

**S. 2. 5. RE-EXAMINING TRADE FLOWS AND MECHANISMS BETWEEN EUROPE
AND NORTH AMERICA IN THE MODERN-CONTEMPORARY PERIOD (19TH-20TH
CENTURIES)**

Chair: Henric Häggqvist
(Uppsala University) and Jari Eloranta (University of Helsinki)

Discussant: Jari Ojala
(University of Jyväskylä)

Panel Abstract

This session aims to reassess commercial flows between the 19th and 20th centuries, and institutional mechanisms of control related to that trade, especially from the point of view of what's still missing in historiographic production. After so much recent development in economic history, in particular how restrictive and effective empire's colonial policies were, we look up to know more about the initiatives or expedients utilized by merchants, captains and businessmen to circumvent regulations and barriers. Moreover, we seek to dialogue with new works that bring insights related to potential unseen commodity chains: were there global commodity chains hidden from posterity? Did smuggling create more modern looking commodity chains? How could different techniques of measurement, currencies, levels of credit access and higher taxation represent effective barriers to trade development, productivity and economic growth?

Despite the notorious development of interdisciplinary research done in this area, as observed in the works of Daudin, O'Rourke and Prados de la Escosura (2008), Dobado-González, García-Hiernaux and Guerrero (2012), de Zwart and van Zanden (2018), and the volume recently edited by Baten (2016) about Global Economy, we also seek to deepen the idea of an effective interconnection between trade flows with other economic activities related to ship-building industry, maritime insurances or credit offer, as an instrument to enable new commercial relations and access new circuits. Is there a point of contact between them? Moreover, what could be the levels of interaction? How States and Empires responded to those legal/illegal interactions? Based on this open dossier, our panel wants to put some light on these questions. This session interacts with session "Re-examining Trade Flows and Mechanisms between Europe and North America in Early Modern Period (17th-18th centuries)", as part of the same large group, broke in two different session slots.

Keywords

Trade, Commodity flows, Shipping, 19th century, the Atlantic

Re-thinking bilateral trade flows: the supply of exotic goods in the Scandinavian markets

HENRIC HÄGGQVIST (Uppsala University)

Abstract

The last years of research has vastly expanded the historical data of bilateral trade flows. The Ricardo database and the Tradhist database from CEPII has brought new knowledge on the aggregate transnational flow of goods during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Data on bilateral trade on commodity level is however more scarce. This paper aims to fill such a research gap through looking at the flow of so-called “exotics goods” in the Scandinavian markets. It looks specifically at coffee, cotton, and spirits (rum and arrack), to see which countries supplied the Swedish and Norwegian markets with these goods. By doing so it finds that the way the bilateral historical data was constructed it hides the real origin of the goods, as a large part of these three goods were re-exported from the economic powerhouses of Europe to Scandinavia rather than directly exported from the Caribbean, South America, and East India. The paper suggests that using shipping data from specific ports might be used to uncover the real origins of these goods.

Biography

Henric Häggqvist is a post-doc researcher at the Department of Economic History, Uppsala University. His research includes economic history of globalization and the welfare state, efficiency in financial markets and economic growth, and the effects of trade policy on the economy. Recent publications include “Foreign trade as fiscal policy” (Scandinavian Economic History Review, 2018).

The Norwegian Nexus – shipping in the first wave of globalization

CAMILLA BRAUTASET (University of Bergen)

Abstract

We do not have an abstract for this paper, but the participant is confirmed to join.

Biography

Camilla Brautaset is professor of history at the Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion. Her research includes the processes of globalization, especially international trade, business and maritime history. Recent publications include “Research on international trade and transport – a generational shift?” (with Jari Ojala, Scandinavian Economic History Review, 2018).