

BOZZI, PAOLO

WINTERSEMESTER 2025/26

33135/1 Übung "'Making History Count': Quantitative Methods for Historians"

Di 16-18, c.t., PT 1.0.6

The rise of personal computers, Excel sheets, and, more recently, large language models such as ChatGPT has completely reshaped research in the social sciences and the humanities. The course aims to introduce history students to the quantitative methods used in the social sciences within the framework of economic and social history. Each session will focus on a specific method/tool, addressing the theory behind it and discussing applications from the historical literature. As a case study, we will conduct a class project from the collection of data to the analysis and presentation of the results. For this, we will investigate the rise of modern states in the 19th and 20th centuries across different dimensions: income, taxation, education, and welfare.

The course relies on students' active participation. For each session, students are required to do the compulsory readings and the practical assignments with Excel or the software R. Furthermore, students are required to give a short presentation focused on a piece of economic or social history literature. The presentations should guide the class through the reading of quantitative research papers, with a special focus on the methodology used. Most classes require the use of a laptop. If that is not possible, please contact the lecturer.

Leistungsnachweis: Mitarbeit und Referat.**Literatur**

Hudson, P. and Tribe, K. (eds.), The contradictions of capital in the twenty-first century: The Piketty opportunity (Newcastle upon Tyne: Agenda, 2016)

Feinstein, C. H. and Thomas, M., Making History Count: A Primer in Quantitative Methods for Historians (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002)

Huntington-Klein, N., The Effect: An Introduction to Research Design and Causality (Boca Raton, London, New York: CRC Press, 2022)