



Seminar in Early Modern Economic and Social History Faculty of History, University of Cambridge, Easter 2015

The seminar meets Thursdays at 5pm in Room 12 of the History Faculty
We normally have dinner with the speaker afterwards. All welcome.
Convenors: Amy Erickson, Craig Muldrew, Leigh Shaw-Taylor and Paul Warde



23 April: Helen Berry (Newcastle)

Foundling Hospital Children and their Employment, c. 1750-1850: Some Preliminary Findings

This paper presents preliminary findings on the occupational destination of children whose upbringing was co-ordinated by the London Foundling Hospital and its satellite institutions. This is the first attempt at applying quantitative and qualitative methods to the analysis of c. 5,800 apprenticeship records which were kept with remarkable diligence by the Hospital's Governors and administrators during the first century of the Hospital's existence. The industrial-scale 'processing' of infants and their progress through the systems created and overseen by the Hospital's Governors, including the period of 'General Admission' when the charity was funded by direct government grant, makes it possible to gauge the geographical distribution, and occupational grouping, of foundling hospital children with some precision, using records for first, sometimes multiple, apprenticeships. Linking the foundling apprentice database with GIS software and a modified form of PST coding makes it possible to map the distribution and occupational clustering of foundlings.

14 May: Friederike Scholten (Münster)

Rational investment behaviour on manorial estates – Grain storage in the Rhineland area and Westphalia (18th & 19th century)

The investment in the storage of grain stocks was done for numerous reasons involving both commercial as well as non-commercial motives. The ledgers of three manorial estates located in the Rhineland area and Westphalia in the 18th and 19th century document seasonal sales behaviour and the volume of carry-over stocks. In combination with grain prices of nearby urban markets and using the correspondence between the landlord and his administrator, this paper will investigate the nature of manorial management, looking at how much 'rational' investment there was compared to. paternalistic exchange with dependents.

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