

Historical Persistence in Comparative Development Conference at Williams College

**Presented by the Center for
Development Economics**



October 17-18, 2014

Schedule of Events

Friday, October 17

Griffin Hall, Room 3

2:30 PM

Introductory Remarks

2:45 PM

How Deep are the Roots of Economic Development?; Fertility and Modernity

Enrico Spolaore, *Tufts University*

3:30 PM

Forced Coexistence and Economic Development: Evidence from Native American Reservations

Christian Dippel, *UCLA Anderson School of Management*

4:15 PM

Break

4:30 PM

Climate and the Slave Trade

James Fenske, *Oxford University*

8:00 PM

Keynote Address

Griffin Hall, Room 3

The Global Spatial Distribution of Population and Economic Activity: Effects of Nature, History, and Agglomeration

David Weil, *Brown University*

Schedule of Events

Saturday, October 18

Griffin Hall, Room 3

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| 8:30 AM | Breakfast for all attendees
Griffin Hall, Room 4 |
| 9:00 AM | Engineers, Entrepreneurs, and Development in the Americas
William Maloney, <i>The World Bank and Universidad de los Andes</i> |
| 9:45 AM | The Effect of the TseTse Fly on African Development
Marcella Alsan, <i>Stanford Medical School</i> |
| 10:30 AM | Break |
| 10:45 AM | Malthusian Dynamics and the Rise of the Poor Megacity
Dietrich Vollrath, <i>University of Houston</i> |
| 11:30 AM | “Unfinished Business”: Historic Complementarities, Political Competition, and Ethnic Violence in Gujarat
Saumitra Jha, <i>Stanford Graduate School of Business</i> |
| 12:15 PM | Lunch Break |
| 1:30 PM | The European Origins of Comparative Development
Ross Levine, <i>UC Berkeley Haas School of Business</i> |
| 2:15 PM | Bowling for Fascism: Social Capital and the Rise of the Nazi Party
Nico Voigtlaender, <i>UCLA Anderson School of Management</i> |
| 3:00 PM | Break |
| 3:15 PM | The Long-Run Effects of the Scramble for Africa
Stelios Michalopoulos, <i>Brown University</i> |
| 4:00 PM | Intergenerational Mobility and Institutional Change in 20th Century China
Noam Yuchtman, <i>UC Berkeley Haas School of Business</i> |

Keynote Speaker



David N. Weil is currently the James and Meryl Tisch Professor of Economics at Brown University, where he has been a faculty member since 1990. He has been a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) since 1997, and he is also a co-director of the NBER project on African Development Successes. He received a bachelor's degree in History from Brown University in 1982 and his PhD in Economics from Harvard University in 1990. Professor Weil has written extensively on various aspects of economic growth and development, including the proximate empirical determinants of cross-country income differences; the role of habit formation in determining

national saving rates; the interactions amongst economic growth, fertility, and the gender wage gap; the historical process through which economies have transitioned from Malthusian stagnation to sustained growth; the link between declining mortality and increased schooling; the factors governing technology transfers between countries; the contribution of differences in population health to cross-country income gaps; the interactions amongst population health, demographic change, and economic development at both micro- and macroeconomic levels; the implications of major historical migrations on cross-country comparative development in the long run; and the measurement of contemporary economic growth from outer space. In addition, he has written on topics related to the macroeconomic effects of demographic change in the context of developed countries, including population aging; retirement; the life cycle pattern of saving in both household-level and cross-country data; and the link between demographic change and housing prices. Professor Weil has also written on other assorted topics, including the creation of the Social Security system in the United States; optimal portfolio allocation; the relationship between income inequality and intergenerational economic mobility; and various aspects of monetary policy. He is the author of the widely-used undergraduate textbook, *Economic Growth* (Addison-Wesley), which has been translated into six languages. Professor Weil has held visiting faculty appointments at Harvard and the Hebrew University, and he has served in various editorial capacities for the *American Economic Review*, the *Journal of Economic Literature*, the *Journal of Economic Growth*, and the *Journal of Development Economics*.

Conference Speakers



Marcella Alsan is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Stanford School of Medicine and a Core Faculty Member at the Center for Health Policy / Primary Care and Outcomes Research. Her research focuses on the causes and consequences of infectious disease for health and productivity, exploiting historical public-health natural experiments to explore the interactions amongst infectious disease, human capital, and

economic outcomes. She received a BA in Cognitive Neuroscience from Harvard University, an MPH degree in International Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health, an MD degree from Loyola University, and a PhD in Economics from Harvard University. Alsan is board-certified in both internal medicine and infectious disease. She trained at Brigham and Women's Hospital, completing the Hiatt Global Health Equity Residency Fellowship in internal medicine, and she combined her PhD with an Infectious Disease Fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital. Prior to her appointment at Stanford, Alsan was an instructor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, and she currently serves as an infectious disease specialist at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Palo Alto.



Christian Dippel is an Assistant Professor of Economics in the Global Economics and Management group at UCLA Anderson School of Management, an appointment he has held since 2011. Dippel's research interests include political economy, international trade, development economics, and economic history. His work mainly focuses on the formation, persistence, and evolution of organized interests and social divisions in society; their impact on policy choices and economic growth; and

the effect that international integration has on these various equilibrium relations. Dippel holds a Vordiplom degree from Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, a Diplom from the University of Mannheim, and MA and PhD degrees from the University of Toronto, all in Economics. During his time in graduate school, Dippel's research was recognized with a number of awards, including an Ontario Graduate Scholarship, the Marie Jane Hendrie Memorial Scholarship, the Albert Berry Prize of the Canadian Economics Association, and the Tom Easterbrook Fellowship. Professor Dippel teaches the core course on Managerial Economics at UCLA Anderson, and he has taught both graduate and undergraduate courses on international economics and international trade at the University of Toronto.

The Speakers cont'd



James Fenske is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Oxford, where he has been since 2010. He is also Deputy Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) at Oxford. Fenske's main research interests are in the areas of economic history and development economics. A selection of topics of his current papers include: the role of ecologically-driven gains from trade in the development of pre-colonial states; the high prevalence and rapid disappearance of African polygamy; the role of environmental shocks in the dynamics of the slave trade; and the adaptation of property rights to trade before colonial rule. Fenske received a BA (Hons) degree from Queen's University in Canada, and he holds MA, MPhil, and PhD degrees from Yale University, all in Economics. His dissertation work was recog-

nized with the Alexander Gerschenkron Prize by the Economic History Association. Fenske currently serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of African Economies* and *Oxford Economic Papers*.



Saumitra Jha is an Associate Professor of Political Economy at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. His research focuses on drawing new lessons from economic theory and history for fostering beneficial political reform and economic growth in developing societies. Jha is particularly interested in the role that can be played by organizational innovations in mitigating political risk, encouraging political reform, and supporting peaceful co-existence between members of different ethnic, religious and social groups. He holds a BA in Mathematics and Economics from Williams College, master's degrees in Economics and Mathematics from the University of Cambridge, and a PhD in Economics from Stanford University. Prior

to his appointment at Stanford, Jha was an Academy Scholar at Harvard University. He has been a Fellow of the Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance and of the Center for the Study of Democratic Politics, both at Princeton University. In 2014, Jha received the Michael Wallerstein Award for best published article in the area of political economy from the American Political Science Association, for his research on ethnic tolerance. Jha has also served as a consultant on economic and political risk issues for the United Nations/WTO and the World Bank.

The Speakers cont'd



Ross Levine is the Willis H. Booth Chair in Banking and Finance at the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Milken Institute, Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Levine completed his undergraduate studies at Cornell University in 1982 and received his PhD in Economics from UCLA in 1987. He

served at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System until 1990, when he moved to the World Bank. At the Bank, he managed and conducted research and operational programs. After teaching at the University of Virginia, Levine became the Curtis Carlson Professor of Finance at the University of Minnesota, a position that he held from 1999 until 2005. From 2005 through 2012, he was at Brown University, where he served as James and Meryl Tisch Professor of Economics and Founding Director of the William R. Rhodes Center for International Economics and Finance. Levine's work focuses on linkages between financial sector regulation, operation of financial systems, and functioning of the economy with respect to economic growth, income inequality, and poverty. His work has been recognized with numerous awards, including the 2011 Literati Outstanding Paper Award, the 2010 Brattle Group Prize for Distinguished Paper in Corporate Finance, and the 2001 Milken Institute Award for Outstanding Paper of the Year. He is an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Development Economics* and of the *Journal of Economic Growth*.



William F. Maloney is Lead Economist in the World Bank's Development Economics Research Group. From 1990 till 1997, he served as a Professor of Economics at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He then joined the World Bank, serving as Lead Economist in the Office of the Chief Economist for the Latin America and Caribbean region until 2009. Maloney received his BA in Government from Harvard University in 1981, studied

briefly at the University of Los Andes in Bogota, Colombia, and obtained his PhD in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley in 1990. Maloney has published extensively on issues related to international trade and finance, the informality of labor markets in developing countries, and the link between innovation and economic growth. In addition to publications in academic journals, he coauthored *Neither Curse Nor Destiny: Natural Resources and Development and Lessons from NAFTA*, as well as several flagship publications of the Latin America and Caribbean division of the World Bank, most recently *Informality: Exit and Exclusion*. Maloney currently serves on the editorial board of the *World Bank Economic Review*.

The Speakers cont'd



Stelios Michalopoulos is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Brown University, a Faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), and an External Research Associate of the Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy (CAGE) at the University of Warwick. He holds a BA degree in International Economics and Finance and an MA degree in Economic Theory, both from Athens University of Economics and Business, and he received his PhD in Economics from Brown University. After completing his doctorate in 2008, Michalopoulos joined the

Department of Economics at Tufts University as an Assistant Professor. In 2010-2011, he was the Deutsche Bank Member at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. His primary research interests lie in the areas of political economy, economic growth and development, and the economics of culture. His recent work has studied why some regions have more languages than others and how that has impacted economic development, and why Islam happens to be more prevalent in certain geographical locations. Michalopoulos' research has also focused on uncovering the role played by contemporary country-level institutional structures, vis-à-vis local ethnicity-specific pre-colonial institutions, in shaping regional development in Africa.



Enrico Spolaore is a Professor of Economics at Tufts University and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), where he is a member of the Political Economy Program. He is also a member of the CESifo Research Network and of the Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy (CAGE) at the University of Warwick. Spolaore has previously served as co-editor of the journal *Economics & Politics*. His main research interests are in political economy, economic growth and development, and international economics. His publications include articles in academic journals (*American Economic Review*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Review of Economic Studies*, and others), numerous chapters in edited volumes, and the book *The*

Size of Nations (MIT Press), co-authored with Alberto Alesina. He is also the editor of the forthcoming book *Culture and Economic Growth* (Edward Elgar). Spolaore joined the faculty at Tufts in 2004. He previously held faculty positions at Brown University, Boston College, and the Ohio State University. He has served as Chair of the Economics Department at Tufts from 2006 till 2012. Spolaore received a B.A. (Laurea) in Economics and Commerce from the University of Rome "La Sapienza," a PhD (Dottorato di Ricerca) in Political Economy from the University of Siena, and a PhD in Economics from Harvard University.

The Speakers cont'd



Nico Voigtlaender is an Assistant Professor of Economics in the Global Economics and Management group at UCLA Anderson School of Management, an appointment he has held since 2008. Voigtlaender's research interests are in the areas of economic growth and development, political economy, and the skill bias of technological change. His recent projects have focused on such topics as the transition from Malthusian stagnation to sustained economic growth, particularly the historical roles played by plague, war, urbanization, and demographic change in driving this transformation in Western Europe; the historical emergence

and long-run persistence of cultural norms in the context of anti-Semitism in Nazi Germany; and the multiplier effects behind the demand for skilled manufacturing workers that arise due to linkages across economic sectors. Prior to his appointment at UCLA Anderson, Voigtlaender obtained his PhD in Economics from Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, Spain. He also holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering from the Technical University of Berlin, Germany, and master's degrees in Environmental Engineering and Technology and Policy from MIT. Professor Voigtlaender teaches International Business Economics and the core course on Managerial Economics at UCLA Anderson, and in the past, he has taught graduate-level courses on microeconomics and on economic growth and development.



Dietrich Vollrath is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Houston, where he has been since 2005. His research primarily focuses on issues pertaining to long-run economic growth, structural change, and cross-country comparative development, particularly the roles played by such determinants as inequality in historical land-ownership, agricultural productivity growth, and the efficient allocation of human capital. Vollrath's publications include articles in several academic journals (such as the *Review of Economic Studies*, the *Journal of Economic Growth*, *Journal of Development Economics*, and *Explorations in Economic History*) as well as the recent undergraduate

textbook, *Introduction to Economic Growth, 3rd Edition* (W. W. Norton), co-authored with Charles I. Jones. He holds a BA degree in Economics from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and MA and PhD degrees in Economics from Brown University. In 2010, Vollrath was awarded the Ross M. Lence Teaching Excellence Award in Social Sciences by the University of Houston. He also teaches at Dartmouth College.

The Speakers cont'd



Noam Yuchtman is an Assistant Professor in the Business and Public Policy Group at the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, a position he has held since 2010. He is also a Faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), where he is a member of the programs on Political Economy and on the Development of the American Economy. Yuchtman's research focuses on the political economy of legal, educational, and labor-market institutions and on their implications for historical and contemporary economic development, and he has studied these topics in various contexts, ranging from Victorian England to medieval Europe, Imperial China, and present-day developing and emerging-market economies. He

received his BA (summa cum laude) in Economics from Williams College in 2005 and his PhD in Economics from Harvard University in 2010. Yuchtman's research has been funded externally by such agencies as the Russell Sage Foundation, and his teaching has been recognized with a Cheit Award for Excellence in Teaching by the Haas School of Business.

Conference Organizer



Quamrul Ashraf is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Williams College, a position he has held since 2009. His scholarly interests lie in the areas of economic growth and development, population economics, and macroeconomics. Ashraf's main research program has been focused on exploring the deep, historically rooted cultural, institutional, and geographical determinants of long-run economic growth and the dynamics of global cross-country comparative development, including the influence of prehistorically determined intra-population diversity and of the biogeographic determinants of the transition

to sedentary agriculture during the Neolithic Revolution. His other work has focused on using simulation-based models of economic growth to quantitatively assess the aggregate implications of economy-wide policy interventions to improve public health or reduce population growth; and applying the methodology of agent-based computational economics to investigate various macroeconomic phenomena, including the real costs of inflation and the role of the banking system in macroeconomic crises. During the 2012–13 academic year, he served as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Harvard Kennedy School and as a Visiting Scholar at the Center for International Development at Harvard University. Ashraf holds BA degrees (summa cum laude) in Economics and Computer Science from Trinity College in Hartford, CT, and MA and PhD degrees in Economics from Brown University.

