

Urban Challenges and Sustainable Technological Revolution



Special Session Proposal

Special Session Title

The long run sources of regional disparities in Europe

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Abstract

In the last two decades the historical approach to the study of regional income disparities in Europe has gained momentum. The ongoing literature has achieved two important goals. First, new databases of historical regional GDPs have been constructed and are at the disposal of researchers. At least, there are available datasets for the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Ireland. Second, the empirical studies addressed with these datasets confirm the markedly local or regional component of modern economic growth and shed evidence in favor of the inverse U-shaped relationship between income per capita and regional disparities, the so called Williamson's hypothesis, for most of the countries. With these data at hand, and at the light of New Economic Geography and Endogenous Growth models, new research avenues have been opened to deep into the ultimate sources of economic growth and territorial disparities. The exploration of the impact of geographical factors, the role of institutions, the presence or absence of state, the regional patterns of human capital accumulation, among others, are now at the forefront of the analysis of the historical roots of current disparities. This kind of analysis demands painstaking efforts in terms of data mining and opens new avenues of comparison between European countries. This session aims to meet together researchers from different countries that are working in these issues to generate synergies that could result in a deepening understanding of the historical roots of spatial imbalances in Europe.

Session Presenters:

Díez-Minguela, A., Insa, P. and Martínez-Galarraga, J. "Only a public school? Education and growth in a developing economy: Spain, 1860-1930". Presenter: Martínez-Galarraga, Julio (julio.martinez@ub.edu)

Gómez-Tello, A., Murgui-García, M.J. and M.T. Sanchis Llopis. "Scaping from the middle-income trap: An historical perspective over the European regions." Presenter: María Teresa Sanchis Llopis (m.teresa.sanchis@uv.es)

Palacios Mateo, Adrián. «Human capital and property in Northern Spain, 1850-1920 » apalacios@unizar.es

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