

# Doctoral Program in Economics



Academic year 2025/26

## ECONOMIC HISTORY

### Period:

Third term

### Course hours:

20

### Teachers:

Gabriele Cappelli (10 hours)

Michelangelo Vasta (10 hours)

### Exam methods:

Two-stage assessment:

1. An extended Review Report (RR) for one of the papers presented during the lectures.
2. An Economic History Research Project (RP) that must be written in small groups.

The participation in the class discussion will also be assessed.

### Prerequisites:

N/A

### Module by Gabriele Cappelli

#### Program

This Economic History module aims to present a broad introduction to the discipline by discussing its central topics as well as frontier research being carried out in the field. This module will also focus on a few specific topics – environmental economic history, gender inequality, and spatial and comparative economic history – by presenting original research, while discussing relevant methodology for conducting work in within this field.

#### Educational objectives

The PhD students will get acquainted with the main topics in Economic History. Furthermore, they will learn how economic theory and quantitative tools can interact with historical analysis and primary sources to shed light on important questions concerning the economy in the past – as well as the present day. Students will also be introduced to the virtues and limitations of different historical sources and methodologies.

#### References

Beltrán Tapia, Francisco and Gabriele Cappelli (2021), “Were there missing girls in Liberal Italy? Evidence from a new dataset, 1861-1921.” Working paper.

Blum, Matthias and Chris Colvin (2018), *An economist's guide to economic history*. London, Palgrave Macmillan.

Fouquet, Roger (2016), "Lessons from energy history for climate policy: Technological change, demand and economic development." *Energy Research & Social Science* 22: 79-93.

Ridolfi, Leonardo (2022), "The French economy in the *longue durée*: a study on real wages, working days and economic performance from Louis IX to the Revolution (1250–1789)." Working paper. See also: Ridolfi, L. (2019) "Six centuries of real wages in France from Louis IX to Napoleon III: 1250–1860", *Journal of Economic History*, 79 (3), 589-627.

*Other references will be provided throughout the module.*

## **Module by Michelangelo Vasta**

### **Program**

The main idea of this Economic History module is to present how the field relates to Economics. This issue will be presented by using empirical data on articles published both in the top field journals and in the top generalist economics journals. This module focuses also on a few main topics – institutions and human capital accumulation, living standards and innovation – while discussing relevant methodology for carrying out research in economic history more in general.

### **Educational objectives**

The PhD students will explore the connections, as well as similarities and differences, between Economic History and Economics. Furthermore, they will learn how economic theory and quantitative tools can interact with historical analysis and primary sources to shed light on crucial questions concerning the economy in the past – as well as the present day. Students will also be introduced to the virtues and limitations of different historical sources and methodologies.

### **References**

Allen, Robert. C. (2011), *Global economic history: a very short introduction*. Oxford, OUP.

Cappelli, Gabriele, Ridolfi, Leonardo and Michelangelo Vasta (2020), "Pupils today, astronauts tomorrow? The impact of Italy's 1962 school Reform on human capital accumulation." Working paper.

Cioni, Martina, Giovanni Federico and Michelangelo Vasta (2019), "Three different tribes: how the relationship between economics and economic history has evolved in the 21<sup>st</sup> century." CEPR-DP 14192.

Cioni, Martina, Giovanni Federico and Michelangelo Vasta (2020), "The two Revolutions in Economic History", EHES Working Paper No. 192.

Nuvolari, Alessandro, Gaspare Tortorici and Michelangelo Vasta (2020), "British-French technology transfer from the Revolution to Louis Philippe (1791-1844): evidence from patent data". Working paper.

*Other references will be provided throughout the module.*