



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

Economic History Department Alumni Newsletter



February 2011





Keep in touch!

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To ensure that you continue to receive
bulletins and invitations to our alumni
events, please keep your contact details
up to date with the LSE Alumni Office.

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"Crossing Borders" LSE Literary Festival

16-19 February 2011

Designed to cross disciplinary,
international and metaphorical borders,
this year's festival will explore once
again the rich interaction between the
arts and social sciences.

www.lse.ac.uk/spaceforthought



LSE Events

Lent Term 2011 Programme

Speakers from all the world will debate
subjects ranging from the current
economic crisis, law, social justice,
human rights to the meaning of life.
LSE Public Lectures are open to all. To
view the programme and book tickets
go to the LSE Events website:
www.lse.ac.uk/events





Welcome

From Professor Janet Hunter, Head of Department



We are delighted to be able to send you this 2011 newsletter keeping you up to date with happenings in the department.

We have maintained our overall number of students during the last year, but were particularly delighted to be able to welcome a record number of new postgraduate research students, fourteen in all, emphasizing the strong international position of the department as a centre for economic history training. We were very pleased to welcome Dr. Alejandra Irigoín as a new faculty member in the autumn. Alejandra is an expert on Latin American and global economic history. In January of this year we were also delighted to be joined by Professor Stephen Broadberry, formerly of the University of Warwick. We will miss very much Gareth Austin, who has gone to Geneva. Colin Lewis has formally retired, but is still very active in the Department.

The prospects for LSE, and for all universities, in the light of proposed reforms to university funding are difficult to foresee, but there is no doubt that all departments at LSE will be seriously affected, not least by the complete withdrawal of State funding for teaching undergraduates. The

School will obviously be doing its best to deal with the changed situation, but we will not be immune from the need to economise and rethink some of what we do. We will make every effort, however, to uphold the value of what we offer to students, and to maintain the position of the department as a global centre of excellence for teaching and research in economic history at all levels.

We look forward to your ongoing support and interest in achieving this goal. And we look forward to seeing you at future alumni events.





New Arrivals

Professor Stephen Broadberry

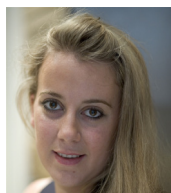
We are pleased to welcome Professor Broadberry, who joins the department from the University of Warwick. His research interests include international comparisons of growth and productivity performance since 1870; pan-European economic history; Britain compared with the United States and Germany; long-run economic growth and development before 1870: the Great Divergence of living standards between Europe and Asia; factor prices and long run economic development. He is also co-editor of the Economic History Review.



Dr Alejandra Irigoin, Lecturer

Dr Irigoin rejoins the department where she gained her PhD in 2000. She has

since taught at Carlos III in Madrid and the College of New Jersey. Dr Irigoin's research interests focus on the economic history of Latin America in the colonial period.



Dr Kerry Hickson, Teaching Fellow

Dr Hickson completed her PhD, 'The Contribution of Improved Health

to Standards of Living in Twentieth Century England and Wales' in 2006. Her research interests focus on health care policy and industry,

including the economic and financial history of innovation (particularly in the pharmaceutical industry); interdisciplinary approaches to measuring health and the performance of healthcare services; healthcare policy at different levels of development (the affordability of health gains); and the contribution of improved health to economic development.

Other news



Professor Colin Lewis attended the annual conference of the Argentinian Economic History Association, and participated in a

keynote debate with Dr. Luis Bétola at the Universidad de la República, Montevideo. He also lectured at the Universidad Nacional Tres de Febrero, Buenos Aires.



Tim Leunig divides his time between LSE and Westminster, where he now works with the Centre Forum thinktank.

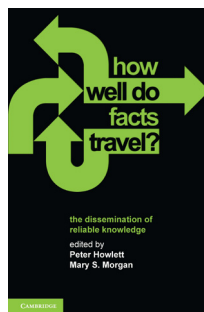


Terry Gourvish was appointed to advise Lord Adonis, then Secretary of State for Transport, on high speed rail in Britain, and wrote

a report for the government company HS2, published by the Department for Transport.



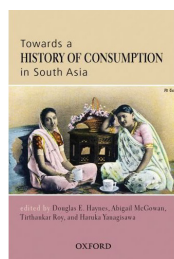
Departmental Publications



How well do 'facts' travel?

Edited by Dr Peter Howlett and Professor Mary S Morgan
2010, Cambridge University Press

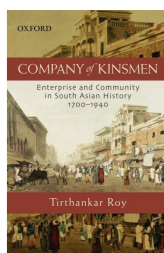
This publication brings together essays by the project members and scholars who visited us at LSE during the four years of the research project, reflecting the wide variety of topics covered by the project. The essays range from the spread of Classical architecture to the archaeology of earth mounds to the psychology of crowding.



Company of Kinsmen: Enterprise and Community in South Asian History 1700-1940

Dr Tirthankar Roy
2010, OUP

Tirthankar Roy examines how enterprise and entrepreneurial communities in South Asia adapted to globalization and colonial law.



Towards a History of Consumption in South Asia

Douglas Haynes (Editor), Abigail McGowan (Editor),
Tirthankar Roy (Editor), Haruka Yanagisawa (Editor)
2010, OUP

This volume examines new ways of conceptualizing consumption historically in South Asia through a series of case studies on different commodities and consumer groups.



Dr Gerben Bakker's article, '3D Cinema - a billion pound bonanza,' on the impact of 3D technology on cinema-going and the entertainment industry, appears in *Britain in 2011*, published by the Economic and Social Research Council.

Dr Bakker acted as Specialist Adviser for the House of Lords Communications Committee inquiry into the UK film and television industries, and as consultant on the creative industries for the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. His article is also available via the LSE website:
www2.lse.ac.uk/newsAndMedia/commentAndOpinion/2011/3Dfilm.aspx



Alumni Event 2010

For our 2010 alumni event we decided to do something a little different. The imminent publication of the book *How well do facts travel?*, a book of essays from the multi-disciplinary research project of the same name, offered a good opportunity both to celebrate the faculty's diversity of interests and expertise and bring together students past and present.

The 'Facts' project ran from late 2004 until early 2010, funded by grants from the Leverhulme Trust and the ESRC. Its remit was to look at how information considered factual in one domain fared when transplanted across disciplinary borders, or from academia to policy, or across time. Did facts remain stable? Did they come to stand as evidence for

new claims? Were they distorted or misused? What did it even mean for a fact to travel well?

Working on the project was a core group of the Economic History faculty, including postdoctoral researchers and PhD students. Areas of study included areas as various as human longevity, rat experiments, biological databases, church architecture, epidemiology, the sugar trade, and Indian agriculture. The project also encouraged researchers from different disciplines to share their experience of the roles which facts played in different environments. These included novelists, biologists, documentary filmmakers, archaeologists, epidemiologists, computer scientists, mathematicians, linguists and art historians.





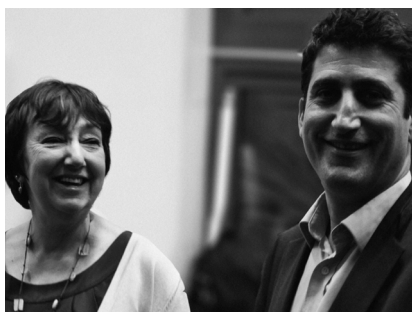
The evening began with a welcome from the current Head of Department, Professor Janet Hunter. Professor Mary Morgan, who led the project and co-edited the book, described the project and why it was initiated. (Professor Morgan gave this presentation on video as she was working in the States at the time.)

These introductions were followed by book co-editor Dr Peter Howlett, who laid out the key ideas driving the project in more detail. Dr Jon Adams then gave a presentation on how science facts fare in popular fiction. Dr Simona Valeriani gave a fascinating overview of the different kinds of facts to be discovered on the beams of an Italian church. Finally, Dr Aashish Velkar discussed an agricultural project in India

which had yielded unexpected benefits for its participants. The presentations all sparked a lively question and answer session with the audience.

The event concluded with drinks and refreshments, and of course a chance to mingle and meet up with old friends. Among our guests were alumni who had attended LSE in the 1950s and former students who had graduated within the last couple of years. This year we also invited new and recently graduated MSc students.

We would like to thank all the alumni who attended this event, and also those who responded to our invitation with kind words, updates and greetings. We look forward to seeing you at future events.





Epstein Lecture 2011

The next lecture in the series promoting the work of up and coming young academics working in the field of economic history will be given by Dr Ichiro Maekawa, of Soka University, Japan.

The title of Dr Maekawa's lecture is 'British Aid and Decolonisation 1950s-1970s.' Howard Davies will chair.

The lecture starts at 6.30pm, on 8th March 2011, Room D402, Clement House. After the lecture there will be a drinks reception.

This lecture is free and open to all, with no ticket required. Our alumni are particularly warmly invited, and we look forward to seeing you there.

You can find more details on the LSE Events website:
www2.lse.ac.uk/publicEvents/events/2011/20110308t1830vCLM402.aspx

You can also email Tracy Keefe (t.j.keefe@lse.ac.uk) or call 020 7955 7860.

Erasmus Mundus Prize Winners

Congratulations to Derek Elliot (Erasmus Mundus 08-09) and Ekaterina Vladimirova (Erasmus Mundus 09-10), who have both received awards for Best Masters Thesis at the recent Erasmus Mundus Alumni Meeting and Graduation. Derek's prize-winning thesis is entitled 'Politics Not Pirates:

Contested Sovereignties of the Konkan Coast, c.1690-1756. Ekaterina's thesis is entitled 'Migration and institutional transformation in Russia in the 1990s.'

PhDs Awarded 2010

Our congratulations go to Xavier Duran, Alexander Apostolides, Rajiv Maluste and Johann Custodis.

PhD Student On Antarctic Trek

Economic History research student Garrick Hileman will cross the Antarctic in December 2011 as one of a team of five walking from the coast to the South Pole. The trek aims to inspire blind and partially-sighted people to and raise awareness and funds for two sight-related charities.

Garrick and team will undertake an unsupported trek from the coast of Antarctica all the way to the South Pole. Only about 100 people have completed the trek on foot before. Their expedition coincides with the 100th anniversary of the original race to the South Pole between Scott and Amundsen. Team member Alan Lock, who has macular degeneration, is also aiming to set the record as the first visually impaired person to complete this journey.

The trek is in support of Sightsavers International, and Guide Dogs for the Blind in the United States.