

Long-term Processes of Socio-Economic Development: Stagnation, Growth, Divergence, and Crises

November 20-21, 2015, Hanover, Germany
Herrenhausen Conference

"Why are we so rich and they so poor?" - This succinctly phrased citation of such poignant political, social and economic significance attributed to David Landes in the 1990s has been at the heart of controversial debate in both economics and the social sciences since the eighteenth century at least. Ultimately, any attempt to answer the question calls for a better understanding of long-term processes of economic development, and critical analysis of the factors impacting such processes. Existing theories mostly grasp economic development - at least under conditions of market economy - as a relatively stable process of growth, as result of which the technological and economic parameters steadily improve. It is postulated that interruptions to this process are solely a consequence of structural hiccups within the complex mesh of economic sectors. The latest global financial and economic crisis, though, has once more irrefutably shown that socio-economic development processes by no means follow long-term, relatively stable paths of equilibrium: rather, they are subject to upheavals, asynchronies and asymmetries that every now and then give rise to crises of varying severity and duration. Moreover, a glance at history reveals that it was only during the past 200 years that we could observe a relatively continuous increase in wealth - and this certainly does not constitute a global phenomenon. The Volkswagen Foundation's forthcoming Herrenhausen Conference wishes to address these problems by revisiting the "old" but ongoing inquiry into the character, dynamics, and determinants of long-term socio-economic processes in national economies and transdisciplinarily discusses future challenges and issues.

We invite all researchers and experts working in this field. There is no fee for the attendance, but registration is essential. www.volkswagenstiftung.de/economics

PROGRAM (as of September 2015, all academic titles have been omitted)

Friday, November 20th, 2015

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| 9.00 a.m. | Welcome address
Wilhelm Krull , Secretary General, Volkswagen Foundation |
| 9:10 a.m. | Keynote
Deirdre Nansen McCloskey , University of Illinois at Chicago |
| 10:00 a.m. | Lightning Talks 1
Chair: Silke Bertram , Volkswagen Foundation |
| 10:30 a.m. | Coffee Break and Poster Session |
| 11.00 a.m. | Determinants of Long-Run Development and Global Differences in Economic Performance
Chair: Alexander Ebner , University of Frankfurt

Philippe Aghion , Harvard University
Joel Mokyr , Northwestern University

<i>Demography and Economic Growth</i>
Neil Cummins , London School of Economics |
| 12:50 p.m. | Lunch |

- 2:15 p.m. **Determinants of Long-Run Development and Global Differences in Economic Performance (cont.)**
- The Epoch of Modern Economic Growth from a Sociological Perspective*
Johannes Berger, University of Mannheim
- How Does Copyright Affect Science? Evidence from the WWII Book Replication Program*
Petra Moser, Stanford University
- 3:30 p.m. **Lightning Talks 2**
- 4:00 p.m. Coffee Break and Poster Session
- 4:30 p.m. **Transitions and Crises as Determinants of Development?**
Chair: **Margrit Grabas**, Saarland University
- Wirtschaftskrisen und politisches Krisenmanagement seit dem späten 19. Jahrhundert*
(in German/simultaneous translation into English)
Werner Plumpe, University of Frankfurt
- Are crises productive? The story of good and bad crises*
Harold James, Princeton University
- 5:30 p.m. Coffee Break and Poster Session
- 6:00 p.m. **Transitions and Crises as Determinants of Development? (cont.)**
- Crises and the Macroeconomy*
Moritz Schularick, University of Bonn
- Crises (and wars) as catalysts of development modes: Régulation theory in a nutshell*
Robert Boyer, Institute des Amériques, Vanves
- Testing the Fourteenth Century Mortality Crisis as the Source of Long Term English Economic Development*
James Foreman-Peck, Cardiff Business School
and **Peng Zhou**, Cardiff Metropolitan University
- 7:30 p.m. Dinner

Saturday, November 21st, 2015

- 9:00 a.m. **Learning for the Future: The Role of Demographic Change, Preferences, Culture and Experience**
Chair: **Uwe Sunde**, University of Munich
- The Economic Minds of the Poor*
Anuj K. Shah, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Armin Falk**, University of Bonn

- 10.30 a.m. **Lightning Talks 3**
- 11.00 a.m. Coffee Break and Poster session
- 11.30 a.m. **Learning for the Future: The Role of Demographic Change, Preferences,
Culture and Experience (cont.)**
- Investments in Children – Options for Germany?*
C. Katharina Spieß, German Institute for Economic Research - DIW Berlin
- Werner Abelshauser**, University of Bielefeld
- 1.00 p.m. Award Ceremony and Closing Remarks
Wilhelm Krull, Secretary General, Volkswagen Foundation
- 1.15 p.m. End of Conference and Farewell Lunch