

Ciclo de Seminários

**História Económica e Empresarial numa perspectiva de longo prazo: abordagens comparativas**

**“Economic and Business History in long-run perspective: comparative approaches”**

FLUP, 30 de Novembro de 2018 – 14:30hs – Sala de Reuniões (Piso 2)

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**“Reconstruction of regional and national population using intermittent census-type data: the case of portugal, 1527-1864”**

Modern tests of the Malthusian model and its variations have relied almost exclusively on the Wrigley-Schofield demographic data for England, the only available source of annual national data on population stocks for a premodern economy. In this paper, we provide evidence for another such economy, early modern and nineteenth century Portugal. For this, we use a new sample of parish-level annual statistics up to the first modern census of 1864. All six major regions of the country are considered. We combine this information with intermittent census-type data on population stocks to arrive at annual regional and national population stock estimates for this period. Hence we offer a new methodological contribution for the construction of population stocks over the very long run. This methodology can be used in situations in which there is limited availability of local annual gross flows but some intermittent information about stocks is obtainable.

Keywords: long-run demographic reconstructions, early modern and nineteenth century Portugal

## "Economic Convergence in the Nordic Societies in the Long Run: Europe and Other Comparative Mirrors"

In this paper we analyze Nordic long-run economic performance and wages by focusing on convergence (or divergence) over time among the Nordic countries and whether they converged toward the economic leaders, such as Europe, UK and USA, in particular time periods. Our first comparative mirror was the development of real GDP per capita from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to 2016 – it seems that there was a catch-up process in play both among the Nordic economies and in terms of the relationship towards the economic leaders, especially from early 20<sup>th</sup> century up until the 1970s. Our second comparative mirror was the development of Swedish, Finnish, and Norwegian real wages from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the results suggested very similar development between these countries, with Sweden having higher standards of living, up until 18<sup>th</sup> century. Then all of them diverged from the West European “path”, and in particular Finland seemed to stagnate during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Our third comparative mirror was formed by a large sample of seamen’s wages in Sweden and Finland from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century to the First World War. It appears that divergence was not a uniform phenomenon in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, since sailors’ wages increased substantially during the so-called first era of economic globalization. It is possible that export-led growth path of the Nordic countries already emerged in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, although the impact would not materialize fully until the post-Second World War period.

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### **"The development of the theory of "business imperialism" in Latin American economic history and international business history"**

This paper traces the intellectual development of the theory of "Business Imperialism", an important building-block in the theory of "informal empire" that is still used to discuss the role of business in capitalist imperialism in contemporary international political economy (Motyl 2006; Mann 2005). The paper begins by exploring how these theoretical constructs have been recently used by management researchers (Grocott and Grady 2014). This indicates the enduring appeal of the theory, and the need to display historical understanding of both the empirical material underpinning theory itself, and also the historical context of the original theorists themselves. The paper then discusses how the ideas of business imperialism and informal empire were developed through the work of two famous British imperial historians, Jack Gallagher and Ronald Robinson (Gallagher and Robinson 1953). The intellectual history of their work is traced to a relatively unknown Canadian historian of Latin America, Harry Ferns (Dummitt 2010; H. Ferns 1953). His own political and intellectual journey was from Communism and Cambridge in the 1930s, to political ostracism in Canada in the early Cold War, followed by a quiet academic career at the University of Birmingham from the 1950s to the 1980s (H. S. Ferns 1983). Through Ferns comes the influence of the Latin American experience of British imperial power to 1914, and provides a crucial link to Marxist thought. Robinson and Gallagher's seminal article was followed by a wave of theoretically fluent historical work on the experience of business imperialism in Latin America (Platt 1977; Miller 1998; Miller 1999; Jones 1980; Newbury 1992). This literature was written within, and from, epistemic communities with established traditions of knowledge and modes of knowing: Latin American studies, Marxist treatments of theories of imperialism, and economic history. At the core of the theory of "business imperialism" is the articulation and explanation of the agency of business in international power structures: of the organization and management of resources, the transformation of people, place and space over time, and how this created and maintained imperial relationships. Understanding of this was achieved by thorough and detailed empirical historical research that was anchored in theoretically alive fields of study. From this followed interpretation and further theorization. In turn, the theory of "business imperialism" has underpinned a range of additional distinct theoretical perspectives, including Dependency Theory in development studies (Kay 1989), and the theory of Gentlemanly Capitalism in imperial studies (Cain and Hopkins 2002; Dumett 1999).

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