

## **Masterclass ‘Rich and Poor in Societies Past and Present’ with Professor Guido Alfani**

The Centre for Historical Research, University of Groningen, in collaboration with the N.W. Posthumus Institute, is organising a masterclass by Professor Guido Alfani on the topic of rich and poor in societies past and present on Wednesday 12 February 2025.

Professor Guido Alfani is professor of Economic History at Bocconi University, Milan. His areas of interest include economic history and demography, with a focus on long-term dynamics, on economic inequality and social mobility, and on the history of epidemics, pandemics and famine. He is currently a member of the scientific committee of the Datini Foundation, of the international advisory board of the Posthumus Institute-Research School for Economic and Social History and of the board of trustees of the European Historical Economics Society (EHES). He is a member of the editorial board of *Explorations in Economic History* and of the *European Review of Economic History*.

The Masterclass focuses on his latest book, *As Gods Among Men: A History of the Rich in the West* (Princeton, 2023), in which he shows how the rich historically justified themselves by helping their societies in times of crisis, why they no longer do, and what that may mean for social stability. We offer (Research) Masters students, PhD candidates and post-docs the opportunity to present their research to Professor Alfani by engaging with his book from the perspective of their own research. In particular, we welcome papers in the fields of economic and social inequality, distribution and concentration of wealth, social mobility, poverty and charity, and the conflation of political and economic interests.

Please send paper proposals of max 250 words to the organisers (Arie van Steensel, a.van.steensel@rug.nl, and Bart Danon, b.danon@rug.nl) by 16 December 2024. Full papers (max. 5000 words) should be submitted by 29 January 2025 to provide Professor Alfani with sufficient time to read the papers before the meeting. Papers will also be circulated to all the participants.



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