

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

WHEREVER YOU ARE,
WHATEVER
YOU DO, MAY THE
SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS
BE WITH YOU



NEWSLETTER 2019-30

CALENDAR:

Economic and Social History Seminar

Matthias Morys (York):

How and why has Eastern Europe lagged behind the West for (at least) two Centuries? Long-term patterns of Economic Growth and Development in Central, East and South-East Europe since 1800

Wednesday, January 8

18:15–20:30

VG 1.30

ABSTRACTS:

Economic and Social History Seminar

Matthias Morys (York)

How and why has Eastern Europe lagged behind the West for (at least) two Centuries? Long-term patterns of Economic Growth and Development in Central, East and South-East Europe since 1800

Abstract: The collapse of communism in Central, East and South-East Europe (CESEE) led to great hopes for the region in the early 1990s: freed from the constraints of central planning and transformed into liberal democracies based on the rule of law, the 21 CESEE countries would catch up quickly with their West European counterparts. Three decades on, the initial optimism has given way to a more mixed assessment: while the political transformation appears irreversible in some parts of CESEE, a relapse to more authoritarian forms of government has occurred in others. Similarly, the economic catch-up process appears to take much longer than originally anticipated. More troublesome still is the growing sense that some of the challenges facing the Eastern half of the European continent cannot be blamed on the communist legacy but might well be more deeply rooted. We provide an overview of where economic history research stands on the origins and persistence of this fundamental West-East-divide, focusing on three questions. First, what were the long-term factors impeding economic development in the region? Second, how backward was Eastern Europe by the time the command economy was introduced? Third, how has research assessed the state socialist period?

MISCELLANEOUS:

This is the last issue of RegensburgEconNews in 2019, covering the week after the Christmas holidays.

The issue 2020-01 will be available on January 8, 2020

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**RegensburgEconNews**

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