

## Call for Papers to Session S20063

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

### ■ Session Title

Title : The institutional foundations of long-distance trade before industrialization: diversity and change

### ■ Call for Papers

Deadline of the Call : date 9 month 03 year 2015

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

#### **The institutional foundations of long-distance trade before industrialization: diversity and change**

Ever since the days of Adam Smith, it has been recognized that an enhanced ability to exchange promotes economic growth. Yet we know surprisingly little about how distinct institutional systems, each conformed by a plurality of elements, such as beliefs, values, rules and organizations, can theoretically and did historically govern the fundamental problem of exchange — one will not enter into an objectively profitable exchange relationship unless the other party can credibly commit ex-ante not to breach his contractual obligations ex-post. Furthermore, we are equally ignorant about how these distinct institutional systems, each with different efficiency and distributional implications, emerged and evolved reflecting broader social, political and cultural processes of which they were an integral part.

This session will explore the nature and the dynamics of the various institutions for contract enforcement that supported trade expansion before industrialization. Rooted on a comparative and historical analysis, it seeks to understand institutional diversity and change. It aims to examine empirically how and to what degree of effectiveness diverse institutional systems and elements (public and private, formal and informal, legal and extra-legal) mitigated opportunism and information asymmetry across regions and over time. It also aims to explore how past institutions shaped a society's rate and direction of change, and hence historically explain the diversity in economic development we observe on a global scale.

Applicants should send abstracts of up to 400 words alongside a CV by March 9, 2015. Selected panelists are expected to circulate their full papers by June 30.

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

This open call is limited to up to four papers. The session will comprise two blocks, and we have commitments for four papers and two discussants (below). We encourage both economists and historians to apply and engage into a challenging yet inspiring dialogue. Although the call will consider papers covering all parts of the world, proposals relating to Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe will be particularly welcome.

**I. Corresponding Organiser.**

1. Daniel Strum (University of São Paulo, [Brazil])

**II. Co-organizers**

1. Yadira Gonzalez de Lara (University of Valencia [Spain])
2. Tjil Vanneste (University of Exeter [United Kingdom])

**III. Discussants**

1. Avner Greif (Stanford University [United States of America])
2. Thomas Safley (University of Pennsylvania [United States of America])

**IV. Expected Participants (alphabetical order)**

3. Yadira Gonzalez de Lara (University of Valencia [Spain])
4. Regina Grafe (European University Institute [Italy])
5. Daniel Strum (University of São Paulo [Brazil])
6. Tjil Vanneste (University of Exeter [United Kingdom])

■ Contact Person

Corresponding Organiser:

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