



# 29th ANNUAL GRADUATE WORKSHOP in Economic and Social History

26–27 APRIL 2021



AGW Organizing Committee:

Sandra Fleischmann, Ryan O'Neill, Joshua Williamson, Qingrou Zhao

# Twenty-Ninth Annual Graduate Workshop

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# Twenty-Ninth Annual Graduate Workshop

## Program at a Glance

<b>MONDAY 26th April 2021</b>	
<b>ZOOM Registration Link: <a href="https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAqd-GrqTIpH9BQmXP2mVhtIqAztv1QAqCC">https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAqd-GrqTIpH9BQmXP2mVhtIqAztv1QAqCC</a></b>	
10:30-11:00	ZOOM room opens for early entrants
11:00-12:00	<p><b><u>Policy &amp; Government</u></b></p> <p><b>Raphael Endre Adès</b> – “Crime and Confession in Tudor and Stuart England”</p> <p><b>Sarena Martinez</b> – “Home Rule in 20th Century America: An Economic Analysis”</p> <p><b>Jingyang Rui</b> – “What Makes a ‘Good’ Maoist Cadre? Determinants of Local Cadres’ Behaviour and Its Impact on Intra-prefectural Mortality Discrepancies during China’s Great Famine, 1959-61”</p>
12:00-12:20	Break
12:20-13:00	<p><b><u>Feinstein Prize Winner</u></b></p> <p><b>Lucas Tse</b> – “In search of the equality of nations: China and the League of Nations, 1927-1931”</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-15:00	<p><b><u>Global Trade &amp; Currencies</u></b></p> <p><b>Luis de la Torre Martinez</b> – “The Crisis of 1866 and the Latin Monetary Union in Spain (1864-1874)”</p> <p><b>Kgosietsile Diphokwane</b> – “South Africa’s Investment Mobilisation - A historical account on strategic business investment across economic cycles”</p> <p><b>Maximilian Friedmann</b> – “The Cobden-Chevalier Treaty and its Aftermath: How MFN Treaties Affected Germany’s Foreign Trade Flows”</p>
15:00-15:20	Break
15:20-16:00	<p><b><u>Institutions &amp; Growth</u></b></p> <p><b>Sandra Fleischmann</b> – “The Role of Formal and Informal Institutions in the development of Illegitimacy in former Anterior Austria and Markgräflerland”</p> <p><b>Yingxin Bi</b> – “The evolution of cultural and social history in China: Geographical distribution of Jinshi holders and its impact on the modern local economy”</p>
16:00-16:20	Break
16:20-17:00	<p><b><u>Offer Prize Winner</u></b></p> <p><b>Clemens Rawert</b> – “What were the patterns of access to printed media in Germany and how did they impact society and the economy? Evidence from booksellers: 1490-1550”</p>

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<b>TUESDAY 27th April 2021</b>	
<b>ZOOM Registration Link: <a href="https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYoduGgpj4pHNHJ6fAiBk2qAqbZXsrtesL">https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYoduGgpj4pHNHJ6fAiBk2qAqbZXsrtesL</a></b>	
10:30-11:00	ZOOM room opens for early entrants
11:00-12:00	<p><b><u>Finance &amp; Banking</u></b></p> <p><b>Pranesh Varadarajan</b> – “A study of Competition policy, Credit Control and Financial Sector responses, 1967-75”</p> <p><b>Zheng Hao Qiu</b> – “Banking ‘on’ Chaos: A Case Study of the Bank of Communication’s Growth and Development during China’s Early Republican Era (1911-1927)”</p> <p><b>Qingrou Zhao</b> – “Confusión de Confucianos? A Quantitative Evaluation of the 1882-1883 Shanghai Financial Crisis and its Impact on China’s Self-Strengthening Enterprises”</p>
12:00-12:20	Break
12:20-13:00	<p><b><u>Labour</u></b></p> <p><b>Joshua Williamson</b> – “A Troubled Homecoming? The Economic Reintegration of British First World War Veterans, 1918-1939”</p> <p><b>Kate Reed</b> – “Emigrating to Empire: Institutional and Economic Effects of Mexican Refugees in British Honduras, 1847-1900”</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-15:00	<p><b><u>Development</u></b></p> <p><b>Dominik Loibner</b> – “The Economics of Historic Preservation in China, 1980 - 2015”</p> <p><b>Bryce Fuemmeler</b> – “Left behind or helped forward? Rural America’s relationship with the Community Action Program”</p> <p><b>Jacob Bellamy</b> – “Legacy and legislation - The recipe for a tax haven”</p>
15:00-15:20	Break
15:20-16:20	<p><b><u>Sexuality, Gender &amp; Family</u></b></p> <p><b>Emma Diduch</b> – “Working Women and Unwed Mothers: Illegitimacy Decline in England and Wales, 1851-1911”</p> <p><b>Ryan O’Neill</b> – “Investigating the Role of Urbanization in the Formation of Homosexual Practices: A London Perspective”</p> <p><b>Katherine Richmond</b> – “Textile-based handiwork and women's well-being: evidence from nineteenth-century North American diaries”</p>
16:20-17:00	Break
17:00-18:30	<p><b><u>Hicks Lecture</u></b></p> <p><b>Professor Leah Boustan (Princeton University)</b></p>
19:00-20:00	ZOOM room opens for a virtual drink! 🍷

## Twenty-Ninth Annual Graduate Workshop

### Introduction to the 29th Annual Graduate Workshop

Welcome to the University of Oxford's 29th Annual Economic and Social History Graduate Workshop, where all first-year Economic and Social History Masters students will present their research strategy and any preliminary findings. Following in the footsteps of the 28th Annual Graduate Workshop, this event will occur entirely online. Although circumstance drives the digital format, the organising committee hope that an online structure will increase the accessibility of what promises to be an extraordinarily diverse and stimulating series of presentations spanning April 26th and 27th, 2021. This event is well-suited to current students, academics, and Oxford undergraduates potentially interested in pursuing further study in economic history and, while first-year Economic and Social History Masters students will attend the entire event, we encourage other attendees to participate in as many or as few presentations as they wish.

Masters research presentations shall occur in seven blocks of two or three, organised by topic. Each student occupies the spotlight for twenty minutes, with approximately twelve minutes to present and eight minutes for what we hope will be a lively question and answer session. The short period available for each topic means that this event will be fast-moving and thought-provoking, but it also means that speakers should please adhere to the timetable as closely as possible. We also request that attendees be constructive in their contributions and brief enough to allow others to provide input.

In addition to student presentations, three excellent historians will provide more extended commentaries based on their recent work. In 2020, Oxford University awarded Clemens Rawert the Offer Prize for an exceptional MSc dissertation, while Lucas Tse earned the Feinstein Prize for phenomenal MPhil research. We are delighted to welcome both these inspiring economic and social historians back to Oxford to present their findings. Finally, we are privileged to announce that Professor Leah Boustan of Princeton University, a distinguished academic and labour market expert, will deliver Oxford University's annual Hicks Lecture. Professor Boustan is currently

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co-editor at the Journal of Urban Economics and sits on the editorial boards of the American Economic Review and the Journal of Economic Perspectives.

We hope that the workshop will help all attendees deepen their understanding of economic issues, develop their research topics, and provide new ways of approaching problems. The committee thanks everyone for their attendance and contributions, and we hope to see you in Oxford as soon as the situation allows. In the meantime, we cordially invite you to virtual drinks!

Disclaimer: This event will be recorded for the benefit of those who cannot make it and for the students to be able to look back on their question-and-answer period for future reference.

Your Annual Graduate Workshop Committee

*Sandra Fleischmann, Ryan O'Neill, Joshua Williamson, and Qingrou Zhao*

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## Organisational Notes

Each block of student presentations will be moderated by a chair. Chairs will rotate over the two days and are predominantly committee members. Professor Sheilagh Ogilvie has kindly agreed to chair the Hicks Lecture.

During question-and-answer times, chairs will select requests for questions from the chat feed, then request that the individual who submitted the question asks it to the presenter. Chat can be accessed from the bottom bar.

Except during casual periods, such as the closing drinks, please keep muted unless presenting, asking a question, or chairing the meeting.

It is important that presenters keep to time, so chairs will notify the speaker that they have one minute to wrap-up if the presentation if they reach the eleven-minute mark. Presenters should not answer audience questions until the end of their presentation.

If you have any queries or encounter any difficulties, please contact the committee.

## ZOOM Technicalities

The 29th Annual Graduate Workshop will be hosted on ZOOM, and it is essential that attendees click the links to register in advance for both days.

You do not need to download ZOOM desktop application to attend the meeting, simply click on the link in the email or overleaf: there is one link for Monday, and a second for Tuesday. Your sound will be muted when you first arrive, but you have control over your microphone. Sound and video controls are lower left screen. Your name will appear if your video is off.

Please note that the bottom bar disappears when not in use – move your cursor to the

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bottom of the screen to make it appear.

### Further Instructions for Presenters

Open up your presentation prior to the meeting. From the bottom bar, share screen and navigate to the presentation. If you have already started the show, it will let you navigate to that. Beware if you have multiple monitors – a single monitor may be simpler.

If you have ZOOM desktop application, you can attend a Test Meeting and check your microphone and video at:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/115002262083-Joining-a-Test-Meeting>

ZOOM offers FAQs and guidance at:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697>

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## Abstract by Session

### Policy & Government

Chair: Qingrou Zhao

**Raphael Endre Adès** (MPhil), [raphael.ades@chch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:raphael.ades@chch.ox.ac.uk)

*“Crime and Confession in Tudor and Stuart England”*

Through the use of sanctuary records from the Cathedral Church of Durham and Church of St. John in Beverly, as well as the selective use of Middlesex County Records, this study aims to affirm or deny the relative importance of poverty and inequality as determiners of crime in England in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. It is expected that under normal conditions, it will be the middle to upper segments of society that are most involved in criminal activities. Under conditions of extreme hardship this relationship is expected to temporarily reverse. Regionally, those areas with the most far-reaching and robust institutions (strong village community and lordship) will produce fewer criminals by offering alternative means to settling disputes by violence. Homicide and assaults should generally occur between those of like social class.

**Sarena Martinez** (MSc), [sarena.martinez@trinity.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sarena.martinez@trinity.ox.ac.uk)

*“Home Rule in 20th Century America: An Economic Analysis”*

The distribution of power between states and their local governments constitute an often overlooked fulcrum of American political development. Though there is a considerable amount of scholarship that suggests that subversion of city power may contribute to an unequal economy, there is a paucity of research linking the legal history of the city and state institution and connecting it to effects on economic outcomes. My dissertation will

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examine if constitutional and statutory home rule laws affect the economies of American cities in the 20th century.

**Jingyang Rui** (MPhil), [jingyang.rui@spc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jingyang.rui@spc.ox.ac.uk)

*“What Makes a ‘Good’ Maoist Cadre? Determinants of Local Cadres’ Behaviour and Its Impact on Intra-prefectural Mortality Discrepancies during China’s Great Famine, 1959-61”*

Radical central policies and weather adversities are considered as main explanations for China’s Great Famine (1959-61), but they fail to explain the high casualty variance within prefectures. By leveraging local government archives, this study analyses the extent to and the mechanisms through which local cadres impacted famine mortality in the Nanyang Prefecture, along with the socio-economic factors that determined the cadres’ behaviour. Preliminary findings indicate that mortality variances at the county-level and below can largely be explained by the cadres’ political radicalness and willingness to abuse personal power, which were influenced by their family origins, educational level, and class identities.

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- Feinsein Prize Winner -

**Lucas Tse**

*"In search of the equality of nations: China and the League of Nations, 1927-1931"*

In this MPhil dissertation, I followed a transnational network of actors, from bankers and humanitarians to trade unionists and civil servants. Shaped by these individuals, Sino-League relations transformed from passive coexistence to active and wide-ranging collaboration through a series of institutional innovations. I tried to show that the understudied trajectories between the Paris Peace Conference and the Manchurian Incident were far from linear. The dissertation suggested new insights into two larger tensions within modern global order—the interaction between national, regional and global agendas, and contestation over the principles and practices of international (in)equality.

This presentation will zoom in on one of the chapters (and one of the themes) in the dissertation: attempts to regulate global migration and labour conditions. I discuss the work of the International Labour Organization in China, and the work of Chinese representatives and officials in Geneva. To conclude, I offer some reflections and questions about how to further this research, both empirically and conceptually.

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### Global Trade & Currencies

Chair: Qingrou Zhao

**Luis de la Torre Martinez** (MSc), [luis.delatorremartinez@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:luis.delatorremartinez@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

*“The Crisis of 1866 and the Latin Monetary Union in Spain (1864–1874)”*

The crisis of 1866 was a seminal episode of British financial history. Nonetheless, the international repercussions of this crisis have not received the same careful attention as the original crisis, especially those that affected the peripheral countries of Southern Europe such as Spain. This research tries to shed some light on the effects of this crisis on the Spanish banking system, the subsequent measures to address the crisis such as the intention to join the Latin Monetary Union and also the relationship between the banking system and the Treasury.

**Kgosietsile Diphokwane** (MSc), [kgosietsile.diphokwane@linacre.ox.ac.uk](mailto:kgosietsile.diphokwane@linacre.ox.ac.uk)

*“South Africa’s Investment Mobilisation – A historical account on strategic business investment across economic cycles”*

The 1950s to the mid-2010s has seen great shifts occurring in the South African political and economic space. This 60-year period is characterised by economic expansions as well as recessions associated with the commodity boom; changes in leadership; and momentous investment to become a great host nation during the World Cup. This paper looks at investment in South Africa through the lens of business by providing a historical perspective on FDI and local investment in the form of strategic shareholding by multinationals and cash deployment by domestic firms, respectively. This helps one understand who has been “the most supportive” and when.

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**Maximilian Friedmann** (MSc), [maximilian.friedmann@stx.ox.ac.uk](mailto:maximilian.friedmann@stx.ox.ac.uk)

*“The Cobden-Chevalier Treaty and its Aftermath: How MFN Treaties Affected Germany’s Foreign Trade Flows”*

1860 marked a decisive shift in European trade policy. France and the United Kingdom agreed on the Cobden-Chevalier treaty and liberalised their trade regimes. It triggered an array of different trade treaties between Europe’s major industrial powers, and a network of bilateral trade treaties – the Cobden-Chevalier network – evolved. The German Zollverein joined in 1865 by agreeing on bilateral trade treaties with several other European countries in the network. This dissertation wants to examine how this affected Germany’s foreign trade flows. For that, the impact on bilateral trade flows is analysed on the commodity-level.

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### Institutions & Growth

Chair: Joshua Williamson

**Sandra Fleischmann** (MPhil), [sandra.fleischmann2@mansfield.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sandra.fleischmann2@mansfield.ox.ac.uk)

*“The Role of Formal and Informal Institutions in the development of Illegitimacy in former Anterior Austria and Markgräflerland”*

Formal institutions mostly overruled and shaped the structure of informal institutions. But the rising illegitimacy rates in 19th century Baden suggest otherwise. The official hurdles to become married did not influence the demographic behaviour equally in Baden.

In Anterior Austria, illegitimacy rates remained high despite the discouragement from formal institutions while unmarried parenthood was tolerated by informal institutions of the village community. In the Markgräflerland illegitimacy rates were low; unmarried parents faced discrimination by informal and formal institutions. The illegitimacy rate seems to be steered by the informal institutions’ stance towards unmarried parenthood. Were informal institutions able take on the role of formal ones in regulating demographic behaviour in Baden, even if corresponding formal institutions existed?

**Yingxin Bi** (MSc), [yingxin.bi@sant.ox.ac.uk](mailto:yingxin.bi@sant.ox.ac.uk)

*“The evolution of cultural and social history in China: Geographical distribution of Jinshi holders and its impact on the modern local economy”*

This project is to examine social mobility during the Ming Dynasty based on the candidates of the Jinshi Candidates, who are qualified for the highest level of the Imperial examination hosted by the emperor himself. In the paper, I first examine

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intergenerational mobility based on individual data, and examine its dynamic revolution along the Ming Dynasty. Then I would like to examine the distribution of these intelligentsia during the Ming dynasty and explore potential mechanisms of social mobility and social revolution. By aggregating individual data into regional data, I would explore geographical distribution of intellectuals during the Ming Dynasty.

- Offer Prize Winner -

**Clemens Rawert**

*“What were the patterns of access to printed media in Germany and how did they impact society and the economy? Evidence from booksellers: 1490-1550”*

The advent of the printing press has been linked to subsequent economic growth and the adoption of the Reformation. I critically evaluate the extant empirical literature and argue that its binary measurement of treatment to a printing press and its purported causal link to economic outcomes is inadequate. I draw attention to the commercial structure in which printed media were embedded and emphasise the role of booksellers as intermediaries in this market. I show that trade was buoyant and the print industry highly concentrated in a small number of hubs. This market structure was predicated on sales to distant markets which were serviced by booksellers.

I collect a new, micro-level and high-frequency dataset of 857 individual booksellers in 158 historic cities in Germany. I show that the number of booksellers in a city can explain economic growth and adoption of the Reformation. This effect dominates the previously employed measure of the presence of a printing press. Additionally, I contribute a high-frequency, geo-referenced dataset that measures the exposure of 2.255 towns in Germany to bookselling activity. The dataset proxies for human capital and commercial vibrancy at the yearly-level between 1490-1550.

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### Finance & Banking

Chair: Ryan O'Neill

**Pranesh Varadarajan** (MSc), [pranesh.varadarajan@sant.ox.ac.uk](mailto:pranesh.varadarajan@sant.ox.ac.uk)

*"A study of Competition policy, Credit Control and Financial Sector responses, 1967-75"*

The period 1967-75 was a transitional period for both British Monetary policy and the City of London. Monetary policy shifted from Keynesianism towards Monetarism, including the implementation of "Competition and Credit Control." The City of London experienced a number of significant mergers and the influx of new types of financial institutions. My thesis focuses on the relationship between the City of London and Policymakers, identifying a shortage of analysis on the City of London's perspective in secondary literature. I utilize a range of qualitative sources including business media, biographical sources and archival documents to evaluate the idea of a "Bank-City-Treasury nexus". I will examine how the City of London's perceptions of monetary policy and their relationships with the Treasury and the Bank of England evolved. In doing so, I hope to increase understanding of the role that the City of London played in policy implementation and if any tensions existed between the financial sector and policymakers.

**Zheng Hao Qiu** (MSc), [jerry.qiu@regents.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jerry.qiu@regents.ox.ac.uk)

*"Banking 'on' Chaos: A Case Study of the Bank of Communication's Growth and Development during China's Early Republican Era (1911-1927)"*

While it may seem intuitive that the growth of banking is, in large part, determined by the presence of institutions, the "Golden Age" of Chinese Banking (1911-1927) suggests otherwise. Using the case study of the Bank of Communications, this study

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will analyze the ways in which a fledgling Chinese bank grew and expanded under the fragmented and unstable political-economic climate of early Republican China. Potential explanations for the success of the bank include its support of government objectives, the rise of China in the global market, and the leadership of foreign-educated professionals.

**Qingrou Zhao** (MPhil), [qingrou.zhao@exeter.ox.ac.uk](mailto:qingrou.zhao@exeter.ox.ac.uk)

*“Confusión de Confucianos? A Quantitative Evaluation of the 1882–1883 Shanghai Financial Crisis and its Impact on China’s Self-Strengthening Enterprises”*

At the turn of 1882-1883, a financial crisis hit Shanghai, which had become the centre of China’s external reach. It witnessed bankruptcies of various indigenous banks, plummeting stock prices of local companies, and contagion across other treaty ports and commercial cities. This paper would analyse the cause, spread, and impact of the 1882-1883 Shanghai Financial Crisis with quantitative evidence, including company stock prices and financials. It aims to enrich the currently narrative-dominated literature on the crisis, thus shed light on financial factors behind the stagnation of China’s 19th-century Self-Strengthening Movement, and potentially contribute to economic discussions on the finance-growth nexus.

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### Labour

Chair: Ryan O'Neill

**Joshua Williamson** (MSc), [joshua.williamson@hertford.ox.ac.uk](mailto:joshua.williamson@hertford.ox.ac.uk)

*"A Troubled Homecoming? The Economic Reintegration of British First World War Veterans, 1918-1939"*

After the First World War, Britain demobilised five million ex-servicepeople. All veterans had temporarily left civilian work; others suffered a disability; many had abandoned training. Ex-servicemen plausibly struggled to find work, and social histories assume that this was the case.

This dissertation quantitatively assesses veteran outcomes with data from two sources: Out-of-Work-Donation benefit, and the King's National Roll scheme for disabled ex-servicepeople. Following a fleeting period of high unemployment amongst ex-servicepeople, the rate of unemployment amongst veterans fell significantly. Self-selection and temporary positive discrimination advantaged ex-servicepeople in labour markets, while the interwar state mitigated channels through which the war negatively impacted employment prospects.

**Kate Reed** (MPhil), [katharine.reed@history.ox.ac.uk](mailto:katharine.reed@history.ox.ac.uk)

*"Emigrating to Empire: Institutional and Economic Effects of Mexican Refugees in British Honduras, 1847-1900"*

Beginning in 1847, with the outbreak of the Caste War, Maya and Yucateco refugees fled south from Yucatán into the British settlement at Belize (British Honduras). In less than a decade, migration from Mexico more than doubled Belize's population, spurred institutional change, and introduced extensive subsistence and export agriculture to the

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settlement, which had previously depended almost exclusively on mahogany and logwood extraction. Taking the contested Belize-Yucatán border as both geographic and conceptual framework, this thesis explores the intertwined institutional and economic effects of the refugees' arrival, with a particular focus on the intersecting dynamics of race/ethnicity, land tenure, and labour control.

### Development

Chair: Joshua Williamson

**Dominik Loibner** (MSc), [dominik.loibner@stcatz.ox.ac.uk](mailto:dominik.loibner@stcatz.ox.ac.uk)

*"The Economics of Historic Preservation in China, 1980 - 2015"*

By looking at UNESCO World Heritage sites designated between 1980 and 2015, drawing on county-level data, I tackle the question whether there is a measurable economic impact of historic preservation on regional economic development, and if so, to what extent. At the beginning of the 1980s, aligned with Deng Xiaoping's open-door-policy, China reversed prior diametrical policies and began to push domestic and international tourism. The research directly concerns preservative policies' ambiguous current state of research and will hopefully contribute to a deeper understanding of the intersection of culture, heritage and the economy in China and beyond. The assessment also aims to acknowledge and address criticism of "disneyfication".

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**Bryce Fuemmeler** (MSc), [bryce.fuemmeler@wolfson.ox.ac.uk](mailto:bryce.fuemmeler@wolfson.ox.ac.uk)

*“Left behind or helped forward? Rural America’s relationship with the Community Action Program”*

I explore two levels on which researchers have not examined the Community Action Program (CAP). By first analyzing its historical underpinnings, I argue that the rural CAP was less radical policy than it was a natural outgrowth of twentieth century rural development, a point that brings the differences between ‘farming’ and ‘nonfarming’ populations central to the CAP’s history. Second, the thesis contributes to a dataset of thirty-two rural Community Action Agencies (CAAs). Using primary source material and my own interviews with CAA Directors, I cross-list local statistics with macro-level data, to determine what differences community action made in rural communities.

**Jacob Bellamy** (MSc), [jacob.bellamy@sant.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jacob.bellamy@sant.ox.ac.uk)

*“Legacy and legislation - The recipe for a tax haven”*

While there is no circumventing the heterogeneity of the tax haven story, some common characteristics undoubtedly amongst those jurisdictions that became havens. I investigate four such themes; institutional quality, colonial history, size and mimicry, subjected to both quantitative and qualitative scrutiny. In particular, I look at the interactions and overlap between these variables, for they blend in the manner that cross-country analysis is want to produce. In understanding the formation of havens from a more holistic perspective, in building some skeletal ‘recipe’, we might better predict their emergence in the future and pursue more informed legislative agendas.

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### Sexuality, Gender & Family

Chair: Sandra Fleischmann

**Emma Diduch** (MSc), [emma.diduch@seh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:emma.diduch@seh.ox.ac.uk)

*“Working Women and Unwed Mothers: Illegitimacy Decline in England and Wales, 1851–1911”*

In this study I explore the economic and social contexts of illegitimate birth rates in England and Wales using both census data and working-class autobiographies. I find that the decline in illegitimacy between 1851 and 1911 and regional variations in trends can be explained by women’s labour force participation and local labour markets. Increasing age at marriage indicates that the decline in illegitimacy was not primarily driven by the ability of young couples to marry before an illegitimate birth, but instead may be due to working women delaying courtship to continue earning wages. I argue that illegitimacy should be viewed in economic terms in addition to social expectations regarding gender and class, and explore the individual experiences of these themes using working-class autobiography and poor law records relating to unwed mothers.

**Ryan O’Neill** (MSc), [ryan.oneill@wolfson.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ryan.oneill@wolfson.ox.ac.uk)

*“Investigating the Role of Urbanization in the Formation of Homosexual Practices: A London Perspective”*

While the history of sexuality has seen a field of robust research, the intersection of urbanization and sexuality in 19th century London remains a significant gap within contemporary scholarship. The role that urbanization played in facilitating same-sex sexual relations demands further examination. To explore these themes, the Digital Panopticon Project, synthesized with census records, will be of the utmost usefulness in reconstructing the historical narratives of men who have found themselves in the

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crosshairs of the state for offences such as sodomy, buggery, and indecent assault. By reconstructing these records and framing them in their larger urbanized context, this paper will contribute a new narrative in the history of sexuality.

**Katherine Richmond** (MSc), [katherine.richmond@wolfson.ox.ac.uk](mailto:katherine.richmond@wolfson.ox.ac.uk)

*“Textile-based handiwork and women's well-being: evidence from nineteenth-century North American diaries”*

Historically we understand little about a women’s economic role in an industrialising economy and how this labour affected their wellbeing. Current literature is limited by what can be gleaned from labour force participation rates. However, during the 19th century, a woman’s role was predominantly in the private sphere and women’s labour force participation rates were incredibly low. Through the assessment of North American women’s diaries, this study builds on a growing body of literature to present a quantitative analysis of qualitative sources detailing textile-based activities of women within the home. Placing women within the economy, this study also examines the impact such activities had on a woman’s utility and ultimately their wellbeing.

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– Hicks Lecture –

Professor Leah Boustan (Princeton University)

This talk is based on an upcoming book entitled *Streets of Gold: The American Immigration Story, Overturned*. The public has a nostalgic view about immigration to the US a century ago during the Age of Mass Migration from Europe. We argue that the vision of the “American Dream,” in which immigrants arrive penniless but quickly join the middle class, is overstated both in the past and today. Instead, immigrants themselves, in both eras, climb a few rungs on the economic ladder and engage in some cultural assimilation. The children of immigrants experience a striking catch up to the children of the US-born both in the past and present, and from nearly every sending country.



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