

Abstracts, Classifications and Authors

I.

Josef Ehmer: Alter und Arbeit in der Geschichte / Ageing and Labour throughout History

Abstract

This article is an introduction of this special volume on work over the life course. The first part presents some reflections on the meaning of work for the social construction of the life course in European history, and discusses results as well as desiderata of historical research. The second part provides a brief introduction of each individual chapter and puts them into context.

JEL-Codes¹: J13, J14, J26, J82, N33, N34; Keywords: life course, labour force participation, ageing, child labour, retirement

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Hermann Zeitlhofer: Arbeit und Alter in ländlichen Gesellschaften der Frühen Neuzeit. Die Erwerbstätigkeit im Alter zwischen eigenem Besitz und den Zwängen einer „Ökonomie des Auskommens“ / Labour and Old Age in Early Modern Rural Societies: Occupational Activities of the Elderly between the Self-Employment of Real Estate Owners and the Economy of Makeshifts of the Poor

Abstract

Despite the growing interest historians have expressed in old age and ageing in recent decades, our knowledge of the labour force participation of elderly people in pre-industrial times is still very limited. This is due to the fact that historians have, for far too long, discussed ‘old age’ mostly in terms of ‘providing for the elderly’ whilst more or less ignoring the wide range of activities the elderly were engaged in as well as the high rate of life-long labour force participation before the late 19th century.

This study, on the one hand, discusses the social position of ‘retirees’ (former rural house owners), a social position often seen as an archetype for modern ‘retirement’. Numerous examples are presented – from the regional case study of South Bohemia as well as from other parts of Central Europe – showing that pre-modern retirees quite often continued to

1 Siehe JEL-classification unter: http://www.aeaweb.org/journal/jel_class_system.html.

work in many different ways. In many cases inter vivos transfers of land and houses were not undertaken in order to allow for retirement from all activities but rather to facilitate a change in the individual's own main focus of activity from one occupation to another. In a second part of the study the economy of makeshifts of the poor is analysed. Using rare sources from several South Bohemian parishes enables us to document the importance of the mixed economy of the poorest section of the rural elderly.

JEL-Codes: I3, J14, J26, J62; Keywords: Old Age, Retirement, Mixed Economy of Welfare, Labour Force Participation of the Elderly

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Stefan Ruppert: Neues „Jugendrecht“ und Fabrikschutzgesetzgebung im Vormärz. Zur Bedeutung von Normativität für die Entstehung der Lebensphase Jugend / New youth legislation and laws for the protection of minors working in factories in Vormärz (1815-1848). The significance of normativity for the emergence of youth as a life phase

Abstract

In this paper the author looks at the significance of laws and decrees for the emergence of youth as a proper period of life in the 19th century. On the basis of selected examples from the fields of legal capacity, school legislation and military law, the 19th century legislation

for the protection of minors working in factories is placed in a larger context of a new “Youth Legislation”. Thus, the normative definition of youth as a life period has become the precondition for the shift of work done by minors to be placed in the period of gainful employment.

JEL-Codes: K14, K 20, K23, K 31, K36

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Gerd Hardach: Altersarbeit, Alterseinkommen und Altersstruktur in Deutschland seit dem neunzehnten Jahrhundert / Retirement, retirement income and age structure in Germany since the nineteenth century

Abstract

One of the most prominent features of modern German society since the late nineteenth century has been the emergence of retirement as a distinctive phase of life. This article focuses on three key aspects: the evolution of retirement as the last phase of the life course; the creation of a multi-pillar system of retirement income; and the age structure of German society.

Traditionally, the life course of most men and women was comprised of a short period of education, a long working life and, if life was not ended by a premature death, a brief period of disability. A new life course model was initiated when a social security pension system was established in Germany in 1889. The social security pension system and state pension schemes were conceived to provide disability or old age pensions for a short period of disability at the end of the life course, when people were physically or mentally unable to work. With the evolution of the welfare state, the last phase of the life course came to be redefined not as disability, but as retirement: a period of leisure earned by a productive working life. Disability might still wait at an advanced old age, but before that many years of retirement should be enjoyed in good health. Concurrent with the new life course model, the labour force participation of the older population declined.

Retirement requires income. In Germany, the social security pension system and state pensions still provide the bulk of retirement income. In recent years, however, the government has encouraged a change to a multi-pillar system where public transfers from government or social security are supplemented by corporate pension systems and income from assets,

especially from life insurance plans. Families still provide essential services for the care of the elderly.

The rise in life expectancy and the decline of the birth rate have resulted in an ageing German society. As the population ages, the maintenance of an adequate standard of living for the older population requires an increasing share of the nation's income. The multi-pillar system enhances income security in old age, but in the long run adequate retirement incomes depend on full employment and economic growth. An unresolved issue is the future of family caregiving in an ageing society. If more people opt for a life without children, there will, in a not too distant future, be a growing number of elderly people who cannot rely on family members to take care of dependent or demented relatives. The consequences are either vastly increased expenditures for professional care or a reduced standard of caregiving.

JEL-Codes: N34; Keywords: Employment, Income, Demography, Germany 1800-

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Marjatta Rahikainen: Zu alt für den Arbeitsmarkt. Arbeitslosenrenten als Rationalisierungsmaßnahme in Finnland in den 1980er Jahren in einer historischen Perspektive / Too old for the labour market: Unemployment pensions as a rationalization measure in the 1980s in Finland – a historical perspective

Abstract

This article argues that welfare schemes, which served to remove elderly workers from the labour force around the 1970s, foreshadowed the breakdown of the world of work in which permanent employment contracts and secure jobs until old-age retirement were the norm. As the global economy put heavier pressure on profitability and all sectors became subject to international shareholder scanning, the policy of 'lifelong jobs' began to give way to flexible labour throughout Europe. This change is discussed here using the empirical case of the Finnish unemployment pension schemes providing for the elderly labour force. The article asks how Finnish employers made use of unemployment pensions in the 1970s and 1980s in order to get rid of older employees. A large Finnish corporation, in particular its female labour force, are discussed in detail. Based on the working careers of about 100 women (manual workers and salaried employees) this article examines who kept their jobs and who were dismissed and pensioned off on unemployment pensions. The examples of women who succeeded in keeping their jobs at the time of mass-dismissals imply that careers (internal

labour market) and occupational sociability (social capital) may be equally as valuable for women as they are for men.

JEL-Codes: J26, J23, J65, I38; Keywords: unemployment, retirement, age discrimination, women workers, female employees, internal labour market for women

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Eckart Bomsdorf: Arbeitskräftepotential und demografischer Wandel. Modellrechnungen für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland bis 2050 / Potential labour force and Demographic Changes. Projections for Germany until 2050

Abstract

The debate concerning demographic changes in Germany is mostly lead by their implications to social security mechanisms. The development of the labour market is addressed in extended discussions only.

This paper provides a draft of demographic changes in Germany up to the year 2050 and quantifies their impact on the potential labour force. The development of the population size and the number of people of working age is analysed and the dependency of these parameters on the components of the population is quantified by regression analysis. Finally, one possible future path for the working population is proposed. This is not only done with the given "status quo" assumptions in mind, but also with regard to changes in the labour force participation rate as well as to the already adopted increase of the legal retirement age (67 years).

In addition, detailed results concerning possible future developments in the volume and proportion of people of working age in the population as well as the working population itself are provided. It is shown that the raise of the legal pension age as well as an increase in female labour participation can help to make up for negative demographic changes concerning the working population.

JEL-Codes: J11, J01, J2; Keywords: demographic change, projection, potential labour force, retirement age

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Frank Schulz-Nieswandt: „Alterslast“ und Sozialpolitik / The burden of ageing and social policy

Abstract

The paper discusses aspects and dimensions of the public debate about the burden of ageing within the context of public social policy. With references to cultural history and cultural anthropology the analysis puts the emphasis on the social grammar of social norms, cultural codes and cognitive patterns relating the pictures of ageing and intergenerational relationships. Central categories are reciprocity and moral economy. The basic result of the analysis is the social fact of a deep ambivalence embedded into the pictures of ageing and the grammar of intergenerational relatedness. There is no evidence to support theories of linear (increasing or decreasing) trends in the social status and social inclusion of the elderly and old age in the long-run-perspective of social history. The discussions are integrated by a philosophical anthropological perspective of the ageing and the life-span cycle.

JEL-Codes: H55, I18, I30, J14, J18, Z1, Z13; Keywords: ageing, demographic change, social policy, gerontology, semiotics, cultural anthropology, philosophical anthropology, reciprocity, moral economy, generations

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II.

Stephanie Degler/Jochen Streb: Die verlorene Erzeugungsschlacht: Die national-sozialistische Landwirtschaft im Systemvergleich / The lost battle for production. Nazi agricultural policy in long-term perspective

Abstract

To evaluate the achievements and failures of National Socialists' agrarian policy we compute and compare average annual growth rates of value added, factor inputs and total factor productivity of German agriculture for the three periods 1925-1929/32 (Weimar Republic), 1933-1938 (Third Reich), and 1950-1959 (Federal Republic of Germany). This long-term quantitative analysis shows that National Socialists' agrarian policy considerably slowed down modernization by decreasing growth rates of both technical progress and mechanization.

JEL-Codes: N54, O13; Keywords: agricultural policy, battle for production, productivity, modernization debate, Third Reich

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Dirk Hackenholz: Die Bitterfelder elektrochemischen Werke (1893-1945). Standortwahl und regionale Folgen / The Electrochemical Plants of Bitterfeld (1893-1945). Selection of Location and regional Implications

In 1894 two companies decided to set up their new electrochemical operations in the Bitterfeld region. Both companies recognized Bitterfeld as the ideal location. A combination of factors contributed to this assessment. A decisive factor, though, was the availability of the cheapest lignite in Germany. It was the coal which attracted an additional chemical company to the region the following year. Together, the three businesses laid the foundation for the

domination of the chemical industry in Bitterfeld for over 100 years. The new guiding sector – essentially under the stewardship of the IG Farben group from 1925 onwards – provided formative impulses [forward and backward linkages] to other sectors, established before and after the chemical industry came to Bitterfeld. The mining industry and production of electricity as well as the construction of heavy machinery and aircraft grew parallel to chemical industry. The region embarked upon a path of development which is evident even today.

JEL-Codes: N13, N14, N44, N63, N64, N83, N84, N93, N94, O12, O18, O40, P12, R11; Keywords: Electrochemical industry, Forward and backward linkages (Kopplungseffekte), Choice of location, Advantage of location, Bitterfeld, IG-Farben, CFGE (Chemische Fabrik Griesheim Elektron AG), Walther Rathenau.

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Peter Borscheid und Kai Umbach: Zwischen Globalisierung und Protektionismus – Die internationale Versicherungswirtschaft vor dem Ersten Weltkrieg / Between globalisation and protectionism – The international insurance industry before World War I

Abstract

Before World War I the modern insurance industry had spread out across the globe from Europe going hand in hand with the extension of world trade. This expansion was accompanied by the transfer of European institutions as well as the standardization of contract conditions, legal maxims and legal contents.

The rivalry between European and North American enterprises led to a harmonization of insurance technology and insurance products whilst a rise in governmental insurance supervisory offices affected a standardization of corporate management principles.

In contrast to largely increased cross-border interactions protectionistic counter-forces arose at the end of the 19th century. They caused a temporary setback to globalization in some parts of the world, however, in the long run they laid the cornerstone for an advanced globalization process.

JEL-Codes: F23; G22; N20; N80; Keywords: globalisation, insurance industry

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Heinz Grossekketter: 40 Jahre Stabilitäts- und Wachstumsgesetz. Theoretische Analyse und statistische Evaluation einer verfassungsökonomischen Innovation / 40 Years of the German Stability and Growth-Law. Theoretical analysis and statistical evaluation of an innovation in the economic constitution

Abstract

This paper considers the impact over time of the German “Economic Growth and Stability Law”, which had its 40th anniversary on the 6th June, 2007. After looking at the history and development of the law and the associated expectations, the intended functions are analysed critically. Inappropriate use of the law is analysed from the perspective of public choice, as well as the insufficient consideration of reaction delays and, above all, the underestimation of the role of expectations. Furthermore, attention is paid to the fact that planning and coordination problems have not been satisfactorily resolved. A comparison with a control group from major European countries is then used to determine whether one can talk meaningfully in the German context of particular success stories in countering fluctuations in business cycles, the development of governmental debt and of legal objectives with respect to “price

level stability”, “high levels of employment”, “current account equilibrium” and “satisfactory economic growth”. It becomes evident that government debt and unemployment have risen more in Germany and that growth rates have declined more sharply than in the countries on which the comparison is based. After discussing the hypotheses for explaining the weak German growth, growth accounting demonstrates that changes in the demographic structure, the substantial shortening of working hours and early retirement, blunders in the reunification process and an aggressive wage policy on the part of trade unions, particularly in the seventies, are the main reasons for low growth. This wage policy was triggered by the expectation of the trade unions that, with the aid of the Stability and Growth Law, the state would ensure full employment. In reality, however, the wage policy led to a reduced rate of investment and growth. This process could only be terminated by the restrained wage policy of the past few years.

JEL-Codes: E61, E62, E65, H62; Keywords: Economic Analysis of Law; Constitutional Economics; Fiscal Policy in Germany (1967-2007); German Stability and Growth-Law

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Harald Wixforth und Dieter Ziegler: Die Expansion der Reichswerke „Hermann Göring“ in Europa / The expansion of the Reichswerke “Hermann Göring” in Europe

Abstract

This article examines the ways and means by which the German state-controlled concern Reichswerke Hermann Göring expanded into the occupied mining areas in Austria, East Central Europe and Western Europe before and during the Second World War. Only about five years after its foundation in 1937 the Reichswerke had already become the largest industrial conglomeration for heavy industry and armaments in Europe. Despite certain differ-

ences in time (before the War and during the War) and region (East Central Europe and Western Europe) the expansion of the Reichswerke is characterized in the first place by blackmail and theft. In this respect it served as a prototype for other state and party controlled enterprises and it acts as a model to partly explain the brutalization of the business practices performed by private businesses in occupied Europe during the Second World War.

JEL-Codes: D21, F54, N64

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III.

Gerard van Gorp: Proto-industrialization and world trade of textiles in Dutch Brabant, 1620-1820

Abstract

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries there was extensive trade in proto-industrial woollen and linen textiles, produced in the low-wage countryside of Dutch Brabant, with world markets, mainly via Amsterdam. Thanks to the support from Amsterdam, the States General of the Dutch Republic facilitated this trade by lifting import duties for a number of towns and villages in Brabant. The proto-industrial production and trade made a substantial contribution to the Dutch economy. Counting the number of looms gives some idea of the production capability. Proto-industry in Brabant was not founded by entrepreneurs in Holland

and was not a subsidiary of the textile industry in Holland, as has previously been suggested. Only a limited combination of agriculture and cottage industry was found. Local guilds did not hinder the proto-industry but supported it. Trade and production fell at the beginning of the nineteenth century because of war, but the linen industry recovered around 1818 and the woollen textiles after 1820.

JEL-Codes: N63, N73, N93; Keywords: proto-industry, Dutch republic, Brabant, woollen cloth, linen

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IV.

Ray Stokes: Die Zukunft der Unternehmensgeschichte / The Future of Business History

Abstract

This paper provides an assessment of the themes and approaches that are emerging in the field of business history. It starts with an overview of the most important developments, themes and characteristics of the discipline from its earliest days into the 1990s. It then explores intellectual, social and economic trends which, since the 1980s, have influenced the direction of business history as a profession and discipline. Finally, it analyses likely future topics, approaches and bases for cooperation with other disciplines, not least owing to prevailing theories in the social sciences which are dependent on business historiography. In this environment, business history can flourish as a discipline as long as business historians keep in mind that they can maintain an independent identity and make a positive scholarly contribution only to the extent that they remain true historians who pursue inquiry independently.

JEL-Codes: N01

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