

First call for Session Proposals

(October 2006)

The International Economic History Association (IEHA) will hold its fifteenth World Economic History Congress in Utrecht, the Netherlands, August 2009. The Congress will last five days. Each day of the Congress will be divided into four time blocks of 90 minutes each (two before lunch and two after lunch). More information on the Utrecht Congress is available on the congress website: www.wehc2009.org.

The scientific programme of the Congress will be organized on the same principle as the fourteenth International Economic History Congress in Helsinki in 2006. There will be approximately 100 sessions spread over five days of meetings. The IEHA welcomes sessions on all topics in economic history, history of economics, demographic history, social history, urban history, cultural history, gender studies, methodological aspects of historical research, and related fields. The IEHA has a particularly strong desire to attract sessions on the period before 1800 and sessions that include countries other than those of Western Europe and North America. Organizers will be given wide discretion to shape the format of sessions to be the most attractive and efficient given the topic and the participants invited.

There will be two calls for session proposals. The deadline for the First Call is April 30, 2007. The deadline for the second call is April 30, 2008. The Organizing Committee believes that this two-round procedure will allow those wishing to propose broad themes, summaries of a subfield, or complex organizational arrangements such as pre-conferences or cross refereeing two years to plan and organize the session. At the same time, this procedure will reserve ample space on the programme for new ideas and fresh topics to be announced a year and a few months before the Congress. In this way it is hoped to strike a reasonable balance between reports on current research and new topics and sessions that require substantial time to organize and prepare.

This is the **First Call for Session Proposals**. From submissions received before the 30th of April 2007, the Executive Committee of the IEHA will select all proposals it sees fit to be included in the programme. Given the early date of this first deadline, the Executive Committee does not expect session organizers to present a full panel of participants. Indeed organizers are encouraged to make an open call for papers once their session has been selected for the programme. However a tentative list of participants should be available for publication on the website before the 1st of October 2007.

A **Second Call for Session Proposals** will be published in October 2007. From submissions received by the 30th of April 2008, the Executive Committee will fill all but five of the remaining session slots. The five remaining slots will be filled by the Executive Committee with sessions on topics the committee feels should be on the programme. Organizers of sessions selected in the second round will also be encouraged to publish a call for papers for their session.

For all sessions a final list of participants and paper titles, a time schedule for the session, and the congress papers or abstracts must be submitted before the 31st of May 2009, for publication on the Congress website. Scholars and the general public will have access to the website and will be able to search, read, and download papers of interest in advance of the Congress.

There will be no distinction between sessions submitted in reply to the First or Second Call for Papers. Each session organizer will be given two time blocks; no extra time blocks will be allocated (organizers wishing to extend their session have to submit a proposal in the Second Round). Time blocks will be consecutive on the same day unless the organizers request an alternative timing.

Submission of proposals

Proposals can be submitted via the session registration form on the congress website www.wehc2009.org. You will be requested to enter the name(s), title(s), and institutional affiliation(s) of the organizer(s), your contact information, the proposed title for the session, a session abstract explaining the aim and relevance of the session, the number of papers expected and the names and affiliations of those who have agreed in principle to participate. Reception of session proposals will be acknowledged by e-mail.

If selected, organizers of sessions will be asked to take on the following responsibilities:

- (1) Communicate as requested with the Secretary General of the Association and the Congress organizers in Utrecht as the programme takes shape.
- (2) Circulate an open call for participation that invites broad involvement by scholars from different countries and approaches. Organizers will be asked to respect the Association's desire to make the World Congress as inclusive as possible, encouraging if necessary, young scholars and those from outside of Western Europe and North America.
- (3) Plan the sessions in Utrecht to allow at least 25 percent of the available time for informal open discussion with the floor. This may require limiting the number of papers presented at the session and/or preparing the session by organizing a preconference.
- (4) Ensure that all participants are able to communicate easily and effectively with each other both before the Congress and during the session. Particular attention should be given to easing the difficulty of scholarly dialogue among participants with different native languages.
- (5) Provide or raise whatever funding may be necessary for the proposed session and associated activities before and after the Congress.