

# Call for Sessions - WEHC 2015 [S20050]

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## **Proposed title of the session**

EVOLUTION OF BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS IN THE EUROPEAN PERIPHERY, 1850-1950

## **Abstract**

Which type(s) of business organizations are more conducive to economic development and under which conditions do they emerge? This dual question has been at the center of recent research on the institutional roots of economic and social development. The literature, however, has focused largely on the developed regions, such as Europe, Japan and the United States. There has been little interest in the historical evolution of business organizations in developing regions, especially those with distinct legal and cultural traditions such as the Middle East and Eastern Europe. As such, the questions regarding the effect of institutional heritage on the choice of organizational form, the challenges faced by developing countries in their attempts to borrow foreign economic institutions, and the impact the imported business organization forms had on developing countries' economic outcomes have remained mostly unexamined.

This session aims to fill this gap by studying the historical evolution of business enterprises in the European periphery within a comparative framework and explore the common and divergent features that characterize the less developed countries. We bring together scholars who are interested in examining emergence and spread of various organizational forms in developing countries against the background of diverse national and global trajectories.

From an empirical viewpoint, the questions we aim to examine include the emergence and spread of various enterprise forms, in particular the relation between business type (organizational and legal structure of the firm) and firm size, scale, and scope; how business types affect firm longevity and performance; how business strategies vary across geography, industry, and time. Theoretically the session will advance our understanding of 1) firm and sector-specific strategic responses to changing political and technological conditions 2) limitations on these strategies imposed by the path- and place-dependent institutional factors 3) alternative theoretical and methodological frameworks to interpret evolution of organizational forms in a comparative perspective.

Until recently due to the lack of available and consistent data, the research on business history of the European periphery was scant. Creating a venue for bringing together scholars who have collected and organized large amounts of data in different projects, the session will enable empirically-informed theoretical discussions on various comparative themes, including the implications that the menu of organizational forms have on the developing countries' economy. As such, the panel also intends to contribute to the 'Great Divergence' literature aiming to account for the gaps in long-term growth trends across countries and regions.

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## **I. Corresponding Session Organiser**

Dr. Seven Agir (Middle East Technical University [Turkey])

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## **II. Co-Organiser(s)**

1. Corresponding Organiser.
2. Dr. Cihan Artunc (Yale University [United States of America])

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## **III. Expected Participant(s)**

1. same as correspondent.
2. Cihan Artunc (Yale University [United States of America])
3. Susana Rodriguez-M (Murcia University [Spain])
4. Amanda Gregg (Yale University [United States of America])
5. Mustafa Kurt (Yalova University [Turkey])
6. Catherine Bregianni (Academy of Athens [Greece])
7. Candido Roman-Cervantes (Universidad de Laguna [Spain])