

Call for Sessions - WEHC 2015 [S20138]

Proposed title of the session

The modernization of China in the early twentieth century: institutional Change and economic development

Abstract

The early twentieth century witnessed the drastic change of the economic and social institutions in China as a consequence of open-up and industrialization. As a result of a series of treaties signed by China and major western powers in the late nineteenth centuries, the scale and scope of foreign trade rapidly expanded. Trade liberalization stimulated the rise of modern economic sectors. Factories emerged in the coastal regions of China and started to replace handicraft workshops. The macroeconomy in this era realized considerable growth as well.

The boom in foreign trade and the expansion of modern industry spurred more fundamental changes in China's economic structure. New methods of transportation and communication deeply reshaped China's economic landscape, which greatly reduced logistic and migration costs and accelerated the commercialization of the economy. Increases in the number and function of financial intermediaries, rises of modern banking and credit institutions and the integration of national monetary system provided vehicles for the development of commercial economy. A new era infused by new institutions of market economy and supported by new technologies and improved transportation began to change daily life of Chinese people.

The theme of this panel is the study of specific institutional changes in various sectors and various regions of China that were fostered by the rise of modern economy in the early twentieth century, and the roles of such institutional changes in China's industrialization, commercialization and economic growth. In this panel we put together a number of papers that assemble new data developed from historical archives, utilize econometric methods and find interesting patterns of the institutional changes in this era of drastic economic social transformation. Specifically, the papers in this panel study the following issues:

1. The changes in institutions and social structures in China's rural sector
2. The changes in the financial institutions in China's traditional agricultural sector in the early twentieth century
3. The institutional changes and social mobility in China in the early twentieth century
4. The institutional changes in the real estate sectors and effects on the builders' wages in China in the early twentieth century
5. The changes in China's accounting and bookkeeping systems
6. The changes in social thoughts on industry and commerce

The panel is featured by a research team of close international collaboration. Our participants include senior Chinese economic historians from inside China, oversea leading economic historian, and young scholars from both Chinese and world leading research universities.

I. Corresponding Session Organiser

Dr. Se Yan (Peking University [China])

II. Co-Organiser(s)

1. Corresponding Organiser.
2. Dr. Noam Yuchtman (University of California Berkeley [United States of America])
3. Dr. Xuejun Zhao (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences [China])

III. Expected Participant(s)

1. same as correspondent.
2. Noam Yuchtman (University of California Berkeley [United States of America])
3. Xuejun Zhao (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences [China])
4. Debin Ma (London School of Economics [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland])
5. Weipeng Yuan (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences [China])
6. Minkong Wei (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences [China])
7. Fumin Sui (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences [China])
8. Yingwei Huang (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences [China])
9. Chaoqun Ga (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences [China])
10. Guo Fan (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences [China])
11. Yun Qu (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences [China])
12. Wenhao Yu (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences [China])