

HENAN UNIVERSITY



**The 2018 Workshop on
Long-run Development
(Preliminary Program)**

May 12-14, 2018

hosted by

**Center for Yellow River Civilization and Sustainable Development
And
School of Economics
Henan University
Kaifeng, China**

<http://econ.henu.edu.cn/>



SATURDAY, May 12TH

Arrival

Recommended hotel: Pullman Kaifeng

SUNDAY, May 13TH

OPENING CEREMONY: 9:00 - 9:05 am

Venue: Yellow River Civilization Center, Old Campus

KEYNOTE TALK: 9:05 - 10:05 am

Nathan Nunn (Harvard University)

Understanding Cultural Persistence and Change.

GROUP PICTURE: 10:05 - 10:15 am (Coffee/Tea Break)

SESSION 1: 10:15 - 12:15 am

Chair: Kaixiang Peng (Henan University)

Yu Hao (Peking University)

Bring down the gentry: the abolition of exam, local self-governance and anti-gentry uprisings, 1902-1911

Phil Z. Xu (Henan University), Yu Zhang (Nanjing Audit U.), Shahriar Kibriya (Texas A&M)

The Long-Run Effects of the Slave Trade on the Political Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa

Ying Bai (Chinese University of Hong Kong) and Ruixue Jia (UCSD)

Political Hierarchy and Regional Development: China, A.D., 1000-2000

LUNCH: 12:15 - 13:45 pm

SESSION 2: 14:00 - 16:00 pm

Chair: Phil Xu (Henan University)

Chicheng Ma (UHK), Ying Bai (CUHK), James Kung (HKUST)

The Rise of Confucianism: Migration, Competition, and Cultural Formation in Historical China

Baomin Dong (Henan University) and Yibei Guo (Henan Univ)

Building State Capacity: A Quantification of Pre-Qin Case

Bingtao Song (Henan University)

On the Time and Location of the Xia Dynasty as a Fiscal State: Evidence from Archaeological Remains and Legendary Records

Coffee/Tea Break: 15:30 - 15:40 pm

SESSION 3: 16:10 - 17:30 pm

Chair: Bingtao Song (Henan University)

Jianan Li (Xiamen University)

Guns, Ships and Rice: Modern China's Treaty Opening and Domestic Market Integration

Kaixiang Peng (Henan University)

Malthusian Trap or Smithian Growth: A Research on the Living Standards of China from 10th to 19th Century

DINNER: 18:00 - 20:30

Note: authors whose names appear in bold font are presenting authors.

List of Participants

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Understanding Cultural Persistence and Change

Paola Giuliano (UCLA) and **Nathan Nunn** (Harvard University)

When does culture persist and when does it change? We examine a determinant that has been put forth in the anthropology literature: the variability of the environment from one generation to the next. A prediction, which emerges from a class of existing models from evolutionary anthropology, is that following the customs of the previous generation is relatively more beneficial in stable environments where the culture that has evolved up to the previous generation is more likely to be relevant for the subsequent generation. We test this hypothesis by measuring the variability of average temperature across 20-year generations from 500–1900. Looking across countries, ethnic groups, and the descendants of immigrants, we find that populations with ancestors who lived in environments with more stability from one generation to the next place a greater importance in maintaining tradition today. These populations also exhibit more persistence in their traditions over time.

Political Hierarchy and Regional Development: China, A.D., 1000-2000

Ying Bai (CUHK) and Ruixue Jia (UCSD)

This paper studies how political factors shape economic geography by tracking the evolution of provincial capitals and economic activities in China from A.D. 1000 to 2000. We find that economic advantages driven by political factors do not persist { losing (and gaining) capital status is associated with worse (and better) economic development measured by population density and urbanization. We document economic and political factors underlying the changes in provincial capitals and exploit variation arising from relocation of national capitals and redivision of provincial boundaries as an instrument for provincial capitals. On the mechanism, we show that the spatial importance of a region (e.g., centrality in the transportation networks) mirrors its status in the political hierarchy, which partially explains the rise and fall of certain regions in the long run.

The Rise of Confucianism: Migration, Competition, and Cultural Formation in Historical China

Ying Bai (CUHK), James Kai-sing Kung (HKUST), **Chicheng Ma** (UHK)

As a culture, Confucianism had already emerged in China in the 5th century BC, but it was not until the 12th century AD that it became truly popular. We argue that an exogenous political shock was needed to elevate the popularity of Confucianism and it came in the form of Jurchen's defeat of the Northern Song dynasty in 1127. This event triggered a massive migratory movement of five million people from the north to the south, unwittingly

intensifying the competition for resources between the migrants and the natives. To compete effectively, family loyalty and group solidarity were key personal attributes. Confucianism endorsed these attributes in individuals regardless of their origin. By applying a difference-in-differences analysis to a panel of 292 Chinese prefectures for the period from 220 BC to 1820 AD, indeed we find that the Confucian ethos, using chaste women and genealogy records as proxies, was significantly stronger in prefectures populated by more migrants.

The Long-Run Effects of the Slave Trade on the Political Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa

Zhicheng Xu(Henan University) Yu Zhang (Nanjing Audit Univ), Shahriar Kibriya
(Texas A&M)

Although the determinants of armed conflict in Africa have been extensively studied, it remains important to explore the historical roots of the contemporary political violence. This study attempts to investigate the long-run effects of the slave trade during 1400-1900 on the contemporary violence in sub-Saharan Africa. By using a geo-coded disaggregated dataset and exploiting within-country variation in slave trade intensity, we document a robust causal relationship between slave exports from a region and the contemporary conflict. Adding into the climate-conflict literature, we find that the effect of weather shock on the conflict risk is substantially amplified by the exposure to slave trade. We then carefully discuss the potential deeper channels underlying the relationship, suggesting that the exposure to slave trade mainly affects the ethnic conflict and riots by resulting in intergroup mistrust, local institution deterioration, and a weaker sense of national identity.

“Bring down the gentry”: the abolition of exam, local self-governance and anti-gentry uprisings, 1902-1911

Yu Hao (Peking University)

This paper tests the impact of abolition of civil service exam in 1905 on local governance in rural China. Before the abolition, lower exam title holders (lower gentry) provided public services at local level, on their path towards obtaining higher status and holding official positions. The abolition of exam provided would-be public agents greater incentive to obtain modern education in urban area, but wiped off the long run return from providing services in rural area, deteriorating the composition of the pool of candidates. We use the number of juren, provincial exam passers, divided by the number of lowest exam quota to measure lower gentry’s prospect of upward mobility. We find, using a DID setting, that doubling this ratio is associated with 0.15 more of anti-gentry uprisings (20% of its standard deviation) after 1905 in rural area. This impact is greater in areas where candidates had greater access to alternative careers after the abolition and in areas where state extractive capability was stronger, and the impacts gets greater as "local self-governance" was spread over the country in 1909. This paper highlights the importance of long-run incentives in improving the behaviors of public agents and selecting high-quality ones. It also contributes to the literature discussing the impacts of abolition of exam on social stability and deep driving forces of Chinese revolution in the 20th century.

State Capacity and Economic Development: Evidence from Transforming Local

Malthusian Trap or Smithian Growth: A Research on the Living Standards of China from 10th to 19th Century

Kaixiang Peng (Henan Univ)

About the long run economic change of China from 10th to 19th Century, there are two opposite views. In the optimistic view, population growth in this period was accompanied with growth of market, technology and other improvements, which are called Smithian growth. However, recent estimations about per capital income tend to show that it decreased according to the growth of population, which provides support for the pessimistic argument about Malthusian Trap. This research reexamines materials about wage and relative changes of prices, and it is found that the evidence of long run decrease of living standards is very weak. Meanwhile, spread of new crops and shift of technologies could lead to great improvement of welfare.

Building State Capacity: A Quantification of Pre-Qin China

Baomin Dong (Henan University) and Yibei Guo (Henan University)

The pre-Qin period, particularly the Spring and Autumn period (770BC-481BC) and the Warring States period (480BC-221BC) witnessed the great transformation of the Chinese society from a classical feudal system to a two millennium long centralized empire. The scale and ferocity of the war increased tremendously from Spring and Autumn to Warring States time. Aggression wars can be used as a proxy for fiscal capacity since the fiscal capacity, the governance capacity, and public goods provision capacity as three main dimensions of state capacity, are all incorporated in the capacity to wage wars. Using panel data on Great Wall construction in related states; time spans that one or more prime ministers were installed; counties established chronically by the states; natural disasters; disaster or famine relief; flights of high rank nobility or officials; time and nature of the “self-strengthening reform”; etc., we regress the frequency of war against institutional and control variables. Our panel limited dependent variable models indicate that institutional factors such as county establishment, installment of prime ministers, and self-strengthening reforms, had substantial effect on a state’s capacity to wage offensive wars, and the statistical significance of the coefficient is surprisingly high. Furthermore, a pro-Legalist reform outperformed the pro-Confucian reforms in cultivating state capacity.

Guns, Ships and Rice: Modern China's Treaty Opening and Domestic Market Integration

Jianan Li (Xiamen University)

The historical experience of treaty opening in the 19th century has important implications for contemporary China's opening up. This paper exploits the treaty opening as a quasi-nature experiment to examine the impact of openness on domestic market integration. By analyzing the rice market in southern China, we find that the prefecture's market integration with its neighborhood is increased by the opening of treaty ports. The results are robust after considering the selection bias, non-trade agricultural commodity price, and the pair-wise matching of any two prefectures. We also find that the waterway transport network, the establishment of concessions and the rise in international trade are associated with larger promoting effect of treaty opening on domestic market integration.

On the Time and Location of the Xia Dynasty as a Fiscal State: Evidence from Archaeological Remains and Legendary Records

Bingtao Song (Henan University)

The existence of Xia Dynasty has been hotly debated. Most received studies focus on the textual records or evidence of the location of the capital city, but often fail to convince the readers the existence of Xia as a state. According to the civilization theory of challenge-dealing and the theory of fiscal state, we attempt to justify the existence of Xia as a state with strong capacity in public goods provision. The confirmation of the Great Flood in Yellow River basin and legendary records, together with the distribution of archaeological remains between 2500 B.C. and 1000B.C., we postulate the existence of the Xia state who regulated the Great Flood by c.a. 2000B.C. around the upper Yellow River basin. The striking consistency between the legendary classics, e.g., Shanhaijing (Book of the Mountains and Seas) and the spatial distribution of archaeological remains indicates that the Xia Dynasty existed as a state, who controlled the loess plateau situated at the west of upper Yellow River, or present-day Ningxia and parts of Gansu and Shaanxi.