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### **Gender equality und bildungsbasiertes Wachstum in der Alpenregion und Skandinavien in sehr langfristiger Perspektiven**

Gilt der Zusammenhang von Gender equality und bildungsbasiertem Wachstum, den Maravall und Baten (2019) für Skandinavien beobachteten, ähnlich auch für den Alpenraum? Dort sind ebenfalls große Regionen von Milchwirtschaft geprägt sind und die Schweiz, Österreich, Nordostitalien und Slowenien haben sich jeweils bildungsintensiver entwickelt als benachbarte Regionen. Umfangreiche Körpergrößendaten zu verschiedenen italienischen Regionen im Mittelalter scheinen dies zu belegen: In der Region Udine/Veneto lag das Epizentrum mittelalterlicher Gender equality, und in Venedig repräsentiert einen Prototyp von bildungsbasiertem Wachstum. Sicher braucht es Städte in der Nähe dieser Milchwirtschaft/Gender equality-Regionen (Interaktionsterme erforderlich). Im alpinen Slowenien deuten andere Indikatoren (z.B. höheres Heiratsalter von Frauen als in südlichen Nachbarregionen) auch auf Gender equality hin (Baten/de Pleijt), und ähnliches dürfte für Schweiz/Österreich gelten.

### **Major pandemic catastrophes in early human history**

The events taking place 3200 before common era were pathbreaking. The earlier Bronze Age civilisation in the eastern Mediterranean was breaking down under the severe pandemic, which resulted in population loss, major migration of large military population groups, and the breakdown of states' administrations which had revolutionised human history. In this study, the standard of living is analysed before the 3200 events. An indicator by the name of enamel hypoplasia is used to assess how the average standard of living developed and how inequality was weakening the societies of the Mediterranean and northern Europe before the collapse.

## **Health and health inequality in the metropolis - Berlin in the 19<sup>th</sup> century**

Requirements: archival visit to an archive in Berlin

Berlin is one of the most rapid growing cities in the 19th century. London and Paris for example had already much more experience coping with such rapid growth. This makes it particularly fascinating to study health development in Berlin. For Berlin a substantial amount of height is available, which allows to study net nutrition and health in this rapidly growing metropolis. It is interesting to see which groups of immigrants brought a specific health human capital to the metropolis and how they differed from the people born in Berlin. Anthropometric inequality can also be studied using new methods of height variation analysis. It is very interesting for the global health and height development data set to study Berlin in particular, because the German case lacked its most important city so far.

## **Nutrition and life expectancy in Southern Germany during harvest failures**

Esther Duflo, who won the Nobel Prize in 2019, studied the harvest shock of phylloxera in France during the 19th century. She found that this harvest shock was very decisive for the health development in France. A similar interesting historical development can be observed for the Southern German state of Baden-Württemberg. Fortunately, the state archive of Baden-Württemberg provides an important data set for all the conscripts who were recruited for the army during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The dataset reports the net nutritional status as well as the survival of parents which is a unique feature. It allows to study how the net nutritional status and health of the conscripts correlated with the survival of their parents, when the conscripts were around 20 years old. We would expect that during the harvest failure period of the 1840s and early 1850s the relationship between height and survival of parents might be slightly narrower than in the time period before and after, but whether this was truly the case is an empirical question.

## **Human Capital development in the regions of Somalia**

Somalia is one of the countries on which we know least in terms of its long-run economic development. We know the conflict history of the last 20 years with the phenomenon of pirates and the killing of international soldiers but the long-run development of Somalia is fairly unknown. However the age heaping methodology allows to estimate numeracy for some regions and birth decades for this country. For example anthropological surveys have been taken between the 1910th and 1930s, covering birthdecades back to the 1850s, that we recently found in a university library in Florence. In addition UNICEF has conducted an MISC survey in 2006 that allows to study the birth decades of the 1930s to 1970s.

Moreover a border analysis with neighbouring Eritrea and Kenya can bring interesting results, because border regions normally share some geographic and ecological determinants while the economic policy and conflict environments were obviously different on both sides of the border.

Health and welfare development in Somalia and Eritrea. Height has been used as an indicator for health and welfare for a number of countries. But so far no study exists on north-east Africa. A recent source discovery allows to study anthropological surveys of the 1910th to 1930s on these two countries covering birth decades back to the 1850s and possibly some additional data from a later period in order to arrive at a long-run estimate.

Apart from the general health and welfare development, an interesting aspect is also the comparison of these two countries with their neighbours.

## **Human Capital and Early Living Standard Development in Africa**

Use new anthropometric sources on liberated slaves in Freetown and Havana. Discuss institutional context: why amounts and selectivity of slaves. Discuss why apparently French length measures were applied in Havana. Compare with early human capital development using the same sources and the so called AB2 index. Please talk to Professor Baten about the following: Use new download from Eltis internet page of 90.000 (\wp) port-country do file in \a\wh

## **Was there a dramatic human capital decline on the Philippines during mid-nineteenth century?**

Use family search death registers \a\ah\ph. Differentiate between regional composition and overall effects.

## **Human Capital Inequality in Latin America**

### **Migrant Selectivity and Growth Effects Early Spanish and Latin American Human Capital**

Requires Spanish language skills. Sources partly in internet, partly in Madrid, Mexico City or Lima.

## **Numeracy estimates of the elderly worldwide: selectivities and biases?**

### **Religion and Human Capital: the counter-reformation in the Czech Lands and Southeast Germany Social Mobility in Portugal**

Portuguese inquisition files inform about parental occupation, own occupation and age heaping.

## **Life expectation and ages structures-new estimating methods for long-run perspective**

The life expectations for long-run period analysis are available only for a small number of countries and time points. However, there is mortality- and birth rates for many countries and regions inside these countries. Pyramids of ages can be almost accurate. Mortality rates can be an indicator for life expectancy. Anyway they are also related to the ages' structure (in general, the rates for old ages are higher, and they are also higher for babies and infants in the poorer economies). This study observes the development of the ages' structure and mortality rates in order to get information about life expectancy using regression models. Life expectancy is a basic variable to represent the life standards measurements. In this way also important evidence on long-term trends in contemporary societies can be obtained worldwide.

## **Country Case Study: The Human Capital Development of <any country>, 1500-2007**

This topic requires a visit in an archive, and some knowledge of another language.

### **Determinants of early human capital education in East- and central-European regions**

There are a lot of samples about early human capital education in Europe. These samples could be evaluated in the study. At the begin, you can measure which countries were leading in the last four centuries and how big were the gaps among them? Partially, the data can be taken from our department's data bank. You can extend the data by collecting new samples after visiting new archives in other locations, such as Moscow, Budapest, Kiev, Bucharest, etc.

### **Determinants of early human capital education in South European Regions**

There are a lot of samples about early human capital education in Europe. These samples could be evaluated in the study. At the begin you can measure which countries were leading in the last four centuries and how big were the gaps among them? Partially, the data can be taken from our department's data bank. You can extend the data by collecting new samples after visiting new archives in other cities such as Rome, Madrid, Athens, Lisbon and Istanbul (In this case, the knowledge of Ottoman-Turkish is required).

### **Demographic factors influenced the economic growth on the very long-run period?**

A rich data base of mortality rate 1600-1900 is built for this research (according to decades), based on indirect indicators such as mortality of soldiers (see Curtin 1964, 68, 89, 98, cited in Acemoglu et al. (2001). Also cited there: elite groups such as bishops (Gutierrez 1986). The level and the variability of the mortality can be used to influence the economic growth in the following period of the twentieth century.

Literature: Acemoglu et al., "*The Colonial Origins*", American Ec. Review (2001).

### **The long-run period development of Human Capital in England**

England is the motherland of the industrial revolution. But the reasons of this early success are not studied sufficiently. In this study, the marriage registers and court documents can be used to know more about the early human capital development by using the Age Heaping strategy. In addition to that, data about immigrants and accused from our data bank can be used. The data is located mainly in London.

### **Trends of Beauty in the Labor Market over the Last Half Century and Determinants of Cross-Country Differences**

Nowadays, there is a large body of research on the effects of beauty in the labor market. It is an important topic influencing salaries and overall income, independent of level of education and whether the person has an occupation at which beauty directly matters. It is possible to overcome the subjectivity problem by evaluating beauty with at least five different evaluations of different persons, ideally from different age groups and potentially different cultures.

### **Economic and social development based on heights in India**

Height information can provide valuable insights about the individuals' health conditions. In an earlier study (Baten, 2016) analyze potential determinants of regional Indian heights by region or superstate and half decade of birth. Recently, a new dataset was released by the Indian Health Economics Institution. This gives us the opportunity to refine the approach, using individual height as dependent variable, and controlling better for sanitation. Also, one should include the measurement issues and the solution to these issues which Angus Deaton mentioned in his studies about Indian health development.

### **Climate conditions as a determinant of living standards**

One of the crucial determinants of long-term living standards in the past were agriculture harvests. However, until now not much is known about which weather situation and which combination of humidity and temperature ranges in different months were optimal for a good harvest and which climatic shocks destroyed the harvest.

In this study the knowledge acquired by climatic historians such as Christian Pfister and Rudolf Brázdil are used to specify an econometric model of grain production based on the combination of different climatic factors. Often shortcut methods have to be used since the number of combinations is simply too large. For example, a case where the temperature is in a range between a certain minimum and 10 degrees higher in, perhaps, July to August, and humidity is in a range of a certain minimum and maximum and no hail storm is preventing the harvest can be difficult to analyze.

### **Studying violence as an economic determinant of growth for the early modern period**

Recently, Cummins created a new dataset of nobility/life histories starting in the early Middle Ages and covering very long time spans until the eve of modern industrial development. This dataset can be used to study early developments of violence and human capital formation of the elite by using several techniques. Cummins suggested to identify the battle violence by the common dates in which many noblemen were killed, which is already coded for the dataset.

More innovative could be the suggestion to consider the share of birth years ending with zero because this might allow to trace the numerical abilities of the noblemen and their immediate surroundings in reporting precise dates. Firstly, the share of birth years which are not rounded could serve as an indicator for early human capital. Secondly, the fact that birth years were reported for noblemen would be another indicator of human capital because it also required a certain skill in reporting and saving this kind of biographic information. The usual caveats, which are discussed in the paper by Keywood and Baten on the birth year known share of European rulers and in the related paper on Middle Eastern human capital, would be good to discuss

here as well. The aim of the study would be to identify early determinants of human capital, which later decided on higher or lower regional income levels and which might have implications until today.

**Human Capital of Criminals in 18th/19th century**

**Innovations and Unified Growth Theory**

**Human capital in Italy during the early modern period**

**Which role does demography play for murder rates?**



## **A new generation? Junior scholars in high productivity networks- the example of long run economic studies**

An important topic for educational economics is the ability of universities to provide training for the next generation of scholars. For example, under which conditions do junior scholars develop skills for increasing their publication productivity, learn to present on conferences and are able to follow a successful career. In this study, a sample of junior scholars is collected based on their relationship to a high productivity network. We define a high productivity network as a university and a special topic of study, such as in this case the long run economic studies, economic history or economics with a long-run focus with at least one person in the research group who published in a top-five economics journal or in another journal with an impact factor of ten or higher in the last decade. We define long run economic studies as those having the n star in their publication criterium, the cc in econlit or papers that otherwise study at least five decades. The aim is to collect the data set by first considering the top five economics and other journals, then to look into the webpages for the personal details of these high productivity individuals and in which universities and departments they are located next to perform a questionnaire in which these individuals are asked about their students in the last ten years (who they were, their email addresses and whether they continued with academic studies). In the next step, these junior scholars are interviewed about their publication record, their experiences with the journal revise and resubmission process and their future plans. These questionnaires are then correlated with a number of relevant variables such as subfield of study, differences in the university culture, migration experience and biographical variables of the junior scholars and the high productivity people in their departments.