



FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS  
SOCIALES Y JURÍDICAS

***Master in Social Sciences***

**2019-2020**

***TOPICS IN ECONOMIC HISTORY***

***Prof. Leandro Prados de la Escosura  
(Departamento de Ciencias Sociales)***

## **TOPICS IN ECONOMIC HISTORY**

Prof. Leandro Prados de la Escosura

**Office Hours:** Monday, 3:30-4:30 pm.

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### **Course Description**

Main debates on long run growth, its causes and consequences, are examined in this course including the role of geography and institutions, colonial legacies, globalization, divergence, inequality, and multidimensional well-being.

### **Organization**

We meet on Monday from 10:00 to 13:00 hours at Suite 18.1.04.

The course has a seminar format. After an introductory session, the course will be based on students' presentations followed by general discussion. Each student will be in charge of a number of presentations. Each student should prepare a 15-20 minute presentation on each topic, surveying the main findings, and reviewing the methodology and sources used.

Topics will be allocated in the first session.

### **Readings**

Students are expected to read the papers assigned to each topic in advance to facilitate a productive class discussion.

All readings for the course are placed on the blackboard site of this course in **Aula Global**. A list of textbooks and complementary readings is also provided.

### **Grading**

The grade will be based on presentations (30%), participation in class discussions (30%), and an essay\* (40%).

\* A critical review of the literature on one of the topics of the course listed below. It should be up to 2,500 words in length (set in 12 point, 1.5 spaced with standard margins) with Harvard citation system. Notes and a list of references should be included but do not count for the page limit.

## **Course Schedule**

**Week 1 (27 January)** *Course's Overview\**

**Week 2 (3 February)** *Economic Growth in the Very Long Run: What Do We Know?*

**Week 3 (10 February)** *Geography and Institutions: How Much Do They Matter for Growth?*

**Week 4 (17 February)** Class to be **replaced** by attendance to Professor N. Crafts's public lecture on [27 February](#) and Professor J.A. Robinson's seminar on [24 March](#).

**Week 5 (24 February)** *The Great Divergence: When and Why It Happened?*

**Week 6 (2 March)** *The Little Divergences: Reversals of Fortune?*

**Week 7 (9 March)** *Why the Rise of Europe? Evidence and Interpretation*

**Week 8 (16 March)** *Modern Economic Growth: What Does Explain Forging Ahead, Catching Up, and Falling Behind?*

**Week 9 (23 March)** *How Have the Fruits of Growth Been Distributed? \*\**

**Week 10 (30 March)** *Globalization: What Are its Causes and Consequences?*

**Week 11 (20 April)** *Beyond GDP: Multidimensional Well-being?*

**Week 12 (27 April)** *Today's Challenges: Why the Productivity Slowdown and the Inequality Rise?*

\* Students are encouraged to attend Professor Nicholas Crafts's public lecture on "The Current Productivity Slowdown: an Historical Perspective" to be delivered at Fundación Rafael del Pino (7:00 pm). The lecture is considered as part of the course's requirements.

\*\* Attendance to Professor James A. Robinson's talk at the Economic History Seminar, 24 March (5.30 pm) is considered as part of the course's requirements.

Note: Students are warmly encouraged to attend the Economic History Seminar [http://portal.uc3m.es/portal/page/portal/dpto\\_ciencias\\_sociales/home/seminars\\_workshops/ehws](http://portal.uc3m.es/portal/page/portal/dpto_ciencias_sociales/home/seminars_workshops/ehws)

## Recommended monographs

Deaton, A. (2013), *The Great Escape. Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality*, Princeton: Princeton University Press

Gordon, R.J. (2016), *The Rise and Fall of American Growth. The U.S. Standard of Living since the Civil War*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Jones, E.L. (1981), *The European Miracle: Environments, Economies and Geopolitics in the History of Europe and Asia*, 2nd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Milanovic, B. (2016), *Global Inequality: A New Approach for the Age of Globalization*, Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.

Ogilvie, S.C. and A. Carus (2014), “Institutions and Economic Growth in Historical Perspective” in S. Durlauf and P. Aghion (eds.), *Handbook of Economic Growth*, Amsterdam: Elsevier, vol. 2A

O’Rourke, K. H. and J. G. Williamson (1999), *Globalization and History. The Evolution of a Nineteenth Century Atlantic Economy*, Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Pomeranz, K. (2000), *The Great Divergence. China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

## Databases

Lee J.-W. H. Lee (2016), “Human Capital in the Long Run”, *Journal of Development Economics* 122: 147–169. [http://www.barrolee.com/Lee\\_Lee\\_LRdata.htm](http://www.barrolee.com/Lee_Lee_LRdata.htm)

Conference Board (2016), Total Economy Database, November 2016, <https://www.conference-board.org/data/economydatabase/index.cfm?id=27762>

Maddison, A. (2010), Statistics on world population, GDP and per capita GDP, 1-2008 AD. Horizontal file <http://www.ggdc.net/maddison/>

Maddison Project, <http://www.ggdc.net/maddison/maddison-project/home.htm>

Prados de la Escosura, L. (2017), Historical Database on Human Development, <http://espacioinvestiga.org/home-hihd/?lang=en>

Prados de la Escosura, L. (2016), Historical Database on Economic Freedom, <https://espacioinvestiga.org/hiel-eng/?lang=en>

### **Week 1 (27 January) Course's Overview**

### **Week 2 (3 February) Economic Growth in the Very Long Run: What Do We Know?**

Ashraf, Q. and O. Galor (2018), "The Macrogenoeconomics of Comparative Development", *Journal of Economic Literature* 56 (3): 1119-1155.

Comin, D. A., Easterly, W., and Gong, E. (2010), "Was the Wealth of Nations Determined in 1000 B.C.?", *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* 2 (3): 65–97

Kelly, M. (2019), The Standard Errors of Persistence, CEPR Discussion Paper 13783.

Putterman, L. and D. N. Weil (2010), "Post-1500 Population Flows and the Long-Run Determinants of Economic Growth and Inequality", *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 125 (4): 1627–1682.

Spolaore, E. and R. Wacziarg (2013); "How Deep Are the Roots of Economic Development?" *Journal of Economic Literature* 51 (2): 325-369.

### **Week 3 (10 February) Geography and Institutions: How Much Do They Matter?**

Acemoglu, D., D. Cantoni, S. Johnson, and J.A. Robinson (2011), "The Consequences of Radical Reform: The French Revolution", *American Economic Review* 101: 3286–3307

Dell, M. (2010), "The Persistent Effects of Peru's Mining Mita", *Econometrica* 78 (6): 1863–1903.

Easterly, W. and R. Levine (2003), "Tropics, Germs and Crops: How Endowments Influence Economic Development", *Journal of Monetary Economics* 50: 3-39.

Easterly, W. and R. Levine (2016), "The European Origins of Economic Development", *Journal of Economic Growth* 21: 225-257.

Nunn, N. (2008), "The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trades", *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123 (1): 139-176

### **Week 5 (24 February) *The Great Divergence: When and Why Did It Happen?***

Acemoglu, D., S. Johnson, and J.A. Robinson (2002), "Reversal of Fortune: Geography and Institutions in the Making of the Modern World Income Distribution", *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 117 (4): 1231-1294.

Broadberry, S., H. Guan, and D.D. Li (2018), "China, Europe, and the Great Divergence: A Study in Historical National Accounting, 980–1850", *Journal of Economic History* 78 (4): 955-1000.

Chanda, A., C.J. Cook, and L. Putterman (2014), "Persistence of Fortune: Accounting for Population Movements, There Was No Post-Columbian Reversal", *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* 6 (3): 1–28.

Cox, G.W. (2017), "Political Institutions, Economic Liberty, and the Great Divergence", *Journal of Economic History* 77 (3): 724-755.

Brandt, L., D. Ma, and T.G. Rawski (2014), "From Divergence to Convergence: Reevaluating the History behind China's Economic Boom", *Journal of Economic Literature* 52 (1): 45-123.

### **Week 6 (2 March) *The Little Divergences: Reversals of Fortune?***

Allen, R.C. (2001), "The Great Divergence in European Wages and Prices from the Middle Ages to the First World War", *Explorations in Economic History* 38 (4): 411–447.

Allen, R., T.E. Murphy and B.E. Schneider (2012), "The Colonial Origins of the Divergence in the Americas: A Labor Market Approach", *Journal of Economic History* 72 (4): 863-894.

Álvarez Nogal, C. and L. Prados de la Escosura (2013), "The Rise and Decline of Spain, 1270-1850", *Economic History Review* 66, 1: 1-37

Fouquet, R. y S. Broadberry (2015), "Seven Centuries of European Growth and Decline", *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 29 (4): 227-244

Pamuk, S. (2007), "The Black Death and the Origins of the 'Great Divergence' across Europe, 1300–1600", *European Review of Economic History* 11: 289–317

### **Week 7 (9 March) *Why the Rise of Europe? Evidence and Interpretation***

Acemoglu, D., S. Johnson, and J.A. Robinson (2005), "The Rise of Europe: Atlantic Trade, Institutional Change, and Economic Growth", *American Economic Review* 92: 546-579.

Becker, S.O. and L. Woessmann (2009), "Was Weber Wrong? A Human Capital Theory of Protestant Economic History", *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 124 (2): 531-596.

Dincecco, M. and G. Katz (2016), "State Capacity and Long-run Economic Performance", *Economic Journal* 126: 189-218

Henriques, A.C. and N. Palma (2019), Comparative European Institutions and the Little Divergence, 1385-1800, CEPR Discussion Paper 14124

N. Voigtländer, N. and H.-J. Voth (2013), "The Three Horsemen of Riches: Plague, War, and Urbanization in Early Modern Europe", *Review of Economic Studies* 80 (2): 774–811.

### **Week 8 (16 March) *Modern Economic Growth: What Does Explain Forging Ahead, Catching Up, and Falling Behind?***

Allen, R.C. (2011), "Why The Industrial Revolution Was British: Commerce, Induced Invention, and the Scientific Revolution", *Economic History Review* 64 (2): 357–384

Allen, R.C. (2012), "Technology and the Great Divergence: Global Economic Development since 1820", *Explorations in Economic History* 49: 1-16.

Bakker, G., N. Crafts, and P. Woltjer (2019), "The Sources of Growth in a Technologically Progressive Economy: the United States, 1899-1941", *Economic Journal* 129: 2267–2294.

Crafts, N. (2012), "British Relative Economic Decline Revisited: The Role of Competition", *Explorations in Economic History* 49: 17–29

Crafts, N. and P. Woltjer (2020), "Growth Accounting in Economic History: Findings, Lessons and New Directions", *Journal of Economic Surveys* doi: 10.1111/joes.12348

### **Week 9 (23 March) *How Have the Fruits of Growth Been Distributed?***

Allen, R.C. (2019), "Class Structure and Inequality during the Industrial Revolution: Lessons from England's Social Tables, 1688–1867", *Economic History Review* 72 (1): 88-125.

Atkinson, A.B., T. Piketty, and E. Saez (2011), "Top Income in the Long Run of History" *Journal of Economic Literature* 49 (1): 3-71.

Humphries, J. and J. Weisdorf (2017), "Unreal Wages? Real Income and Economic Growth in England, 1260-1850", CEPR Discussion Papers 11999.

Milanovic, B., P.H. Lindert, and J.G. Williamson (2011), "Pre-industrial Inequality", *Economic Journal* 121 (551): 255-272.

Van Zanden, J.-L., J. Baten, P. Folvári, and B. Van Leeuwen (2014), "The Changing Shape of Global Inequality 1820-2000"; Exploring a New Dataset", *Review of Income and Wealth* 60 (2): 279-297.

### **Week 10 (30 March) *Globalization: What Are its Causes and Consequences?***

Hatton, T.J. (2010), "The Cliometrics of International Migration: A Survey", *Journal of Economic Surveys* 24 (5): 941-969.

O'Rourke, K. H., A. M. Taylor, and J.G. Williamson (1996), "Factor Price Convergence in the Late Nineteenth Century", *International Economic Review* 37 (3): 499-530

O'Rourke, K.H., and J.G. Williamson (2005), "From Malthus to Ohlin? Trade, Growth and Distribution Since 1500", *Journal of Economic Growth* 10 (1): 5-34.

Pascali, L. (2017), "The Wind of Change: Maritime Technology, Trade and Economic Development", *American Economic Review* 107 (9): 2821–2854

Sánchez-Alonso, B. (2013), "Making Sense of Immigration Policy: Argentina, 1870-1930", *Economic History Review* 66 (2): 601-627.



### **Week 11 (20 April) *Beyond GDP: Multidimensional Well-being?***

Acemoglu, D. and S. Johnson (2007), "Disease and Development: The Effect of Life Expectancy on Economic Growth", *Journal of Political Economy* 115 (6): 925-985.

Bloom, D.E., D. Canning, and G. Fink (2014), "Disease and Development: A Reply to Bloom, Canning, and Fink", *Journal of Political Economy* 122 (6): 1355-1366.

Costa, D. (2015), "Health and the Economy in the United States from 1750 to the Present", *Journal of Economic Literature* 53 (3): 503-570.

Jones, C.I. and P.J. Klenow (2016), "Beyond GDP? Welfare across Countries and Time", *American Economic Review* 106 (9): 2426-2457

Prados de la Escosura, L. (2015), "World Human Development, 1870-2007", *Review of Income and Wealth* 61 (2): 220-247

### **Week 12 (27 April) *Today's Challenges: Why the Productivity Slowdown and the Inequality Rise?***

Alvaredo, F., A.B. Atkinson, T. Piketty, and E. Saez (2013), "The Top 1 Percent in International and Historical Perspective", *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 27 (3): 3-20.

Fernald, J. (2018), "Is Slow Productivity and Output Growth in Advanced Economies the New Normal?", *International Productivity Monitor* 35: 138-148.

Gordon, R. (2018), "Declining American Economic Growth despite Ongoing Innovation", *Explorations in Economic History* 69: 1-12.

Lakner, C. and B. Milanovic (2015), "Global Income Distribution: From the Fall of the Berlin Wall to the Great Recession", *World Bank Economic Review* 30 (2): 203-232.

Mokyr, J. (2018), "The Past and the Future of Innovation: Some Lessons from Economic History", *Explorations in Economic History* 69: 13-26.