

Economic History – Final Exam

Wednesday, 9 January 2019

2:30 – 4:30 pm

**Instructions:** Please choose and answer one of the following three questions. Your answer should not exceed four pages. The evaluation (on a 20-point scale) will be based on the structure and clarity of your argument, as well as the quality of its elaboration with empirical evidence. There is a bonus question (1 point) if you have time at the end. The exam must be written in English. No document is allowed.

- A) How have demographic, institutional and technological changes contributed to long-run patterns of economic growth and development?

**OR**

- B) Why doesn't a democratic form of government automatically slow the rise of inequality, and under what conditions might it do so?

**OR**

- C) To what extent can the study of economic history clarify current debates in political economy?  
Consider at least one relevant issue in contemporary public affairs:
- The rise of inequality in developed and developing countries
  - The financial crisis of 2007-08 and its aftermath, in Europe and elsewhere
  - The regulation of capital and labor mobility
  - The rise of populism
  - Climate change and environmental sustainability
  - Other (explain)

**Bonus question:** Write a one-paragraph research proposal (half-page maximum) to answer an open question in economic history. Note particularly the setting of your study, its proposed methodology, existing scholarly literature, and the gap that your research would fill.