

CFP Workshop: “Measuring well-being in the past: metrics, drivers and implications for development”
University of Utrecht
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14th - FRIDAY, November 15th, 2019

Research setting:

This workshop is organized by Wageningen University Research and the University of Utrecht, and co-funded by the N.W. Posthumus Institute.

Requirements:

This workshop invites applications from researchers in Economic History and/or Economics, especially PhD candidates and post-doctoral researchers. The deadline for applications is September 6th, 2019.

Workshop description:

Progress in living conditions during the last centuries is beyond dispute, as key indicators of citizens’ well-being – e.g. income, health, education or poverty – have improved enormously. However, the literature has not reached a consensus yet on the measurement framework that better reflects such developments, since different indicators sometimes show contrasting trends across space and time.

The variety of approaches to measuring historical well-being and their implication for development motivate the main theme of this workshop. We welcome innovative research studying historical living standards in any geographical location using biological measures (e.g. stature, growth patterns), adjusted economic indicators (e.g. genuine savings approach), sentiment approaches (e.g. text analysis) or composite indices (e.g. HDI or utility metrics). Contributions may focus on any historical period and geographic region.

Format and organization:

The local organizers are Daniel Gallardo Albarrán (Wageningen University) and Michail Moatsos (Utrecht University). The format of the workshop consists of two lectures in the morning by invited speakers and participants’ presentations in the afternoon. The invited speakers are Jutta Bolt (University of Groningen), Ewout Frankema (Wageningen University), Leandro Prados de la Escosura (U. Carlos III, Madrid) and Eric Schneider (London School of Economics).

The number of participants will be limited in order to provide a more focused setting. Each presenter will be given 35 minutes with 15 minutes for presentation and 20 for discussion. The workshop is a two-day event and all speakers are expected to participate on both days. There is no registration fee. The organizers will offer accommodation for Wednesday (one day before starting) and Thursday. We also provide dinner on Thursday and lunch on both Thursday and Friday.

Applications:

Abstracts (500 words) discussing the sources, methodology and main hypotheses should be sent to Daniel Gallardo (daniel.gallardoalbarran@wur.nl) and Michail Moatsos (M.Moatsos@uu.nl) by **September 6th, 2019**. Notices of acceptance will be sent shortly after the submission.