

The impact of disasters on pre-modern rural economies:
Consequences for the countryside in Northwestern Europe before 1850

Workshop Münster, 13–14 November 2014

Preliminary Programme

Thursday, 13 November 2014

9.00–9.15 Welcome and conference opening

Introduction

9.15–11.15 Session 1: Flooding and water management (I)

Petra van DAM (Amsterdam): Floods in the Netherlands, regional comparisons

Piet van CRUYNINGEN (Wageningen): *The calamitous polders of Zeeland*

Daniel CURTIS (Utrecht): *Danger and displacement in the Dollard: the 1508/09 flooding of the Dollard Sea (Groningen) and its impact on property distribution*

11.15–11.30 Coffee break

11.30–13.00 Session 2: Flooding and water management (II)

Milya van TIELHOF (Huygens ING): *The relationship between floods, monetization of dike maintenance and social distribution of landownership*

Tim SOENS (Antwerpen): *The Environmental Kuznets Curve of agrarian capitalism and flood disaster in the North Sea area: strength and weaknesses of a model (1300–1800)*

13.00–14.00 Lunch

14.00–15.30 Session 3: Contemporary narratives of natural disasters

Gerrit DEUTSCHLÄNDER (Hamburg): *Writing about natural phenomena and disasters in Renaissance letters*

Franz MAUELSHAGEN (Essen): *Hail storm disasters in the early modern Swiss Confederation, c. 1550–1800*

15.30–16.00 Coffee break

16.00–18.00 Session 4: Strategies to cope with disaster

Jessica DIJKMAN (Utrecht): *Escape from hunger in rural Holland, 1500–1800*

Mats MORELL (Stockholm): *Adaptation to crises and weather-related harvest fluctuations: the resilience of peasant households in East Central Sweden in late 18th and early 19th centuries*

Laurent HERMENT (Paris), *Resilience of rural communities faced with subsistence crises in the Paris Basin between 1793 and 1853: A learning process?*

18.00–19.00 Keynote lecture

Cormac Ó'GRÁDÁ (Dublin): *What history tells us about markets and famines*

19.30 Dinner

Friday, 14 November 2014

9.00–11.00 Session 5: Crises-related state policies

Roberto LEGGERO (Lugano/Mendrisio): Forms of »Welfare State« in rural communities in the Swiss Alps during the Middle Ages

Filip van ROOSBROECK (Antwerpen): Mirage or reality: state policy and its effectiveness during the rinderpest epizootic of 1769-1785

11.00–11.30 Coffee break

11.30–13.00 Session 6: Consequences of war

Annemieke ROMEIN (Rotterdam): The perceived impact of warfare and taxations on welfare (1642–1655): the German principalities of Jülich-Berg and Hesse-Cassel in a comparative perspective with the French province of Brittany

Mark SPOERER (Regensburg): War and the reform of state finance: the rural areas of Prussia and Wuerttemberg in comparison (1815–1830)

13.00–14.00 Lunch

14.00–15.30 Session 7: Impact of weather fluctuations and climate change (I)

Johannes BRACHT (Halle): Climate variation and land rental values in a long-term perspective, Westphalia 1600–1900

Martin UEBELE (Groningen): The impact of natural disasters during the early 19th century – a comparison of Chinese and European regions

15.30–17.00 Session 8: Impact of weather fluctuations and climate change (II)

Cédric CHAMBRU (Genève): Weather fluctuations and social conflicts during the Old Regime (1661–1789)

Ulf Christian EWERT (Münster): Climate change, subsistence crises and the nutritional status in pre-modern agricultural societies: the case of France in late 17th and early 18th centuries

17.00–17.30 Coffee break

17.30–19.00 Conclusions and discussion

Tim SOENS (Antwerpen) and Bas van BAVEL (Utrecht): Conclusions