

Call for Sessions - WEHC 2015 [S20033]

Proposed title of the session

Family Strategies during the Great Globalisation

Abstract

This session explores the relationships between families, aging, children and wealth during the great globalization and industrial era of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. There is an established literature in this area as well as new inroads being made using new sets of micro-data. This was a period of rapid economic and social change marked by population aging, declining fertility, urbanization, industrialization, financial sector growth, and increased market participation and property holding by women. Families were faced with rising life expectancies, more precarious urban employment and shifting employment patterns that made human capital investment in children a more important and expensive activity. There was an increase in female labour force participation that foreshadowed the expansion of the 20th century.

The papers in this session examine the implications of this developing economic environment by focussing on the issues on wealth, families, aging and children from a broad interdisciplinary economic history perspective with research from economists, historians, sociologists, and geographers. The key questions to be addressed are:

- (1) What are the relationships between family size and saving/wealth during this era?
- (2) What economic strategies did families employ over the course of the life cycle to deal with economic uncertainty, wealth accumulation and property transmission?
- (3) How did family strategies vary across the spectrum of the wealth and income distribution?
- (4) What are the similarities and differences in family strategies across international regions?

The session will be organized around a core of three papers reflecting European and North American historical data sources. A call for papers will be targeted to researchers working in this area from the perspective of Asian, African and South American data sources.

Potential Contributors and Topics (to be confirmed)

Kristina Lilja & Dan Bäcklund, Families and life-cycle squeezes: How did rising wages and new savings methods affect amplitude and longevity of squeezes? Uppsala University.

Livio Di Matteo Revisiting the Life Cycle Squeeze: Differential Rates of Wealth Accumulation over the Life Cycle Across Wealth Deciles. Lakehead University.

Josephine Maltby and Linda Perriton, Families, Earnings, Savings Banks and Saving, University of York.

Tiina Hemminki, Freeholder peasants' economic choices in Finland during nineteenth century, Jyväskylä University.

Potential Discussants

Elyce Rotella, University of Michigan.

I. Corresponding Session Organiser

Ass. prof. Kristina Lilja (Department of Economic History, Uppsala University [Sweden])

II. Co-Organiser(s)

1. Corresponding Organiser.
2. Prof. Livio Di Matteo (Dep. of Economics, Lakehead University [Canada])

III. Expected Participant(s)

1. same as correspondent.
2. Livio Di Matteo (Dep. of Economics, Lakehead University [Canada])
3. Dan Bäcklund (Dep. of Economic History, Uppsala University [Sweden])
4. Josephine Maltby (The York Management School, University of York [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland])
5. Linda Perriton (The York Management School, University of York [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland])
6. Elyce Rotella (Dep. of Economics, University of Michigan [United States of America])
7. Tiina Hemminki (Dep. of History and Ethnology, University of Jyväskylä [Finland])