

Call for Sessions - WEHC 2015 [S20057]

Proposed title of the session

Heights in Development

Abstract

Work on living standards of historical populations is at the centre of the economic history discipline. Anthropometric history has made an invaluable contribution to living standards research. Heights are influenced by nutrition and health conditions and therefore measure aspects broader than income. Heights are useful for quantifying dimensions such as inequality across social groups, regions and genders, changes in well-being over time and to assess the effect of public policies geared to deal with inequality issues. Besides, height measurements are often available where other data are missing. Despite of this, there are still many white spots on the global height map. Knowledge has especially remained scanty on Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe during the past three centuries, and even Western Europe during the Middle Ages and ancient times. In the recent past, an increased emphasis on causality poses new econometric challenges. Standard approaches like instrumental variables do rarely pass the exclusion restriction convincingly. Moreover, the size of selection effects needs to be quantified reliably. In addition, useful supplementary biometric data on the global standard of living are waiting in the archives to be exploited.

This session invites studies that use anthropometric indicators of well-being including height and also life expectancy, morbidity, or weight to shed light on development processes and diversity therein. We aim to learn more about previously neglected countries and periods and country specific development processes that influenced human well-being over the long run. Hence, comparative work between countries and between world regions is highly welcome. We also call for work that makes innovative methodological advances that are highly relevant for studies in anthropometric history, e.g. broader measurement issues, linking databases, tackling selection effects, identifying causal effects.

I. Corresponding Session Organiser

Dr. Nikola Koepke (Universitat de Barcelona [Spain])

II. Co-Organiser(s)

1. Corresponding Organiser.
 2. Dr. Alexander Moradi (University of Sussex [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland])
 3. Dr. Moramay López Alonso (Rice University [United States of America])
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III. Expected Participant(s)

1. same as correspondent.
2. Jean-Pascal Bassino (Lyons Institute of East Asian Studies [France])
3. Joerg Baten (Eberhard-Karls Universität Tuebingen [Germany])
4. Denis Cogneau (PSE [France])
5. Laurent Heyberger (UTBM [France])
6. Sara Horrell (University of Cambridge [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland])
7. Alexander Moradi (University of Sussex [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland])
8. Moramay López Alonso (Rice University [United States of America])
9. Stephen L. Morgan (University of Nottingham Ningbo China [China])
10. Deborah Oxley (University of Oxford [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland])
11. Josep-Maria Ramon-Muñoz (Universidad de Murcia [Spain])
12. Frank Rühli (Universität Zürich UZH [Switzerland])
13. Kaspar Staub (Universität Zürich UZH [Switzerland])
14. Richard H. Steckel (Ohio State University [United States of America])
15. Ulrich Woitek (Universität Zürich UZH [Switzerland])