

# Workshop at THE CENTRE FOR BUSINESS HISTORY

Tuesday 18 December 0845-16:00, BI Nydalen, room A2-090

## PERSPECTIVES AND METHODOLOGIES IN ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS HISTORY

The debate over how historians should go about in studying the past – the methodologies and perspectives historians should use – is as old as the field of history itself. Within economic and business history one of the major disputes over these issues was launched in the wake of the so-called cliometric turn taking place in much economic history from the mid 1960s onwards. This dispute is still ongoing. In the recent, much acclaimed book *The Poverty of Clio. Resurrecting Economic History* (Princeton University Press, 2011) the Italian historian Francesco Boldizzoni provocatively claims that economic history is in the midst of a 'deep identity crisis' due to the fact that it has become dominated by cliometricians – or new economic historians – who's major aim is 'not to increase our knowledge of the past', but 'to create narratives of the past compatible with neoliberal economics.' This workshop takes its starting point in Boldizzoni's book and discusses its relevance for Nordic economic and business history. In addition to general discussions the workshop invites scholars to reflect on the various methodological approaches present in Nordic economic and business history and to discuss alternative perspectives and approaches to the field.

## PROGRAM

08:45–09:00	Coffee
09:00–10:15	<b>SESSION 1: THE POVERTY OF CLIO</b> "The Poverty of Clio. Resurrecting Economic History", Research fellow <b>Francesco Boldizzoni</b> , University of Torino Commentators: Professor <b>Jari Ojala</b> , University of Jyväskylä; Professor <b>Einar Lie</b> , University of Oslo
10:15–10:30	COFFEE
10:30–12:00	<b>SESSION 2: METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC HISTORY</b>
10:30–11:15	"Quantitative Methods in business history", Professor <b>Jari Ojala</b> , University of Jyväskylä
11:15–12:00	"Sources and methodology in the history of the fashion business", Associate Professor <b>Veronique Pouillard</b> , University of Oslo
12:00–13:00	LUNCH
13:00–16:00	<b>SESSION 3: PERSPECTIVES IN BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC HISTORY</b>
13:00–13:45	"Social history and economic history", Professor <b>Ida Bull</b> , Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)
13:45–14:30	"The uses of business history", Associate Professor <b>Mads Mordhorst</b> , Copenhagen Business School.
14:30–14:45	COFFEE
14:45–15:30	"Economic history as family history", Professor <b>Knut Sogner</b> , BI Norwegian Business School.
15:30–16:00	Final discussion

Participation in the workshop is free of charge, but participants need to register. For registration please contact [britt-mari.sletto@bi.no](mailto:britt-mari.sletto@bi.no). Registration is due December 11.

For questions about the workshop program, please contact Espen Ekberg, [espen.ekberg@bi.no](mailto:espen.ekberg@bi.no)  
The workshop is organised by the Centre for Business History, BI Norwegian Business School and is financed by the Norwegian Research Council.