

Call for Papers

XVth World Economic History Congress Session

Utrecht, August 3-7, 2009

International Comparison of Output and Productivity in History

International comparison of output and productivity is important in economic history research because it addresses the compatibility of income, welfare and costs of production between countries and more importantly, it also facilitates empirical tests of theories that attempt to explain earlier economic development. Such comparison relies on the measure of purchasing power parity (PPP) or similar quantitative approaches, and is thus highly data-intensive. This proposed session will encourage researchers to present their studies using PPP or other quantitative approaches to international comparison in economic history.

As well as discussing methodological issues and data problems, the session will encourage discussion of the implications for the process of economic development.

Because of the highly demanding data requirements, the field has in the past developed only slowly. Recently, however, there has been an increase in the number of studies comparing output and productivity in the first half of the twentieth century, drawing upon abundant price information from the past, combined with production census material where available. This provides a useful cross-check on time series projections of productivity from the present, which have hitherto provided the only quantitative estimates of comparative productivity performance in the pre-World War II period. One striking development has been the application of the approach to comparisons between Asian economies, and between Asia, Europe and North America, as well as to comparisons between European economies and between Europe and North America.

Paper deadlines:

The deadline for proposals is **February 14, 2009**. Please submit paper titles and outlines to the organizers at the email addresses below.

Organizers:

Kyoji Fukao (Hitotsubashi University)

k.fukao@srv.cc.hit-u.ac.jp

Harry X. Wu (Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

afhxwu@inet.polyu.edu.hk

Stephen Broadberry (University of Warwick)

S.N.Broadberry@warwick.ac.uk