



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

14 January: Andrea Caracausi (Padova)

Craft guilds, apprenticeship and human capital formation in early modern Italy

The relationship between guilds, apprenticeship and human capital investment is analyzed using a large database of master-apprentice disputes. A high-quality urban textile industry was able to achieve high levels of human capital formation without guild imposition of mandatory apprenticeship, minimum length of training, or enforcement of training contracts. Instead, masters and apprentices managed occupation-specific human capital investment through private contracts, market mechanisms, and informal interpersonal relationships. Guilds did affect the industry, but primarily by facilitating rent-seeking and exercising a monopsony in the labour market.

11 February: Naomi Tadmor (Lancaster)

The settlement of the poor and the rise of the form

As computational linguistics shows, the concept of 'settlement' developed in England in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in direct relation to the administration of the poor laws. The paper will examine the relationship between the law, civil society, and print culture, exploring how the legislation concerning the settlement of the poor, enacted since the seventeenth century, gave rise to an administrative system where settlement certificates and forms were increasingly employed.

10 March: Lloyd Bonfield (New York Law School)

Give me your wealthy: Immigration policy in late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century England

The current immigration debate focuses on the admission to residence and citizenship of those fleeing poverty and civil unrest. But there are also pathways to residence and citizenship that seek to attract a very different sort of migrant: the wealthy. The present debate provides an interesting backdrop for previous ones. This paper focuses on the debate over migration c.1700 which culminated in the short-lived "Act for naturalizing Foreign Protestants". Although partly inspired by the plight of foreign Protestants, the conversation focused primarily on economic, demographic and legal issues, a cluster of concerns that were absent from earlier debates over immigration.

The support of the Trevelyan Fund (Faculty of History) is gratefully acknowledged.