

Call for Sessions - WEHC 2015 [S20135]

Proposed title of the session

Visiting Industrial Districts in History and Developing World

Abstract

The purpose and outline: By now it is clear that the industrial districts play a significant role in the development of manufacturing industries not only historically in Europe, US, and Japan but also at present in emerging East Asian economies, such as China, and newly developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Are there similarities in the development patterns of industrial districts in history and now? If so, why? More specifically, do Marshallian agglomeration economies provide sufficient explanations? If not, what are missing but important factors? Despite the common issues addressed by economic historians and development economists, the discussion between the two groups of researchers was absent, or at best weak. The purpose of this proposed session is to facilitate the dialogue between economic historians interested in the historical development of industries in the U.K., Spain, and Japan and development economists interested in the development of industries in China, other Asian countries, and sub-Saharan Africa. It is expected that this session will shed new light on the role of industrial districts in the industrial development in the past and at present.

Our session will be organized as follows. First, an organizer, Keijiro Otsuka, presents an overview of five presentations, their significance, and similarities and dissimilarities of findings across them so as to clarify the major issues to be discussed for 10 minutes, followed by 15 minutes presentation of five papers. After taking 15 minutes break, the two discussants speak for 30 minutes in total, followed by 50 minutes discussion with the floor.

Programs:

Presentations (85 minutes)

1. An Overview and Major Issues to Be Discussed in this Session by Keijiro Otsuka (GRIPS)
2. Accounting for the Impact of Districts on Wage Inequality (Spain, c. 1930) by Joan R. Roses (LSE) and Jordi Domenech (Universidad Carlos III, Madrid)
3. Networks and Knowledge in an Early Industrial District: The Dynamic Development of the Staffordshire Potteries, 1750-1850 by Joseph P. Lane (LSE)
4. Spectacular Development of Weaving Districts in Modern Japanese Economic History by Tomoko Hashino (Kobe University)
5. How Much Is China's Industrial Development Cluster-Based? By Xiaobo Zhang (IFPRI, Washington, DC)
6. Possibility of Cluster Development in sub-Saharan Africa by Tetsushi Sonobe (GRIPS, Tokyo)

Break for 15 minutes

Discussions (30 minutes)

1. Masayuki Tanimoto (University of Tokyo) and
2. Edward M. Kerby (LSE)

Open discussion (50 Minutes)

I. Corresponding Session Organiser

Prof. Tomoko Hashino (Kobe University [Japan])

II. Co-Organiser(s)

1. Corresponding Organiser.
2. Prof. Keijiro Otsuka (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies [Japan])

III. Expected Participant(s)

1. same as correspondent.
2. Keijiro Otsuka (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies [Japan])
3. Joan R. Roses (London School of Economics and Political Science [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland])
4. Jordi Domenech (Universidad Carlos III, Madrid [Spain])
5. Joseph P. Lane (London School of Economics and Political Science [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland])
6. Xiaobo Zhang (IFPRI [United States of America])
7. Tetsushi Sonobe (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies [Japan])
8. Masayuki Tanimoto (University of Tokyo [Japan])
9. Edward M. Kerby (London School of Economics and Political Science [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland])