WORKSHOP
ECONOMIC GROWTH
IN ANTIQUITY

18–21 NOVEMBER 2016
The basic attitude of the world community is that there was very little economic growth before 1800 AD. Even if one accepts the idea, one would still have to admit that England was already a wealthy country in 1700 AD – and thus one wonders about Renaissance Florence, Medieval Regensburg, Imperial Rome, Hellenistic Alexandria, Egyptian Memphis, Akkadian Agade, Uruk, ...

We ask about the How? What happened? When? Where? Why is it significant? What is relevant?

What can we say about economic growth before the recent outbreak? Where did economic growth begin? How do you define it? What contributes to it? What pushes it? ...

REGISTRATION • WELCOME
16:00
REGISTRATION • COFFEE
16:30 INTRODUCTION
Michael Meyer (Berlin),
David A. Warburton (Berlin)

16:45 GROWTH
Nikolaus Wolf (Berlin)
Long-run Growth in Economic Theory

KEY NOTE LECTURE
18:15
Larry Neal (Illinois)
From Babylon to Bernanke: What was Critical, When, and Why?

17:30 DISCUSSION

20:00 RECEPTION

OPENING
HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN
HEILIG-GEIST-KAPELLE
SPANDAUER STRASSE 1
10178 BERLIN
LONG TERM HISTORY

09:30 INTRO
David A. Warburton (Berlin)
Long Term History

9:45 GREECE
Donald Jones (Tennessee)
Transformations from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age in Greece: A Model of a Household in an Egalitarian Neolithic Village

10:15 SUMER
Piotr Steinkeller (Harvard)
Can Economic Growth be Detected and Quantified during the Third Millennium - and if so How?

10:45 EGYPT
Tobias Gutmann (Bonn)
Usage of Proxy Data for Middle Kingdom Economy: Indications for Economic Growth?

11:15 COFFEE

11:45 ASSYRIA
Jan Gerrit Dercksen (Leiden)
Trade and Finance among the Old Assyrian Merchants

12:15 ATHENS
Graham Oliver (Brown)
Athens over the longue durée

12:45 DISCUSSION
Chair: David A. Warburton (Berlin)
Rome, Middle Ages

13:15 LUNCH

WORKSHOP, 19–21 NOV
TOPOI BUILDING DAHLEM
HITTORFSTR. 18
14195 BERLIN

THEMES

14:00 INTRODUCTION
David A. Warburton (Berlin)
Introduction to Themes

14:15 GROWTH
Johannes Renger (Berlin)
Thinking about Growth

14:45 LABOUR
Christian Langer (Berlin)
The Political Economy of Foreign Labour in Pharaonic Egypt

15:15 COFFEE

15:45 TRADE & INDUSTRY
Elsbeth van der Wilt (Berlin)
Metal Usage and Economic Growth in Pre-Ptolemaic Egypt

16:15 DISCUSSION
Growth, Labour, Industry in Antiquity

17:00 DISCUSSION
Chair: Florian Klimscha (Berlin)
Technology, Innovation
THEMES

09:30 ADMINISTRATION & ECONOMY
Gebhard Selz (Vienna)
Particularization and Economic Growth as reflected in the Documentation of Late Pre-Sargonic Lagash

10:00 WARFARE
Ingo Schrakamp (Berlin)
The Military and the Spread of Private Landed Property

10:30 COFFEE

11:00 TAXATION
Richard von Glahn (UCLA)
The Fiscal State in Late First Millennium BC China

11:30 DISCUSSION
Administration, Laws, Welfare, Warfare, Land

12:30 LUNCH

13:30 PRICES
Hagan Brunke (Berlin)
Prices and Equivalencies in Third Millennium Mesopotamia

14:00 MONEY
Juan Carlos Moreno-García (Paris)
Silver, Markets and Growth in Pharaonic Egypt

14:30 COFFEE

15:00 MONEY
Alain Bresson (Chicago)
Money, Debt and Economic Growth in Greece and Rome (7th c. BCE–1 c. CE)

15:30 DISCUSSION
Detail Questions about Market Prices, the Role of Money, the Nature of Money

16:00 COFFEE

16:30 PERFORMANCE
Giacomo Benati (Bologna)
Growth and Institutional Management of Agricultural Production in Early Third Millennium BC Southern Mesopotamia

17:00 DISCUSSION
Chair: Giacomo Benati (Bologna)
Performance

17:30 DISCUSSION
Value, Land, Labour, Power, Money, Prices, Moral Values, Legitimacy

ORGANISED BY
EXCELLENCE CLUSTER TOPOI
AREA A, KEY TOPIC ECONOMY
DAVID A. WARBURTON
david.warburton@topoi.org
THEMES

09:45 TEXTILES
Xianhua Wang (Sichuan)
Textile Production in Southwest China under the Han Dynasty

10:15 FINANCE
Alex Stomper (Berlin)
The Bourse of Babylon Revisited

10:45 DISCUSSION
Trade & Finance

11:15 COFFEE

11:45 CLIMATE
Joseph Manning (Yale)
Constraints on Real Growth: Inter-Annual Climate Variability

12:15 DISCUSSION
Chair: Joseph Manning (Yale)
Land, Labour, Enterprise Crops, Demography, Ecology

13:00 LUNCH

14:00 URBANISATION
Reinhard Pirngruber (Vienna)
A Tale of Two Cities: Economic Growth in Athens and Babylonia Compared

14:30 DISCUSSION
Urbanisation: Cities, Transport Networks, Resources

15:30 COFFEE

16:00 DISCUSSION
Chair: Hermann Elendner (Berlin)
General Equilibrium, Markets, Firms, Coase, Malthusian Stagnation

17:00 DISCUSSION
Chair: David A. Warburton (Berlin)
Closing Remarks

18:30 CONFERENCE DINNER