Jahrbuch für Wirtschaftsgeschichte (JWG) 2004/2:

Märkte im vorindustriellen Europa

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I. Abhandlungen und Studien

Sheilagh Ogilvie, Women and Labour Markets in Early Modern Germany

Abstract

Pre-industrial women appear frequently in qualitative sources offering their labour on the market. Yet we have little quantitative sense of the prevalence, sectoral composition, or other characteristics of pre-industrial female labour market participation. This article seeks to fill this gap by analysing a database of gendered work patterns, a cross-sectional 'soul-table' of livelihood sources, and a rich collection of qualitative sources for a region of pre-industrial Germany. It finds that female labour market participation was remarkably high, but was concentrated in a very few sectors. Women's market labour was thus at once economically significant and severely constrained. The article concludes by assessing whether the constraints on female labour market participation were primarily technological, institutional, or cultural in nature.

Luca Mocarelli, Wages and the Labour Market in the Building Trade in 18th Century Milan

Abstract

The paper examines markets in the preindustrial era using the example of one of the most important economic activities in the cities of the ancien regime, the building trades. After some introductory remarks of a methodological nature on different ways of approaching the topic of markets the paper examines the development of the building trades in Milan during the Age of Enlightenment. It first considers the question of demand, both public and private, and then it deals with various aspects of supply, including the big contractors, the most important foremen, and the motley work force they employed. The final part deals with the way salaries were made up, which provides an important key to understanding how the labour market in the building trades functioned in 18th century Milan. The first features that emerge from this inquiry into the Milanese building trades in the 18th century enable us to understand that opportunities already existed or were created for the introduction of organisational solutions linked to the market even within these pre-industrial economic and social relationships-solutions that were highly efficient in comparison to the technological and productive organisation. It would seem that, in the more advanced urban economic systems of the early modern era (like Milan's), market mechanisms had penetrated deeply and market circulation, both in goods and people, had already reached a high level.

Laurence Fontaine, Die Zirkulation des Gebrauchten im vorindustriellen Europa

Abstract

The essay questions the scientific desinterest for second-hand circulations and examines the diversity of actors and modalities which, from local to international levels, animates those circulations in Preindustrial Europe. Taking the example of Paris in 18th century, The second part of this essay analyses the informal economy underlying those circulations looking at places, actors brokers and reasons. If everyone was part of this economy, pawnbrokers and women were the main actors. The police archives and the writers of the time reveal the diversity of the women living from second-hand circulations. The importance of this alternative economy makes us question the shifting boundaries between money and

merchandise, legality and illegality and explains the immediate success of the parisian montde-piete created in 1777. The third part of this essay questions the relations in second-hand circulations among gift, market and charity. It considers how auction, market and collecting articulated social hierarchies, sociabilities and identities.

Rainer Beck, Lemonihändler. Welsche Händler und die Ausbreitung der Zitrusfrüchte im frühneuzeitlichen Deutschland

Abstract

Italian citrus peddlers called "Lemonihändler" moved strongly into German markets during the 17th century-a move accompanied by conflicts with local merchants. Using the dynamic market form of peddling they opened new markets for lemons, oranges and citrons, servicing a growing demand for fruits that were already known in the North but relatively expensive. The career of the "Lemonihändler" was linked to a significant transformation of European tastes and consumption patterns. In a process that paralleled the consumer and cultural innovations that accompanied the adoption of colonial products like coffee, sugar and tea, a similar internal European assimilation process took place over the course of the early modern period as the citrus fruits of the Mediterranean and Iberia conquered Germany and other northern countries. Like other novelties, citrus fruits established themselves first as prestigious luxuries and objects of fashion, but accompanied by falling prices they had already begun their slow transformation from luxury goods to "decencies" in the 17th century.

Markus Cerman, Bodenmärkte und ländliche Wirtschaft in vergleichender Sicht: England und das östliche Mitteleuropa im Spätmittelalter

Abstract

Research on the economic history of England in the later Middle Ages has increasingly undermined the argument of Malthusian approaches about a static and inflexible rural economy, exposed to demographic development as the "prime mover". Based on detailed studies on the degree of "commercialization", the medieval foundations of early modern economic development have instead received more attention. In this context, the analysis of the role of rural credit and in particular of land markets forms a crucial element. The paper refers to these results and to possible explanations for the regional diversity, which characterize the integration of land markets. Contrary to Malthusian reasoning, land markets could offer an opportunity for the peasantry - in particular for cottagers and smallholders - to secure their subsistence against rising economic pressures and harvest failure. Turning to empirical examples of central and eastern Europe, the study assesses the framework of the establishment of rural land markets until the early sixteenth century. Particular emphasis is given to a possible fragmentation of land markets and to the significance of areas outside the open field land of peasant holdings, such as common land or clearance and previously unsettled areas, for independent land transactions. These areas represented an important element of flexibility in rural land markets and together with economic factors influenced the establishment of sub-peasant strata. The study emphasizes the variety of conditions that could determine the formation of rural land markets and highlights the scope for independent and flexible land transfers. The results of this first step of analysis suggest that land markets may have represented an important element of flexibility in the rural economy of late medieval central and eastern Europe.