

Call for Sessions - WEHC 2015 [S20160]

Proposed title of the session

Development through Human Capital and Knowledge Diffusion

Abstract

Human capital and the transmission of useful knowledge are at the core of economic development and growth. Despite this critical role, systematic evidence on the effects of human capital and knowledge diffusion continues to be scarce, particularly so in the historical context. The goal of our proposed session is to shed light on these effects through a set of complementary empirical analyses. The papers in the session examine how book prices affect knowledge diffusion, how competition among publishers affected the extent to which Protestant content was printed in Germany, how the Reformation changed incentives to accumulate human capital, and how knowledge elites fostered education for the masses in Revolutionary France. The common theme across these papers is their focus on determinants of human capital accumulation and knowledge diffusion, with an emphasis on the connection to economic development. The session thus contributes to our understanding of mechanisms that connect human capital and knowledge to economic well-being.

The four papers that are included in this proposal are based primarily on European data. If accepted, we would like to issue a call for papers to complement these papers with analyses of human capital and knowledge diffusion in Africa, the Americas, and Asia.

I. Corresponding Session Organiser

Prof. Petra Moser (Stanford University [United States of America])

II. Co-Organiser(s)

1. Corresponding Organiser.
 2. Prof. Nico Voigtlaender (UCLA [United States of America])
-

III. Expected Participant(s)

1. same as correspondent.
2. Jeremiah Dittmar (LSE [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland])
3. Noam Yuchtman (UC Berkeley [United States of America])
4. Davide Cantoni (LMU Munich [Germany])
5. Nico Voigtlaender (UCLA [United States of America])