

Northwestern | Economics

Center for Economic History The New Economic History of China

March 24-25, 2023
Kellogg Global Hub, #1410

Sponsored by Northwestern University's Center for Economic History
Joseph Ferrie, Walker Hanlon, and Joel Mokyr, co-directors

Co-sponsored by the Global Poverty Research Lab
Dean Karlan, Nancy Qian, and Christopher Udry, co-directors

Organizers: Joel Mokyr and Nancy Qian (Northwestern University)

Conference Program and Schedule

Friday, March 24

8:00-8:45 Breakfast

8:45-9:00 Welcome, Joel Mokyr, Northwestern University

9:00-10:40 Session 1: Long-Term Growth

Stephen Broadberry, Nuffield College, Oxford, and Hanhui Guan, Peking University, "Regional variation of GDP per head within China, 1080-1850: implications for the great divergence debate."

Commentator: Jack Goldstone, GMU

Evelyn S. Rawski and Thomas G. Rawski, University of Pittsburgh, "Taiping-era War Finance in Qing China: New Perspectives and Long-term Consequences."

Commentator: Taisu Zhang, Yale University

10:40-11:00 Break

11:00 -12:00 Keynote Address: R. Bin Wong, UCLA, "The New Economic History of China: What's New for Economics and for History?"

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:00 Special Session on Melissa Macauley's *Distant Shores: Colonial Encounters on China's Maritime Frontier*

Melissa Macauley, Northwestern University, "Distant Shores: Some Reflections."

Commentator: Evelyn Rawski, University of Pittsburgh

2:00-3:40 Session 2: Public Finance and State Capacity

Clair Z. Yang, University of Washington, "Determinants of State Capacity: Wars and Public Goods"

Commentator: Ruixue Jia, UCSD

Tuan-Hwee Sng, National University of Singapore, "Revisiting Skinner: Counting Counties in Song China"

Commentator: Yuhua Wang, Harvard

3:40-4:00 Break

4:00-5:40 Session 3: Regional and Spatial Development

Meng Miao, Renmin University, and Yiling Zhao, Peking University "Trafficking, Violence, and Revolution: The Evidence from Salt Charter System in Qing China."

Commentator: Loren Brandt, University of Toronto

Cheng Yang, Renmin University "The spatial structure of economic development and regional occupational structure in late Imperial China, 1734-1898."

Commentator: Xiaoxue Zhao, Wesleyan University

**7:00 Cocktails and Dinner at Koi Fine Asian Cuisine & Lounge
624 Davis St, Evanston, IL 60201**

Saturday, March 25

8:00-9:00 Breakfast

9:00-10:40 Session 4: Strategies and Commitments

Carol H. Shiue and Wolfgang Keller, University of Colorado, “Human Capital Strategies for Recovery from Big Shocks: The Case of the Fall of the Ming.”

Commentator: Ken Pomeranz, University of Chicago

Shuo Chen, Fudan University Xinyu Fan, and Zhichen Huang, “Noble No More: Institutional Commitment, Elite Recruitment, and Political Purges.”

Commentator: Edoardo Teso, Northwestern University

10:40-11:00 Break

11:00-12:00 Keynote Address: James Kung, Melbourne University, “The Rise of the Chinese Communist Party”

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00 -2:40 Session 5: Ideology and Economics

Ying Bai, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Ruixue Jia, UCSD, and Runnan Wang, “Ideas Mobilize People: The Diffusion of Communist Ideology in China.”

Commentator: Arunab Ghosh, Harvard

Debin Ma, Oxford and Jared Rubin, Chapman University “Ideology and Economic Change: The Contrasting Paths to the Modern Economy in late 19th China and Japan.”

Commentator: Yasheng Huang, MIT

2:40-3:00 Break

3:00-4:40 Session 6: Policies, Politics, and Culture

Melanie Meng Xue (LSE) and Boxiao Zhang (RUC), “The Short- and Long-Run Effects of Affirmative Action: Evidence from Imperial China.”

Commentator: Richard Von Glahn, UCLA

Chicheng Ma, University of Hong Kong, “Classicism and Modern Growth: The Shadow of the Sages”

Commentator: James Kung, Melbourne University

4:40-5:00 Conference Summary, Nancy Qian, Northwestern University

5:00 Adjourn