Research Proposals/Abstracts, Pro Futura Scientia XIV



KIERON BARCLAY

The Impact of the Family of Origin on Health Inequalities: A Global, Historical, Multigenerational, and Comparative Perspective

This project examines the importance of the family for health inequalities. The family of origin is enormously important for shaping the trajectories that each of us follow in life, but none of us chooses which family we are born into. In this project I use data across low-middle- and high-income countries over time to examine the extent to which the family of origin influences health outcomes, how the importance of the family varies across contexts, and how it has varied over time. I also examine what macro-, meso-, and micro-level factors explain these differences in the influence of the family across contexts and over time, and how within-family determinants of health vary across contexts and over time. A further dimension of this project is to examine the multigenerational impact of family sociodemographic and socioeconomic characteristics on descendant health.

ARE SKEIE HERMANSEN

How Work Organizations Shape Ethnic Stratification across Immigrant Generations: Assimilation, Segregation, and Workplace Contexts (OrgMIGRANT)

Large-scale immigration has introduced salient new dimensions of ethnic stratification in Europe's rich, liberal democracies—successful incorporation of disadvantaged, newcomer immigrant minorities now poses a critical challenge for the 21st century. Despite a vast literature on labor market inequalities between immigrants and natives, the great majority of these studies is based on surveys of individual workers and yield limited knowledge about the role of firms and workplace contexts. Still, there has been no systematical attempt to exploit linked employer-employee (LEE) data to assess how work organizations are linked to economic assimilation across immigrant generations. My project brings a new organizational focus on workplaces as key sites where contemporary dynamics of ethnic stratification unfold at the micro level. The objective of OrgMIGRANT is to demonstrate how work organizations both contribute to and reflect changing patterns of ethnic stratification across immigrant generations. I will study workplace segregation and probe whether, how, and why ethnic boundary salience and immigrant-native inequalities vary by organizational context, net of worker traits. To this end, I will use economy-wide LEE data from Norway, supplemented by comparisons with selected high-income countries (i.e., Sweden, Denmark, Germany, France, Canada, and the United States), and these world-class data allow me to situate workers inside workplaces, enabling the study of the organizational context of immigrant-native labor market inequalities in high detail using state-of-the-art panel data techniques.

LINN HOLMBERG

Dictionary Craze: Transforming Knowledge across Early Modern Europe

This project will explore the 'dictionary craze' that swept across Europe in the eighteenth century and investigate its role in transforming knowledge on a transnational level. In less than a hundred years, the dictionary format went from being a linguistic tool for a small scholarly elite to becoming a platform for all kinds of vernacular knowledges, compiled by a great variety of actors, and consumed by a broad audience. As a renegotiation of *who* knew *what* and *how*, this transformative process provoked various reactions and emotions in early modern societies. Using 135 years of international press material – published in France, England, Holland, Germany, Denmark, and Sweden – the project will ground the development of the dictionary craze in time and space, examine the fears, hopes, conflicts, and concerns that it raised about knowledge, and investigate its consequences across and within European societies. In doing so, the project will historicize current-day debates about global flows of information and conflicting meanings of knowledge, opinion, and scientific authority. At the same time, it will provide concrete insights into a transnational process of transforming a system of knowing in a pivotal period in European intellectual and cultural history.

CHRISTOPHER MECKSTROTH

General Peace Treaties and the Invention of International Order, c. 1450-1914

The project reads the series of general peace treaties from Westphalia in 1648 through Vienna in 1815 as core texts in the history of political thought. These treaties are usually studied in the history of international law, diplomacy, or international relations, where debates often focus on whether or not they inaugurated a world of sovereign nation states. But this obscures one of their most important innovations: starting with Westphalia, the model of the general treaty congress invented an entirely new source of legitimacy for a European legal order, one that no longer depended upon the inherited authority of canon and civil law under the Church and Holy Roman Empire. This new confederal order drew its legitimacy instead from mutual promises among powers who recognised each other as co-authors of a shared legal order in the very act of promising. Historians of political thought have devoted great attention to questions of legitimacy and the authority of law, but they have largely ignored this distinctive model because they have rarely considered these epochal treaties among their sources. This project brings together discussions in the history of international law, international relations, and the history of political thought. It draws out a distinctive model of international order that helps us rethink major historical debates over sovereignty, law, and the authority of interstate institutions, debates which continue unabated, in many ways, even today.

IVAN MIROSHNIKOV

The Abandoned Dialects: A Study of the Manuscripts and Literature in Fayoumic and Bohairic Coptic

This project is focused on the literatures surviving in Bohairic and Fayoumic, studying them in their own right, not as a mere footnote in the history of Sahidic literature. The present project has three interrelated objectives. The *first* objective of this project is to produce a database of literary manuscripts in Fayoumic and Bohairic. The *second* objective is to produce new editions of those texts that are either hitherto unpublished, or whose earlier editions no longer comply with present-day academic standards. The *third* objective is to use the material contained in the database and the newly prepared editions to produce a comprehensive study of the Fayoumic and Bohairic literary manuscripts, as well as the literatures that these manuscripts bear witness to.