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Quantitative History Seminar, Lent Term 2013
Supported by the Centre for History and Economics

Seminars will take place in the seminar room in the Main Building, Dept of Geography starting at 12.45 and end promptly at 2pm. Sandwiches and fruit will be available from 12.30

18th February
Professor Peter Solar, Vrije Universiteit Brussels

Opening to the East: Shipping between Europe and Asia, 1770-1830

Shipping costs between Europe and Asia were reduced by two-thirds between the 1770s and the 1820s. Copper sheathing and other technical improvements which allowed ships to make more frequent voyages over longer lifetimes accounted for part of the cost reduction. British hegemony in the Indian Ocean, which ended an eighteenth-century arms race, accounted for the rest by allowing the substitution of smaller ships which cost less to build and required fewer men per ton. These changes were at least as important as the elimination of monopoly profits in narrowing intercontinental price differentials during the early nineteenth century.

4th March
Mr Xuesheng You, University of Cambridge

Women's work by marital status in England and Wales in 1881
Evidence from the Census Enumerator's Books.

This paper utilizes a digitized version of the 100% sample of 1881 Census Enumerators' Books (hereafter CEBs) to investigate women's work by marital status in England and Wales. Prior to the availability of this 100% sample of 1881 CEBs in a machine-readable form, analysis of women's work by marital status in the nineteenth century was either done by using tabulated figures in a couple of published censuses or only a small number of CEBs confined to a small area. With the digitized 100% sample of CEBs in England and Wales, this paper can offer a systematic analysis of women's work by marital status with a wide geographical coverage. The nominal data in the CEBs allow me to investigate the employment of single women, married women and widows through various aspects of the household such as co-residence pattern and kin's occupation etc. This allows me to identify some of the important factors behind women's labour force participation.

A further reminder that Professor Bruce Campbell is giving the Ellen McArthur lectures on 'The great transition: climate, disease and society in the 13th and 14th centuries', 4, 6, 11 and 13 February. All welcome.

<http://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/events/the-ellen-mcarthur-lectures-2013-advancenotice>

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