



22nd June 2021

RESEARCH SEMINAR ECONOMIC HISTORY, GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT*

We invite all researchers and students to discuss! The upcoming presentation takes place **Thursday 1st July 2021**:

Speaker:

Dr. Vincent Bignon (Banque de France)

Title:

The Toll of Tariffs: Protectionism, Education and Fertility in Late 19th Century France

This paper examines a novel negative impact of trade tariffs and the costs they induce by documenting how protectionism reversed the long-term improvements in education and the fertility transition that were well under way in late 19th-century France. The Méline tariff, a tariff on cereals introduced in 1892, was a major protectionist shock that shifted relative prices in favor of agriculture and away from industry. In a context in which the latter was more intensive in skills than agriculture, the tariff reduced the relative return to education, which in turn affected parents' decisions about the quantity and quality of children. We use regional differences in the importance of cereal production in the local economy to estimate the impact of the tariff. Our findings indicate that the tariff reduced enrollment in primary education and increased birth rates and fertility. The magnitude of these effects was substantial, with the tariff offsetting the increasing trend in enrollment rates and the decreasing one in birth rates by a decade.

Date: 01.07.2021

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.