
Call for Papers for the Special Session on

The historical emergence of “the Economic” and its significance for political economy
organized by Research Area P on Economic History and Research Area T on History of Political Economy

Recent scholarship in economic as well as intellectual history, and the sociology of knowledge, has increasingly concerned itself with the historical origins of “the economy” as a discrete sphere of the social world. The growth of interest in this topic can be partially associated with Timothy Mitchell’s argument locating the origins of “the economy” in the 1930s and 1940s. This argument, and those like it, posit that (1) ‘the economy’ emerged during a period of time, (2) its original appellation was homogenized by forms of sociotechnical practice (the spread of statistics, government agencies, international organizations), and then (3) became sedimented more widely in the social world. What are the implications for our understanding of central economic concepts, when the entire domain of “the economic” is destabilized as a recent socio-historical construct? This special session aims to broadly engage the question of the socio-historical specificity of “the economic”. It asks for contributions not only from historically inspired scholarship, aiming to contribute further details to the narrative rise of “the economy”, but also for specifically theoretical reflection on what the socio-historical constructedness of “the economic” implies for political economy research.

Invited Speakers: Gareth Dale (Brunel, UK,) Richard Lane (Sussex, UK) Adrienne Roberts (Manchester, UK, TBC) Matthias Schmelzer (Jena, DE)

How to submit: please go to http://eaepe.org, follow the conference submission link, register and select the appropriate item in the submission form.

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