The Haves and the Have-Nots: Exploring the Global History of Wealth and Income Inequality

An International Conference in Vienna, Austria, September 10-12, 2015
Sponsored by the Europe Center of Stanford University and the University of Vienna
Organized by Bernhard Palme, Walter Scheidel and Peer Vries

Thursday September 10 (late afternoon/early evening)

Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik (University of Vienna): "Inequality and violence: the example of the Cultural Revolution in China"
Branko Milanovic (CUNY Graduate Center): Keynote lecture: "The Kuznets waves: explaining the evolution of inequality over the very long term"

Friday September 11

1 Models and global patterns

Peter Turchin (University of Connecticut): "The zigs and zags of inequality in human evolutionary history"
Stephen Haber (Stanford University): "Climate, geography, and the origins of political and economic institutions"
Ian Morris (Stanford University): "Each age gets the inequality it needs: energy capture and economic hierarchy since the Ice Age"
Walter Scheidel (Stanford University): "The great leveler: violence and the global history of inequality"

2 Ancient inequality

Anne Austin (Stanford University): "Health care inequality in ancient Egypt"
Michael Jursa (University of Vienna): "Economic growth and growing economic inequality? The case of Babylonia"
Josiah Ober (Stanford University): "Economic growth without growing economic inequality? The case of Greece"
Bernhard Palme (University of Vienna): "Shifting income inequality in Roman and Late Antique Egypt"

Saturday September 12

3 Gender inequality

Nikola Koepke (University of Barcelona): "European gender inequality in the very long run"
Elise Nederveen Meerkerk (Wageningen University): "Women's and children's contributions to household income and economic development: A long-term comparative perspective"
Carmen Gruber (Vienna University of Economics and Business): "Separate, but not equal: female workers and income inequality in post-war Japan"

4 Modern inequality

Peer Vries (University of Vienna): "When and how did the Great Global Inequality emerge"
Ewout Frankema (Wageningen University): "Why is Africa poor? Exploring the historical roots of African state failure"
Kenneth Scheve (Stanford University): "Taxing the rich: fairness and fiscal sacrifice over two centuries" (with David Stasavage, NYU)

Concluding roundtable