

Vincent Carret (Creighton University)

Charles Lundstrom (Creighton University)

PANEL 5 – THE NUMBERS GAME REVISITED: QUANTITATIVE HISTORIES OF SLAVERY AND SERVITUDE IN AMERICA BEFORE 1800. (Hamilton II)

Chair: Dan Giedeman

Statistical Hermeneutics: Revisiting the Numbers Regarding Slave Resistance and Agency
Jari Eloranta (University of Helsinki)

“She carried with her a girl”: Motherhood and Self-Emancipation among Enslaved and Servant Women in Colonial Pennsylvania
Tamia Haygood (William & Mary)

Dramatological Numbers: A Study of Slave Agency in British North America
X. Antonio T. Bly (California State University, Sacramento)

**12:00PM-1:30PM
BREAK FOR LUNCH**

SESSION III: 1:30PM-3:00PM

PANEL 6 – INTERNATIONAL COLLAPSE, REVOLTS, AND PIRACY (Skipwith I)

Chair: John Moore

Collapse of an International Economy
Andrew Long (Mississippi State University)

Freeing the Sea for Slavery, Ridding the Sea of Piracy: the Whydah and the Suppression of Piracy, 1716-1726
Claire Steele (Georgetown University)

The economic consequences of the 1871 Mokrani revolt in French Algeria
Theresa Finley (Susquehanna University)

PANEL 7 – ADAPTATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL IN TIMES OF ECONOMIC DISRUPTION (Skipwith II)

Chair: Jason Taylor

Human Capital Decisions in Resource Booms: Evidence for the Role of Dynamic Complementarities
Carl Kitchens (Florida State University)
Luke Taylor (University of Colorado)
Rodgers Jaworski (Florida State University)

Economic Consequences of the 1933 Soviet Famine
Natalya Naumenko (George Mason University)

Proactive to Change: How Marks & Spencer Innovated Its Business Model to Create and Capture Value
Yamur Gunduz (Henley Business School, University of Reading)

3:00PM-3:30PM MID-AFTERNOON BREAK

SESSION IV: 3:30PM-5:00PM

PANEL 8 – RESILIENCE IN MOTOWN AND BEANTOWN (Hamilton II)

Chair: R. Warren Anderson

A Case Study Demonstrating a City's Resilience Through Creative Infrastructure Changes to Enhance Economic Conditions: The Business, Politics, and Economics of Constructing the Boston Common Parking Garage

Kelly Kilcrease (University of New Hampshire at Manchester)

How Detroit has adapted post-bankruptcy and why it has a chance to make a 'full' comeback.
Martin Lavelle (Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago-Detroit Branch)

Tracking Detroit Business Activity with Phone Books 1920-1957

R. Warren Anderson (University of Michigan-Dearborn)

PANEL 9 – ADAPTING TO LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL CHANGE: INSTITUTIONS, IDEAS, AND ENTERPRISE (Skipwith II)

Chair: Nicky Tynan

Importing Unions: German Migrants and the Rise of the American Labor Movement in 19th Century US

Pablo Zarate (University of Mannheim)

Coercion Against Coordination: W.H. Hutt on Collective Bargaining and the Strike-Threat System

Art Carden (Samford University)

Ilia Murtazashvili (University of Pittsburgh)

Adaptation strategies in the German electrical industry around 1900: the case of AEG and the electric car

Thomas Irmer (Berlin School of Law and Economics)

PANEL 10 – ACCOUNTING FOR HISTORY AND BUSINESS (Skipwith II)

Chair: Michael Coyne

Double-Entry Bookkeeping in Wilhelmine Germany: Sombart's Thesis in Context

Max Ehrenfreund (Kenyon College)

The History of the CPA Exam and the Related CPA Licensure Requirements

Michael Coyne (Fairfield University)

Business History Education: on How Learning by Doing becomes Spreading

Beatriz Rodríguez Satizábal (Universidad del Pacífico)

FRIDAY, MAY 30TH

Registration: 8:00AM-12:00PM

SESSION V: 8:30AM-10:00AM

PANEL 11 – PUBLIC HEALTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE (Skipwith I)

Chair: Jane Flaherty

Coordination in Crisis: Howard Associations and Emergent Healthcare during the 1878 Yellow Fever Epidemic

Byron Carson (Hampden-Sydney College)

Canadian Evidence on the American Antebellum Puzzle

Vincent Geloso (George Mason University)

Curtis Matthew (University of Southern Denmark)

Hospital Expansion and Economic Outcomes: Evidence from the Hill-Burton Act

Spencer McCloy (Florida State University)

PANEL 12—PARTNERS, ENEMIES, AND RISKS (Skipwith II)

Chair: Ranjit Dighe

New systemic bank risks: paving the way for the Federal Reserve System

Mary Tone Rodgers (State University of New York at Oswego)

Jon Moen (University of Mississippi)

From Impediment to Partner: Brazilian Industry, Finance, and the Politics of Austerity

Lucas Sorzano Azambuja (Johns Hopkins University)

The Enemy of my Enemy: Incentives and enlistment with the Cape Mounted Rifles 1819-1850

Benjamin Chatterton (Lund University)

10:00AM-10:30AM MID-MORNING BREAK

SESSION VI: 10:30AM-12:00PM

PANEL 13 – ENTREPRENEURIAL SUCCESS AND FAILURE (Skipwith I)

Chair: Fred Gates

Life paths of artisan workshop owners in Sweden 1840-90

Johanne Arnfred (Lund University)

Creating and Capturing Value Through Brand Acquisition and Strategy: The Historical Cases of Debenhams and House of Fraser

Yamur Gunduz (Henley Business School, University of Reading)

Entrepreneurship and collusion. The rise of Voluntary Retail Chains, the case of Sweden 1945-1970

Erik Lakomaa (Stockholm School of Economics)

Rickard Björnemalm (Institute for Economic and Business History Research)

PANEL 14 – PACKAGING, POTENCY, AND PRODUCT SAFETY IN CONSUMER HISTORY (Skipwith II)

Chair: Eline Poelmans

Thinking Inside the Box: Reconsidering the life-cycle histories of food packaging

Xaq Frohlich (Auburn University)

When Did Beer Become Intoxicating? The Battles Over Alcohol Content in the US, 19th Century – Present

Ranjit Dighe (State University of New York at Oswego)

12:00PM-1:30PM

BREAK FOR LUNCH

1:30PM-3:00PM

EBHS MEMBER'S BUSINESS MEETING – All registered conference attendees are welcome and encouraged to attend. (Hamilton II)

3:00PM-3:30PM MID-AFTERNOON BREAK

Session VII: 3:30PM-5:00PM

PANEL 15 – STATE, INDUSTRY, AND INSTITUTIONAL LEGACIES (Skipwith I)

Chair: Art Carden

Long-Term Consequences of Industrial Nuclear Explosions in the USSR

Natalya Naumenko (George Mason University)

Alexey Makarin (MIT Sloan)

Institutional Persistence Redux: Exploring the Relationship between Economic Development and the Rule of Law

Jari Eloranta (University of Helsinki)

Mikael Andrei (University of Helsinki)

Hernesniemi Markevich (University of Helsinki)

PANEL 16 – LEARNING MOMENTS IN HISTORY (Skipwith II)

Chair: Theresa Finley

Revolution modernizes education: The dynamic consequences of state building

Jin Wang (University of Arizona)

Corporate Responses to Illiberal Moments: Embrace, Acquiesce, Subvert, Defy

Cheri Thomas (University of Tennessee Southern)

From Tennessee Valley Authority to James Bay in Quebec, Canada: Which Hydroelectric Model?

Marie-Claude Premont (ENAP)

6:00PM-8:30PM

Conference Banquet (Hamilton I)

Keynote: Dr. Robert K. Fleck Professor of Economics, Clemson University

Title: “Tradeoffs for Wealth-Enhancing Democracy: Gains from Exchange versus Alignment on Public Policy”

SATURDAY, MAY 31ST

SESSION VIII: 8:30AM-10:00AM

PANEL 17 – ON THE STREETS OF JIM CROW (Skipwith I)

Chair: Dan Giedeman

A Historical Perspective of Social Innovation & Social Entrepreneurship Initiatives in Sustaining Social Justice: The Case of the 1955-1956 Montgomery Bus Boycott:

Abhijit Roy (Howard University)

Race and Regulation: The Rise and Fall of Jitneys in the American South

Tanner Corley (University of Alabama)

Marcus Witcher (West Virginia University)

The Economic Effects of the Montgomery Bus Boycott

Kush Jenkins (Northern Virginia Community College)

Carlos Whitfield (Unaffiliated)

PANEL 18 – PLACES THAT MADE THINGS: INDUSTRY, IDENTITY, AND LOCAL TRANSFORMATION (Skipwith II)

Chair: Erik Lakomaa

One Hundred Years of Manufacturing: Long-Term Consequences of the Indiana Gas Boom

Assaf Abraham (University of Mannheim)

The Invention of a Factory Town: The Introduction of Toyota Motor Manufacturing to Kentucky

Abigail Turner (Triangle Consulting Group, Inc.)

From Hoegaarden to Austin: Pierre Celis's Eight Years Producing Belgian White Beer in Texas

Eline Poelmans (KU Leuven)

Martin Stack (Rockhurst University)

Jason Taylor (Central Michigan University)

10:00AM-10:30AM: MID-MORNING BREAK

SESSION IX: 10:30AM-11:30AM

PANEL 19 – THE VISIBLE HAND OF BUSINESS IN HISTORY (Skipwith I)

Chair: Abhijit Roy

The Facts of The Visible Hand Reconsidered, Lamoreaux, Raff, and Temin (AHR 2003)

Daniel Raff (The Wharton School and NBER)

Carliss Baldwin (Harvard Business School)

Social Control of Business: A Survey of Historiographies

Michael DeBow (Samford University)

PANEL 20 – FROM FORAGING TO FARMING: ENVIRONMENT, INNOVATION, AND ADAPTATION (Skipwith II)

Chair: Mary Rodgers

The Roots of Innovation: Forest Cover, Sedentism and Technological Development in the Upper Paleolithic

Evan Wigton-Jones (Husson University)

Painful Modernization? Productivity and Quebec's Agricultural Crisis During the 19th Century

Vincent Geloso (George Mason University)

Nicholas Jacob (George Mason University)

Swanson Bond (George Mason University)

CONFERENCE ENDS