



IGNORANCE, NESCIENCE, NONKNOWLEDGE:
LATE MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN
COPING WITH UNKNOWNNS

APRIL 23–24 2015



Organisation
Cornel Zwierlein
(Universität Bochum/Harvard
University)

The Paris event is part of a double site conference at Harvard University and the GHI Paris. The first part has taken place on Feb 19/20, 2015 at the Harvard History Department, for more information <http://www.rub.de/umweltgeschichte/forschung/projekte.html.en>



Deutsches Historisches Institut Paris
Institut historique allemand, 8 rue du Parc-Royal, 75003 Paris, www.dhi-paris.fr



Thursday, April 23

- 9.00 Welcome note Prof. Dr. Thomas Maissen, Director German Historical Institute
Short introductory note Prof. Dr. Cornel Zwierlein

Economy I

Chair and Comment: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Kaiser (Paris I/EHESS)

- 9.30 Prof. Dr. Daniel Smail (Harvard), Law and the Uncertainty of Value in Late Medieval Marseille and Lucca
- 10.00 Dr. Giovanni Ceccarelli (Parma): Coping with Unknown Risks in Renaissance Florence: Insurers, Friars and Abbaco Teachers
Short discussion
- 10.30 Coffee break
- 11.00 Dr. Moritz Isenmann (Cologne), (Non-)Knowledge, Political Economy and Trade Policy in Seventeenth Century France
- 11.30 Prof. Dr. Cornel Zwierlein (Harvard/Bochum): The Unknown Nation. Ignorance and Mercantilism in the Mediterranean 1660-1740
- 12.00 Panel discussion
- 12.30 Lunch

Economy II

Chair: Prof. Dr. Philippe Minard (Paris VII/EHESS)

- 14.00 Prof. Dr. Marie-Laure Legay (Lille), Ignorance within European State Finances (Eighteenth century)
- 14.30 Dr. William Deringer (Columbia), Modelling Ignorance: Secrecy, Certainty, and Financial Analysis in Eighteenth-Century Britain

- 15.00 Dr. Magnus Ressel (Frankfurt/M), On the Modernity or Backwardness of Foreign Merchant Guilds in Early Modern Europe: The *Fondaco dei Tedeschi* in Venice
- 15.30 Panel discussion
- 16.00 Coffee break
- 16.30 Comments on the Panels Economy I and Economy II
Dr. Jean-Marc Rohrbasser (INED), Premodern Perspectives
Prof. Dr. Alessandro Stanziani (EHESS), Modern Perspectives and Comparisons



Friday, April 24

Travel, Geography, Communication, Politics
Chair: PD Dr. Rainer Babel

- 9.00 Prof. Dr. Adam Kosto (Columbia), Ignorance about the Traveller: Documenting Safe-Conduct in the Middle Ages
- 9.30 Dr. Lucile Haguet (Rouen), D'Anville and Specified Ignorance: an Unexpected but Powerful Way of Promoting Maps and Geography
- 10.00 Short coffee break
- 10.15 Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Behringer (Saarbrücken), Changing Dimensions of Space and Time: The miraculous Effects of the Early Modern Communication Revolution
- 10.45 Dr. des. Devin Fitzgerald (Harvard), The Blind Emperor: Long-distance Communication in 17th Century China
- 11.15 Short coffee break
- 11.30 Dr. Fabrice Micallef (Paris I), Decision-making Without Knowledge. European Powers and the 'Affairs of Provence' (1589-1596)
- 12.00 Dr. Albert Schirrmester (HU Berlin/EHESS Paris), Ignorance before a war: attitudes and action of expectation (the Spanish War of Succession)
- 12.30 Comment on the Friday Panel Prof. Dr. Christine Lebeau, Paris I
Panel Discussion, Final Discussion and Conclusion
- 13.30 Lunch