

Call for Sessions - WEHC 2015 [S20060]

Proposed title of the session

Global Migrations since 1500: towards a new comparative method

Abstract

In this session the panelists will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the recently developed Cross-Cultural Migration Rate method (CCMR). This method goes beyond (nation) state-centered migration definitions and is a major step forward in comparative global migration history. Looking at the period 1500-2000 it presents a new universal method to quantify and qualify cross-cultural migrations, which makes it possible to detect regional trends and explain differences in migration patterns across the globe in the last half millennium. So far, the method has been applied to Europe, Russia, China, Japan, India and Indonesia, and has proven to offer a fruitful starting point for rigorous comparisons. Furthermore the method is an explicit invitation to other (economic, cultural, social and political) historians to include migration more explicitly and systematically in their analyses, and thus reach a deeper understanding of the impact of cross-cultural migrations on social change. In this panel we will look critically at the advantages and possible downsides of the CCMR method, and secondly propose the outlines of a theory that formulates the causal relationship between cross-cultural migrations, as developed in the CCMR method, and social, cultural and economic changes. More specifically the panel will focus on the contribution of the method for the Great Divergence debate and more widely will discuss the possible role of migration in the new approach to measure 'social development' by Ian Morris in his recent book *The measure of civilization*.

I. Corresponding Session Organiser

Prof. Leo Lucassen (00-31-71-5272724 [Netherlands])

II. Co-Organiser(s)

1. Corresponding Organiser.
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III. Expected Participant(s)

1. Kaoru Sugihara (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) [Japan])
2. Jan Lucassen (International Institute for Social History [Afghanistan])
3. Patrick Manning (University of Pittsburgh [United States of America])
4. Leo Lucassen (Leiden University [Netherlands])
5. Jelle van Lottum (University of Birmingham [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland])