



10th May 2021

RESEARCH SEMINAR ECONOMIC HISTORY, GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT*

We invite all researchers and students to discuss! The upcoming presentation takes place **Thursday 20th May 2021**:

Speaker:

Dr. Alexander Klein (Senior Lecturer in Economics, University of Kent)

Title:

Was Domar Right? Serfdom and Factor Endowments in Bohemia

Do factor endowments explain serfdom? Domar (1970) conjectured that high land-labor ratios caused serfdom by increasing incentives to coerce labor. But historical evidence is mixed and quantitative analyses are lacking. Using the Acemoglu-Wolitzky (2011) framework and controlling for political economy variables by studying a specific serf society, we analyze 11,349 Bohemian serf villages in 1757. The net effect of higher land-labor ratios was indeed to increase coercion. The effect greatly increased when animal labor was included, and diminished as land-labor ratios rose. Controlling for other variables, factor endowments significantly influenced serfdom. Institutions, we conclude, are shaped partly by economic fundamentals.

Date: 20.05.2021

Time: 16:30 (4:30 p.m.)

Place: online (Internet browser: Firefox or Chrome recommended)

Please contact Dr. Albers for link and password.

Contact for questions: Dr. Hakon Albers (hakon.albers@wiwi.uni-halle.de)

* https://iw.wiwi.uni-halle.de/research_seminar/. In cooperation with Prof. Fertig, Prof. Grieben, and Prof. Kopsidis.