



19th April 2021

RESEARCH SEMINAR ECONOMIC HISTORY, GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT*

We invite all researchers and students to discuss! The upcoming presentation takes place **Thursday 6th May 2021**:

Speaker:

Prof. Mark Koyama, PhD (George Mason University)

Title:

Shipwrecked by Rents

The trade route between Manila and Mexico was a monopoly of the Spanish Crown for more than 250 years. The Manila Galleons were “the richest ships in all the oceans”, but much of the wealth sank at sea and remain undiscovered. We introduce a newly constructed data set of all of the ships that traveled this route. We show formally how monopoly rents that allowed widespread bribe-taking would have led to overloading and late ship departure, thereby increasing the probability of shipwreck. Empirically, we demonstrate not only that these late and overloaded ships were more likely to experience shipwrecks or to return to port, but that such effect is stronger for galleons carrying more valuable, higher-rent, cargo. This sheds new light on the costs of rent-seeking in European colonial empires.

Date: 06.05.2021

Time: 16:30 (4:30 p.m.)

Place: online (Internet browser: Firefox or Chrome recommended)

Please contact Dr. Albers for link and password.

Contact for questions: Dr. Hakon Albers (hakon.albers@wiwi.uni-halle.de)

* https://iw.wiwi.uni-halle.de/research_seminar/. In cooperation with Prof. Fertig, Prof. Grieben, and Prof. Kopsidis.