

CALL FOR PAPERS

Global inequality and poverty since 1800: evidence, analysis and data sources

University of Sussex 27/8 September 2013.

This workshop is hosted by the ESRC-funded **British Living Standards** project at the University of Sussex (<http://www.britishlivingstandards.sussex.ac.uk/>). The intention is to gather together leading contributors to the study of the rise in living standards since 1800, with a special focus on evidence from survey data on the distribution of income among households. Three factors are the proximate determinants of the path of *per capita* incomes, and poverty rates in particular, in the period:

- First, the major part of the demographic transition, in particular large *declines in total fertility*, occurred in the middle of this period, resulting in a decline in the dependency ratio.
- Secondly, *average real wages rose* manyfold.
- Thirdly, there is the *path of economic inequality*, which apparently declined for perhaps the first 70 years of the 20th century, so the poor were, by and large, included in the improvement of living standards.

For this workshop we seek empirical papers that shed light upon the paths of fertility, infant mortality, real wages and household income inequality for any of the industrial countries of Western Europe and North America. Especially welcome are papers that exploit new data sets, but, of course innovative uses of known data sources are also welcome

Papers could be comparative or based on data from a single country. All of these phenomena were to some extent international, since similarly-timed changes occurred in many countries. There were also domestic policy and institutional changes. The emergence of state welfare is an example. In most countries there were changes in state education, health sector provision, health insurance and unemployment insurance. Of course, international and domestic causes interacted. The availability of newly-recovered household-level data sets allows refined measurement of the changes in living standards as well as offering new ways to assess the contributions of these causes.

For each proposed paper please send us a one-page abstract by 30th June 2012.

Speakers based in Europe will be able to reclaim reasonable travel and accommodation expenses. North America-based contributors should contact us about the assistance we can provide. Please do not hesitate to circulate this call for papers as widely as possible. Contact for paper proposals and practical matters: Andrew NEWELL, a.t.newell@sussex.ac.uk.

