

# CENTRE FOR HISTORY AND ECONOMICS

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Centre for History and Economics

Narrative Report, 1991-2

#### Centre's Office and Staff

The Centre was established in July 1991. Since then it has set up an office in King's College, initiated a programme of Prize Studentships in History and Economics, taken on staff, and put together a number of working groups of scholars both within the University of Cambridge and in other countries. Its staff includes its two co-directors, Emma Rothschild and Gareth Stedman Jones; a coordinator, Anne Malcolm; an administrative assistant, Asha Patel; and a part-time research assistant, Gavin Alexander. It has also assembled an International Advisory Committee and a Committee on Visiting Fellows (see appendix 1).

#### Training Programme in History and Economics

In the autumn of 1991, the Centre inaugurated a programme of Prize Studentships to enable prospective PhD students in either history or economics to spend a year training themselves in the other discipline, in preparation for PhD research on a topic crossing the disciplinary boundaries of economics and history (or related subjects such as social and political science, or anthropology). The acute scarcity of government funding for PhD research in Britain has in recent years made it extremely difficult for students to take the time required to tackle these more complex, interdisciplinary projects, and it is hoped that through these Studentships, the Centre can encourage gifted young scholars to pursue research in history and economics. The recipients of the Studentships are enrolled as non-degree students of the University of Cambridge and pursue a regular, individually supervised course of study under the guidance of the Centre for History and Economics.

The programme was approved by the history and economics faculties of the University of Cambridge, and a search was initiated in the winter of 1991 (the text of the official notice which appeared in the *Cambridge Reporter* of December 4, 1991 is attached). A selection committee was formed, consisting of: Professor A.B. Atkinson of Churchill College, University of Cambridge (at that time of the London School of Economics); Professor Nancy Cartwright of the London School of Economics; Emma Rothschild of King's College, University of Cambridge; Professor Quentin Skinner of Cambridge University; Dr. Gareth Stedman Jones of Cambridge University; and Professor Barry Supple of St Catharine's College, University of Cambridge. In early 1992 two candidates were awarded studentships for the academic year 1992-3. Tanya Schwartz spent the summer before assuming her Studentship researching a project in the Brazilian forest regions on the economics of the rubber tapping trade, and is using her Studentship year to study the economics, politics and anthropology of markets. Simon Massey is spending this year on a Kennedy Scholarship at Harvard and will be returning to Cambridge in 1993-4 to take up his Studentship in preparation for research on Mediterranean trade in the Middle Ages.

A second search is at present underway, and we expect to award one or two Prize Studentships in January for the academic year 1993-4 (copy enclosed of this year's notice in *Cambridge Reporter*). Applications have been received from students in several different countries, including the United States, Italy and Hungary. In addition, we are expanding our teaching programme to include students with funding from other sources, for whom the Centre organizes a similar course of study to that constructed for the recipients of our own Studentships. For the longer term, we are conducting discussions with

both the history and economics faculties about a new University teaching programme in the history of economic thought.

We hope that funding for studentships will be available from several different countries, to underscore the international character of the Programme. We are particularly pleased that the Luigi Einaudi Foundation of Turin, Italy, has in December 1992 initiated a long-term collaboration with the Centre, under which the Foundation will each year offer a 'Luigi Einaudi Studentship' for a year of study at the Centre. The first studentship will be awarded in 1993 by the Scientific Committee of the Einaudi Foundation, and subsequent studentship awards will be made in July of each year.

The Centre has also assembled a more informal group of graduate students who meet regularly in the Centre office during term time, several of them associated with Centre-related projects, part-time research assistants in the Centre, or recipients of small student grants. They include Gavin Alexander (Caius College -- English Literature), Trina Haque (King's College -- Economics, WIDER Security and Development Project), Jon Lawrence (King's College -- History, Postdoctoral Fellow), Zia Rahman (St John's College -- Mathematics, Economics), Sanjay Reddy (St John's College -- Economics, Anthropology), John Shaw (King's College -- History), and Meena Singh (Newnham College -- Geography, Common Security Forum Project). Gavin Alexander, who has been a part-time research assistant in the Centre since its inception, and was previously research assistant in the Reconciliation, War and the State Seminar, completed his M.Phil in 1992, and was ranked first in the examination, with a distinction for his dissertation.

#### New Seminar Series in History and Economics

The centre has initiated a new series of open seminars in History and Economics, to provide a forum for both students and senior researchers from diverse fields to explore subjects of common interest. The first sequence (1992-93) is devoted to topics in the History of Economic Thought. (The notice for the seminar meetings is enclosed). It is expected that the next sequence, in 1993, will be concerned with Economic History, and specifically with the history of women and children. In conjunction with these seminars, the Centre has been holding regular student meetings, bringing together research students with a shared interest in history and economics.

#### Research Seminar/Study Group

The Centre is a participant in an international network of senior research seminars. In April 1993, the Centre will convene a new research seminar/study group on the subject of Nations, States and Empires, involving philosophers, political theorists, anthropologists and literary scholars, as well as historians and economists. This seminar will be linked to a seminar which will begin in January 1993 at the University of Bologna, Italy on Markets and Institutions, and to a seminar at the Centre for European Studies, Harvard University on Economic and Political Rights, to begin in September 1993.

In the past year, the Centre has overseen the final meetings of the interdisciplinary seminar on War and Reconciliation, begun at Cambridge in 1989. The working papers from that seminar are being produced and distributed by the Centre. (Notice for the seminar on War and Reconciliation is enclosed).

#### International Visiting Scholars Programme

The Centre provides facilities for visiting scholars in Cambridge who are working in relevant research areas. International visitors associated with the Programme in 1992-93 include Professor Ugo Pagano, of the University of Siena, Dr. Deborah Oxley of the University of Melbourne (arriving February 1993) and Professor Carlo Poni of the University of Bologna (arriving April 1993). Professor Pagano is currently working on the problem of economic nationalism. Dr. Oxley will be working on women's standard of living in the 19th century and Professor Poni will be working on the technical organisation of the production in early modern Europe. In the summer term of 1993, we expect visits from Dr Martha Chen of Harvard University, working on widows in India, Dr Douglas Galbi of MIT, working on child labour in England in the Industrial Revolution, and Mr Stephan Klasen of Harvard University, working on female mortality in early industrial Germany. Dr Paul Seabright (Churchill College, Cambridge -- economics) will be a visitor at the Centre in the autumn term of 1993, working on the economic theory of competition. The Centre has also hosted a number of short term visitors, including Dr. Sergei Panarin of the Institute of Oriental Studies and Dr. Alexei Vosskresensky of the Institute for Far Eastern Studies, both of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and Professor Lincoln Chen, Director of the Center for Population and Development Studies, Harvard University. The Centre is to publish a newsletter of seminars, lectures, occasional talks and other events of interest in the field of history and economics, in an effort to keep both visitors and resident scholars and students abreast of relevant research taking place in Cambridge.

#### International Colloquia

The Centre is organising a number of colloquia on subjects of interdisciplinary interest. The first of these, on long term demographic, economic and electoral trends in the United Kingdom, took place in November 1992. Participants included Professors Peter Clarke and John Dunn from Cambridge, Linda Colley from Yale, and David Feldman from Bristol, as well as Sir Robert Rhodes James, former MP for Cambridge, Baroness Hollis, and Mr Robert Worcester of MORI. Topics of forthcoming colloquia include: the Ethics and Economics of Banking; Training and Apprenticeship; the work of Jacques Le Goff; National Rights and the end of the Austro-Hungarian Empire; Condorcet and Malthus on women and children; the Invention and Introduction of Markets; and Antisemitism.

#### Participation in the Common Security Forum

Much of the Centre's effort this year has gone into participation in the planning and founding of the Common Security Forum, an international research project established to explore new economic, political and other conceptions of security in a post-Cold War world. The Centre is one of three lead institutions in this project, bearing responsibility for international research groups on the themes of Nationalism and of Economic Security. Other research institutions involved in the Common Security Forum include: the Centre for Population and Development Studies at Harvard University, the Centre for Development Economics at the Delhi School of Economics, the Norwegian Research Foundation for Applied Social Science (FAFO), and the Russian Academy of Sciences. In conjunction with its work for the Common Security Forum, the Centre is to make a joint research appointment with the

Mongolian and Inner Asia Studies Unit of Cambridge University (one of the participants in its research project on Nationalism), funded jointly by the Centre and the Isaac Newton Trust; a search is now underway (the text of the notice in the *Cambridge Reporter* of December 3 is enclosed).

#### History and Development

In conjunction with the World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER), the Centre will edit a volume of papers on history and development economics, based in part on the work of Fellows in the WIDER Security and Development Fellowship Programme, 1989-92. The papers will be discussed at a small meeting to be held at the Centre in September 1993; authors will include Emma Rothschild and Gareth Stedman-Jones of the Centre, Professor Amiya Bagchi (Calcutta), Dr Jane Humphries (Newnham College, Cambridge), Dr Avner Offer (Nuffield College, Oxford), and Dr Miri Rubin (Pembroke College, Oxford).

#### Research Publications

The Centre will distribute several series of working papers based on research by scholars associated with the Centre. These will include: Centre for History and Economics Discussion Papers; War and Peace Working Papers (associated with the Reconciliation, War and the State Seminar); and Common Security Forum Discussion Papers.



Appendix 1

Centre for History and Economics

International Advisory Board

Professor A. B. Atkinson, Cambridge

Professor Michael Bruno, Jerusalem

Professor Marilyn Butler, Cambridge

Professor Nancy Cartwright, London School of Economics

Professor Albert Hirschman, Princeton

Professor Janos Kornai, Budapest

Professor Wolf Lepenies, Berlin

Professor Quentin Skinner, Cambridge

Professor Barry Supple, Cambridge

Mr. James Wolfensohn, New York City

Professor Stefano Zamagni, Bologna

Centre for History and Economics

Committee on Visiting Fellows

Professor Myles Burnyeat	Robinson	(Philosophy)
Professor Peter Clarke	St. John's	(History)
Mr Geoff Hawthorn	Clare Hall	(Sociology)
Dr Caroline Humphrey	King's	(Social Anthropology)
Dr Jane Humphries	Newnham	(Economics)
Dr Sheilagh Ogilvie	Trinity	(Economic History)
Ms Emma Rothschild	King's	(Economics)
Dr Paul Seabright	Churchill	(Economics)
Dr Gareth Stedman Jones	King's	(History)
Dr Richard Tuck	Jesus	(History)