

Call for Sessions - WEHC 2015 [S20026]

Proposed title of the session

A World Apart? The Eurasian Mountains and Modern Economic Growth

Abstract

The debate about the great divergence, opened by Kenneth Pomeranz in 2000, concerns a hot topic in economic history and has inspired many articles about wages, prices and living standards in a comparative perspective. However such comparisons, although worthy of note, are urban biased since data about prices and wages concern solely cities. In order to open up new perspectives this session will focus on mountains, which were important territories, with regard to surface and population, both in Europe and in Asia. The aim is to understand if and to what extent mountain areas contributed to development.

A first issue to discuss concerns the degree of openness or closeness of Eurasian mountains: If they were open economies, to what extent did they contribute to development with their raw materials, finished products and workforce? On the contrary, if they remained marginal territories, which were the reasons thereof?

A second issue relates to industrialisation: When it took place, did the industrialisation process change the previous relationship between lowlands and highlands and in which sense? Did the mountains contribute to industrialisation? Were they able to develop endogenously or were they exploited by the centre because of their peripheral condition? What was the reaction of mountain economies and societies in front of the great changes occurred in the 20th century such as the development of tourism or the new attention to the environment?

Answering these questions will allow to highlight the contribution given to development by upland areas and to underline the differences, if there were, between European and Asian mountains.

I. Corresponding Session Organiser

Prof. Jon Mathieu (University of Lucerne [Switzerland])

II. Co-Organiser(s)

1. Corresponding Organiser.
2. Prof. Luca Mocarelli (University Milano Bicocca [Italy])
3. Prof. Satoshi Murayama (Kagawa University [Japan])

III. Expected Participant(s)

1. Thomas Jones (Meiji University [Japan])
2. Mei Xueqin (Tsinghua University [China])
3. Xiao Kunbing (Southwest University of Nationalities [China])
4. Chetan Singh (Indian Institute of Advanced Studies [India])
5. Patrick Kupper (Federal Institute of Technology Zurich [Switzerland])
6. Marc D. Landry (Utah State University [United States of America])
7. Ben Anderson (Keele University [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland])
8. Jon Mathieu (University of Lucerne [Switzerland])
9. Luca Mocarelli (University Milano Bicocca [Italy])
10. Satoshi Murayama (Kagawa University [Japan])