

Faculty of History, University of Cambridge
Quantitative History Seminar, Lent Term 2014



**Supported by the Centre for History and Economics
and the Trevelyan Fund**

Seminars will take place in Room 5, Faculty of History.
Sandwiches and fruit will be available from 12.45 for a 1.p.m. start.

10th February

Dr Mohamed Saleh, University of Toulouse

***The Reluctant Transformation:
Modernization, Religion, and Human Capital in Nineteenth Century Egypt***

Over the nineteenth century, Egypt embarked on one of the world's earliest state-led modernization programs in production, education, and the army. The paper examines the impact of this ambitious program on long-standing human capital differentials and occupational and educational segregation between Muslims, Christians, and Jews. It employ a new and unique data source, samples of the 1848 and 1868 Egyptian censuses digitized from the original manuscript forms, to examine this question. Overall, occupational and educational segregation was not attenuated by modernization, both because the traditional institutions in production and education were still the major routes for skill-acquisition, and because the new routes for mobility that modernization created were themselves segregated.

3rd March

Professor Richard Smith, University of Cambridge

***Reconsidering recent estimates of the occupational structure
of late fourteenth century England***

Two recent studies of occupational structure using poll taxes of 1379 and 1380-81 surprisingly conclude that agricultural employment in late fourteenth century England accounted for less than 60 per cent of the combined male and female working population. This paper considers systematic links between the degree of evasion, which was very great between the two taxes, and the occupational distributions and the heavily masculine tax-payer sex ratios. 'Missing' males and especially females were disproportionately from the young unmarried section of the population where female participation rates were likely to have been high in a demographic phase when male labour shortages prevailed. Estimates of female occupational structures are made, taking account of the occupations of those who evaded and making different assumptions regarding female participation rates.

Convenor: Leigh Shaw-Taylor, lmws2@cam.ac.uk