19 January 2023: Hillary Taylor (Cambridge)

Paternalism and the Politics of 'Toll Corn' in Early Modern England

This paper examines controversies related to a neglected aspect of early modern English grain marketing: toll corn. The politics of toll corn — like contemporary ideologies and practices of paternalism — both enabled and circumscribed the labouring population's ability to shape the terms of their subordination in early modern England.

2 February 2023: Li Jiang (Exeter)

Wage labour and living standards in early modern England: evidence from Lancashire, 1580-1620

Based on the Shuttleworth accounts, 1582-1621, probate inventories and other supporting documents, this paper discusses life-cycle changes of Lancashire wage workers' living standards during the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. The paper argues that current research on living standards of early modern period presents an incomplete picture of the real lives of wage workers.

16 February 2023: Eugene Costello (UC Cork & Stockholm University) Environmental Knowledge and Economic Interaction: Pastoralism in North-West Europe, 1350-1850

This paper presents initial results from an interdisciplinary project on livestock rearing during the medieval-to-modern transition. Focusing on Ireland and Sweden, it tracks livestock husbandry and its economic importance when the landscape is considered along with historical evidence. Moreover, this paper discusses the environmental adaptability of people in these previously-overlooked places.

2 March 2023: Marjoleine Kars (MIT) Multiple Crossings: Black Biographies in the Dutch Atlantic

Accara and Gousarie were two African leaders in the 1763 Berbice slave rebellion, they next served as slave hunters, army drummers in the Dutch Republic, and Maroon fighters in Suriname. How do we write the biographies of people forced to shape-shift across boundaries and allegiances and whose presence in the archives is equally slippery?

16 March 2023: Hugo Bromley (Cambridge)

'Rendered much cheaper, than our work-people can make'; Women's employment in textile manufacturing and English political economy, 1688-1722

How did the English and later British state understand women's work in textile manufacturing at the start of the long eighteenth century? A close study of petitions, pamphlets, private correspondence and parliamentary journals suggests that English political economy was based on a much more complex economic understanding than has often been assumed.

The seminar meets **Thursdays at 5 pm in Room 5** of the History Faculty. We normally have dinner with the speaker afterwards, to which all are welcome.

Conveners: Martin Andersson, Amy Erickson, Craig Muldrew, Leigh Shaw Taylor & Joris van den Tol

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