

Utrecht FRESH Meeting 2025: Empire and Economic Development

Hosted by Utrecht University

Friday, February 28

Location: Kromme Nieuwegracht 80 1.06

- 09:30 – 10:00 Coffee and Welcome
- 10:00 – 10:30 Merchants and Empire: Barings Bank and the Atlantic Slave Trade (Arina Zarei, University of Leeds)
- 10:30 – 11:00 The Legacy of Rubber: Long-Term Effects of Colonial Experience in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Adrià Mateu Romero, Mannheim University)
- 11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break**
- 11:30 – 12:00 From British Raj to Licence Raj: Trade Disruption and the Rise of the Industrial Lobby in India (Björn Brey, Norwegian School of Economics)
- 12:00 – 12:30 Friends or Rivals? Social Capital and Upward Mobility in Colonial Schools (Cyril Thomson, University of Bologna)
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break**
- 14:00 – 14:30 A Millennium of (Un)Change: Lending Interest Rates and Money Supply in China, 618-1911 (Yang-Yang Liu, London School of Economics)
- 14:30 – 15:00 The Sweet and Bitter Divide: Commodity Exports and Wage Inequality in Colonial Java (Pim de Zwart, Wageningen University and Research)
- 15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break**
- 15:30 – 16:00 Colonial Institutions and Economic Transformations: Evidence from the Business System of British Cyprus 1878-1960 (Evangelia Matthopoulou, Bank of Cyprus)
- 16:00 – 16:30 The French Loan: Funding Development and Colonialism through the Tagus River Bridge Project 1960-67 (Henrique Oliveira, NOVA University of Lisbon)
- 16:30 – 17:00 Coffee break**
- 17:00 – 18:00 Keynote: Tirthankar Roy (London School of Economics)
- Building a State in Eighteenth-Century India: The Debate on Permanent Settlement*
- from 19:00 Conference Dinner at Djakarta**

