

Call for Papers to Session S20062

XVIIth World Economic History Congress, Kyoto, Japan, 3-7 August 2015

■ Session Title

Title : The politics of consumer credit since 1945: an exploratory comparative history

■ Call for Papers

Deadline of the Call : date 20 month April year 2015

Guideline of the Call (title, abstract, full papers, limit of words, etc.) :

Please send a title and a 1000 word summary of the proposed paper.

Remarks (number of expected acceptances, intent, purpose, etc.) :

We estimate that there is time for up to three additional speakers in our session. It is hoped that additional speakers will extend the geographical coverage of our session. Initially, the session included a speaker who was to deal with the USA, but he is no longer able to attend. We hope to attract someone who will speak to the experience in the USA. It would enhance the session further if it were to include speakers who can address the issue of the politics of consumer credit in one or more Asian, African, Australasian or East European society.

Details of our initial panel proposal are below. We welcome papers from further panel participants that address some of the issues highlighted in that proposal.

The politics of consumer credit since 1945: an exploratory comparative history

This session will reunite a number of scholars who will have met previously (for two days at Queen's University Belfast in September 2014) to begin the task of producing a comparative historical analysis of the politics of consumer credit in several nations. The workshop in Belfast will outline the key issues for investigation and each scholar will leave with a set of research questions to explore. The Kyoto session will provide the opportunity to reconvene to relay findings on those questions to a broader group of interested international scholars.

Taking a number of national case studies (France, Germany, Sweden, UK and USA), this session will discuss the evolving three significant issues. This first is an explorations of political responses to the growing cultural, economic, and social significance of consumer credit. It will examine questions such as:

What factors motivated political engagement with consumer credit markets?

Were these motivations based primarily on economic or social considerations?
To what extent did this engagement secure electoral advantage for those political parties identified with it?
What political actors should we investigate? Should we move beyond political parties and consider civil servants and state bureaucrats? Should we consider the role of trade associations?
What role should we assign to factors such as Keynesianism or neoliberalism in each of the nations under review?

The second theme centres on evolving consumer protection policies in each nation under review. Questions to be considered include:

How paternalistic or liberal were the regimes in each country?
How significant were consumer organisations in each nation?
Did political parties of the left or right show greater interest in consumer protection in the field of consumer credit?

The third theme provides an opportunity to draw together some of our emerging ideas. Questions to consider include:

To what extent were there cross-national influences and trends within the field of consumer credit?
To what extent have particular national or sub-national cultures of consumer credit survived the modernisation of personal finance?
In those localities where they have survived, why was that the case? And where they died out, why was that the case?
What has been the impact of the European Union in terms of consumer credit?
Is it possible to identify an 'Anglo-Saxon' model for the consumer credit sector in the USA and UK that makes these nations different from the majority of European nations?

■ Contact Person

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*Please change '#' to '@' when you e-mail.