

Economic History course for the Phd Programme in Economics (16 hours)

Gabriele Cappelli, UniSi (8 H) and Giovanni Federico, UniPi (8 H)

Format of the seminar –

The “rules of the game” are the following. All the sessions require an active role in the discussion of the papers / articles presented – meaning that you are expected to ask direct questions to the speakers during the seminars. Moreover, each student must write one extended Review Report (RR) for one of the papers presented in class. The RR should be articulated as follow: i) discuss context and research questions; ii) assess source, historical material and data; iii) provide a discussion of the approach and methods; iv) suggest improvements and refinements for the analysis. Finally, all students must organize themselves in groups (2 students, max 3) and prepare an Economic History Research Project (RP) that must contain: i) a well-defined research question; ii) sources to be used; iii) methods; iv) conclusions. The final evaluation will be based on class participation (25%) and on the quality of both the RRs (25%) and RP (50%).

To organize the Review Report (RR) for each paper, please send the following **by email**, to gabriele.cappelli@unisi.it, **no later than May 10th**:

1. The title of three papers chosen from those below, which you would like to read for writing the RR, **in order of preference**. The papers will be then allocated on a first come, first served basis, taking into account your expressed preferences insofar as we can accommodate them. **The RR must be written individually**.
2. The groups (2/3 students max) that will be co-writing the final Research Projects (RP): we expect about 4 groups, and no more than 5.

Schedule –

Thursday May 16th, 14.00 – 16.00

Giovanni Federico

Title: “The race between the snail and the tortoise: skill premium and early industrialization in Italy (1861–1913)” (with A. Nuvolari, L. Ridolfi, M. Vasta)

Topic: Skill premia

RR: [Cristina Re](#)

Wednesday May 22nd, 11.00 – 13.00

Giovanni Federico

Title: “Terms of trade during the first globalization: an empirical analysis” (with D. Chilosi and A. Tena)

Topic: Globalization and trade

RR: [Marco Stamegna](#)

Thursday May 23rd, 14.00 – 16.00

Gabriele Cappelli

Title: “Can school centralization foster human capital accumulation? A quasi-experiment from early-20th-century Italy” (with M. Vasta)

Topic: Human capital

RR: [Netsanet Getahun](#)

Tuesday May 28th, 14.00 – 16.00

Gabriele Cappelli

Title: “Was Putnam Wrong? The Determinants of Social Capital in Italy Around 1900”

Topic: Social capital

RR: [Guilherme Morlin](#)

Thursday May 30th, 14.00 – 16.00

Gabriele Cappelli

Title: “European Trade, Colonialism and Human Capital Accumulation in Senegal, Gambia and Western Mali, 1770 – 1900” (with J. Baten)

Topic: Resource endowments, trade and development

RR: [Tommaso Brollo](#)

Tuesday June 4th, 14.00 – 16.00

Giovanni Federico

Title: “The gender gap in traditional agriculture: evidence from Italy” (with P. Martinelli)

Topic: Gender inequality

RR: [Giuseppe Simone](#)

Wednesday June 5th, 11.00 – 13.00

Giovanni Federico

Title: “The effects of market integration during the first globalization: a multi-market approach” (with D. Chilosì)

Topic: Market integration

RR: [Anna Pirogova](#)

Thursday June 6th, 14.00 – 16.00

Gabriele Cappelli

Title: "Human capital accumulation in Africa in a long-term perspective, 1730-1970: did colonialism matter?" (with J. Baten)

Topic: Institutions and long-term economic growth

RR: Fernando Flores Tavares & Filippo Petrini