

Editor's Foreword

Welcome to the first issue of *The Knowles Review of Economic History*. We are proud to present a selection of articles spanning a range of debates in the field of economic history. The aim of this journal, and indeed of the editorial team, is to recognise and promote research by LSE students. We hope that, by making heard the voices of our fellow students, we can play a part in facilitating and continuing discourse that makes student communities so unique. As can be expected, we are passionate about economic history, and the questions it allows us to ask. What is the role of institutions in driving economic growth? How did they develop across different localities? How does technological change impact the market? What are the principal drivers of economic development throughout history? These are the questions with which we concern ourselves; the questions we are passionate about. It is our fellow students' answers to questions such as these that we want to share with you.

This is the first volume of our publication under our new name. However, we started as the *Economic and Social History Journal*, founded by the Economic History Society here at the London School of Economics. This year, our journal was reorganised under the Department of Economic History and is now published by Houghton St Press. Changing our name to *The Knowles Review of Economic History* was one of our first major decisions. Given that our objective is to publish the best work done by LSE students, it seemed only fitting that we would choose to honour someone who was both a pioneer in the field of economic history, a former LSE student, and also a professor at our school. Lilian Knowles was one of the first research students at LSE, starting in 1895. She later became a professor of Economic History in our department and was the first female Dean of the Faculty of Economics of the University of London. Not only did we want to honour the contributions of early economic historians to the existence of the discipline, but also their contributions to the establishment of the LSE and the Department of Economic History as a leading institution in the subject.

We were very impressed by the quantity and quality of submissions received. The range of topics reflect the interdisciplinary nature of Economic History. We made sure to choose a selection of articles that conveys a sense of the breadth of discussions in our discipline. These analyses cover a range of time periods and geographies, from living standards in Industrial Revolution Britain, to Japanese colonial policy in Korea, to the Second Serfdom in Eastern Europe in the 15th century. The variety of topics is equally diverse, spanning financial crises, the Great Divergence, and the history of women in economics, to name just a few. We have granted the award for

Leunig Prize for Best Essay to James Wallace, for his article “Height, Health and History: A Reassessment.” This decision was made unanimously by our senior editors. Not only is the article very well written, we feel that it also demonstrates the complexity of one of Economic History’s most interesting debates: living standards, before, during, and after industrialisation. Moreover, the use of archival sources for statistical analysis showcases commendable original research and insights. We congratulate James Wallace on his article, as we congratulate all the authors in this year’s issue on their work.

I want to extend my gratitude to everyone involved with the journal this year. This gratitude goes to everyone who sent in a submission for our consideration. To Houghton Street Press for helping us navigate publication. To the Department of Economic History, and Tracy Keefe and Sara Horrell in particular, for their support. To Dr. Tim Leunig for his support in awarding the prize for best essay. To the editorial team for maintaining our standard of work in getting the issue ready in time during the pandemic. Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not grant a special thank you to our Senior Copyeditor, Zhining Liu, and our Managing Editor, Simon Biasi, for their excellence in their positions.

I sincerely hope you will enjoy reading the first issue of *The Knowles Review of Economic History* as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

Daan de Jonge

Editor-in-Chief