

EC207 Irish Economic History

2014/2015

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Administrative issues

- This is an elective module for students in 2nd Arts (BA and BA denominated degrees), students of the Higher Diploma in Economic Science, and for visiting/international students.
- Please note that students may have a choice between EC207 Irish Economic History or EC219 Comparative Economic Thought, but may not choose both. This applies to all students. Even though the lectures are not necessarily scheduled at the same time, the semester examinations will be.
- Unfortunately, 2BA1 students taking other Arts subjects in Groups 1 and 2, for timetabling reasons, are further constrained, and do not effectively have a choice in their 'elective' economics modules. Those in Group 1 must take EC207 in Semester I and EC247 in Semester II; students taking other subjects in Group 2 must take EC219 in Semester I and EC259 in Semester II. Details and links on page 11 of the undergraduate student handbook for economics at NUI Galway, available from:

www.nuigalway.ie/economics/current

Module short description

Economic history has experienced a revival of interest in recent times, as the global crisis/recession has prompted policy-makers, academics, and citizens, to seek lessons from the past, and to attribute some of the origins of the crisis itself to the 'forgetting' of economic history. Ireland's current economic problems have also prompted reflections on the need to understand our historical experiences. Economic history—and Ireland's especially—irrespective of its contemporary relevance, can fascinate in its own terms. The study of economic history can 'round out' a standard economics education with context, an awareness of the fragility of evidence, and a sense of perspective. There has never been a better time to study economic history.

This module introduces you to key themes, concepts, and debates in Irish economic history, from the 18th century to date. The module explores quantitative historical economic data for Ireland, relating data to economic theory. So while the module is not technical, neither is it purely descriptive/narrative. The module complements other intermediate modules in economics, drawing upon both microeconomic and macroeconomic concepts.

Lectures introduce you to key concepts, events, and data in Irish economic history. Lectures also invite you explore the required readings in depth. That in-depth reading is vital for success in this module. While I will sketch some of broad outline of Irish political history in earlier topics, if this is new to you, you will need to read general short histories of Ireland, and I can provide some guidance on this in class.

Topics

- 1. Introduction and overview**
 - 1.1. Approaches to Irish economic history
 - 1.2. Narrative: a basic chronology of Irish economic history from c.1700
- 2. The Irish economy in the 'long 18th century' 1691-1815**
 - 2.1. The institutional and political context
 - 2.2. Assessing patterns of change
 - 2.3. Explaining crises—and growth
- 3. The Pre-Famine Economy (1815-1845)**
 - 3.1. A Malthusian economy?
 - 3.2. Assessing living standards and economic performance
 - 3.3. Debating the impact of the Union, and the Industrial Revolution
- 4. The Great Famine (1845-49)**
 - 4.1. Interpretations and debates
 - 4.2. The evolution of the crisis
 - 4.3. Evaluating policy responses
- 5. Ireland, globalisation and convergence**
 - 5.1. Integration in the 19th century Atlantic Economy
 - 5.2. Convergence and growth in the 20th century
- 6. The economics of demographic change in Ireland**
 - 6.1. Basic demographic concepts and patterns since 1850
 - 6.2. Explaining demographic change

Readings & Blackboard

A reading list is below. A small number of readings may be added during the Semester. All the core readings will be available to download from the Blackboard site for this course. I'll generally post slides on Blackboard also. It's important you complete your registration fully as soon as you can, so that you have access to Blackboard: this typically happens within 24 hours of completing registration.

International students and Blackboard

We have been asked to advise international students to complete and drop in their Module Registration Forms to 1st floor Aras Uí Chathail, before the September 22nd deadline, after which they should automatically also be given access to their chosen modules on Blackboard.

Assessment

In addition to the end of Semester Examination, students will be required to submit a term paper which will account for 30% of the marks in the course. This will be a substantial piece of work, involving a short paper, based on your study of certain online documents, namely parliamentary papers from the 18th and/or 19th centuries dealing with the Irish economy. It will be an individual term paper, but it will likely prove useful to organise small groups to enable you to co-operate on the technical aspects.

I'll provide more details on this in Week 3.

Contact

My email address is aidan.kane@nuigalway.ie and my office is Room 206 in the St. Anthony's part of the Cairnes Building, on the north campus. It's best to speak with me after class, if possible, or email me if you wish to set up an appointment.

The handbook for undergraduate students in economics at NUI Galway is available from

www.nuigalway.ie/economics/current

My own research relates mainly to the construction of historical databases related to Ireland. I've begun to make these available online at

www.duanaire.ie

Check out the detailed database of Irish 18th public finances, which allows to browse, download and chart over a century of this data. More will follow this year, and I'll naturally refer to some of this data from time to time.

Readings

(All readings will be available via Blackboard: it is likely one or two readings will be added to each topic as the semester proceeds)

For Topic 1:

Haughton, J. (2008). Historical background. In O'Hagan, J. W. and Newman, C., editors, *The Economy of Ireland: National and Sectoral Policy Issues*, chapter 1, pages 2–28. Gill & Macmillan, Dublin, 10th edition.

Ó Gráda, C. (1997). Chronology. In *A Rocky Road: The Irish Economy since Independence*, chapter 1, pages 1–40. Manchester University Press, Manchester and New York.

O'Rourke, K. H. (2003). Ireland and the bigger picture. In Dickson, D. and Ó Gráda, C., editors, *Refiguring Ireland : Essays in honour of L M Cullen*, pages 342–355. Lilliput Press, Dublin.

For Topic 2:

Dickson, D. (2000). The economic base. In *New Foundations: Ireland 1660–1800*, chapter 4, pages 109–141. Irish Academic Press, Dublin, 2nd edition.

Bartlett, T. (2010). Ireland's long eighteenth century 1691-1830. In *Ireland: a History*, chapter 4, pages 143–266. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

For Topic 3:

Clark, G. (2007). The logic of the Malthusian economy. In *A farewell to alms: a brief economic history of the world*, chapter 1, pages 19–39. Princeton University Press, Princeton and Oxford.

Lee, J. J. (2008). Economy and society. In *The modernisation of Irish Society 1848–1918*, chapter 1, pages 1–36. Gill & Macmillan, Dublin

Ó Gráda, C. and Mokyr, J. (1988). Poor and getting poorer? Living standards in Ireland before the Famine. *Economic History Review*, 41(2):209–235.

McFalls, J. A., "Population: A Lively Introduction, 5th Edition," *Population Bulletin* 62, no. 1, Washington, DC, Population Reference Bureau, 2007.

For Topic 4:

Ó Gráda, C. (1995). The Great Hunger 1845—50. In *The Great Irish Famine*, chapter 2. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Donnelly, J. S. The Great Famine: Its Interpreters, Old and New, *History Ireland*, Vol. 1, No. 3 (Autumn, 1993), pp. 27-33

Donnelly, J. S. (2007) 'The Amended Poor Law and Mass Deaths 1847-51', chapter 5 of *The Great Irish Potato Famine*, Gloucestershire: Sutton Publishing.

For Topic 5:

Kane, A. (2010) Notes on "Globalisation and Convergence: Ireland's experience" (course notes for EC436.3 Ireland in the Global Economy). NUI Galway.

Williamson, J. G. (1994). Economic convergence: placing post-Famine Ireland in comparative perspective. *Irish Economic and Social History*, 21:1–27.

For Topic 6:

Guinnane, T. W. (1997). The vanishing Irish: Ireland's population from the Great Famine to the Great War. *History Ireland*, 5(2):32–36.

Guinnane, T. W. (1997). The Vanishing Irish: Households, Migration and the Rural Economy in Ireland 1850-1914. Princeton University Press, Princeton.

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Term paper

As already indicated, the term paper in this course will account for 30% of your marks in this course, with the Semester Exam accounting for the remainder. The main requirement for each student is a term paper of about 1,200 words on the following topic:

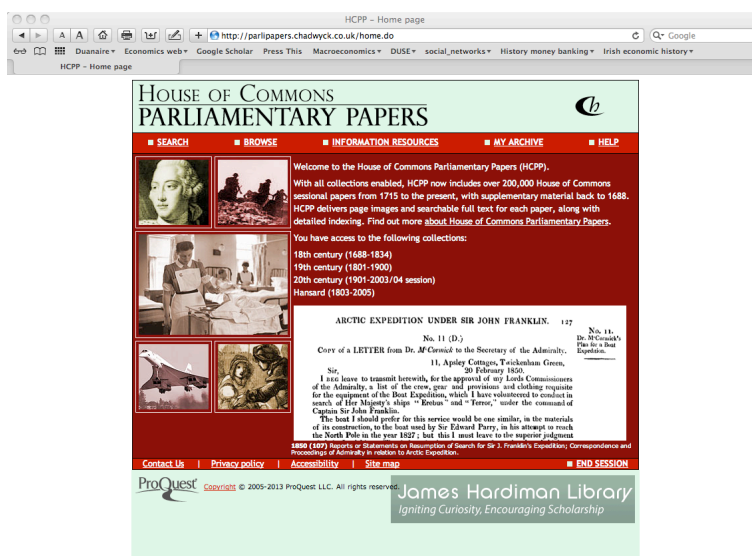
“Using the House of Commons Parliamentary Papers (HCPP) electronic resource to explore X”
—where X is any topic of your choosing in 19th century Irish economic history.

There are two deadlines:

Week 7 **Friday 17th October 2014:** submit a 1-page outline of your proposed paper
Week 11: **Friday 21nd November 2014:** submit your 1,200 word term paper

In both cases, you submit hard copy: I will not accept email submissions. More details on how to submit are below.

About the HCPP resource



The HCPP is an online resource, which comprises over 200,000 official documents generated for and by the (UK) House of Commons, some as far back as 1688. The James Hardiman Library at NUI Galway has an institutional subscription to this service, and you have full access to it, as an NUI Galway student. You can browse and search this archive, and download pdf versions of all the documents.

The web address for HCPP is:

<http://parlipapers.chadwyck.co.uk>

When you access this from a machine connected to the campus network, you can access all the features. Alternatively, if you're off-campus, you can get to it by logging into your student account via the Library's web site, and from there through the e-Knowledge system.¹

You are strongly advised to begin to familiarise yourself with this web site now.

As Ireland was part of the United Kingdom 1801-1922, a great deal of material of interest to Irish economic historians (and others) is to be found in this HCPP archive.

What's in HCPP?

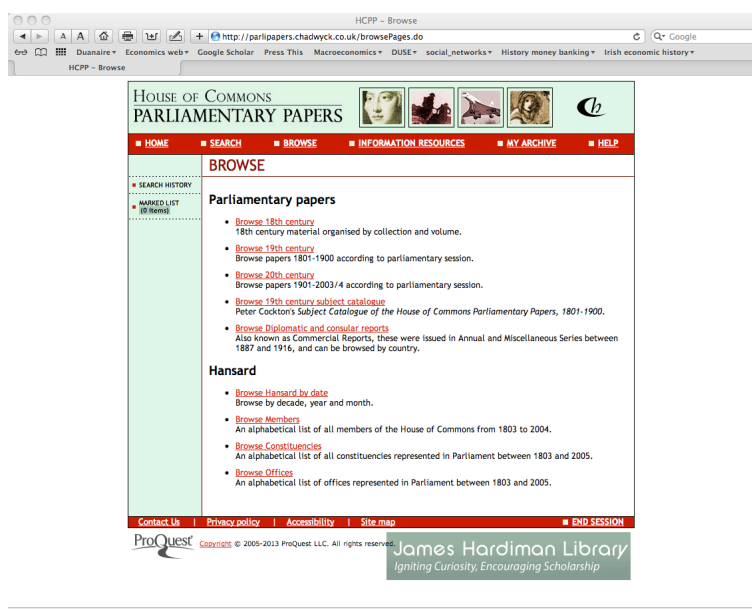
The main sorts of documents i.e., parliamentary papers, to be found on HCPP are:

- legislation and draft legislation,
- reports of commissions of inquiry (or parliamentary committees) often containing a vast amount of background information, including evidence given by witnesses,
- 'returns' (or statistical reports) of various types, some once-off, some regular,
- financial accounts of government bodies, taxation returns, debt statements

The topics covered range widely, over many aspects of society, the government and the economy, from military and police affairs, to agriculture and the land, to industry (including transport, communication, and banking/credit), social policy (e.g., hospitals, the "Poor Law"), public finances, both national and local, population (including e.g., vital statistics, census reports etc.), wages and prices, and international trade.

Start here!

A good starting point is to "Browse the 19th century subject catalogue" and explore the topic "Ireland" and its sub-topics on HCPP.



¹ The EPPI (Enhanced Parliamentary Papers for Ireland) site is an alternative web resource for this sort of material. This might be also useful to consult, particularly as the resolution of the documents there is often better than at HCPP, and it's accessible without logging in. On the other hand, the coverage is not as wide, and sometimes links to documents appear to be broken. EPPI is at <http://eppi.dippam.com>

Your term paper: some guidance

You should select one topic in 19th Century Irish economic history and focus your term paper on that topic, drawing upon a document (or a small set of documents, perhaps up to three) related to that topic, which you have found on the HCPP.

You might end up choosing three documents published in different years, or one larger document which covers a few years, for example.

You'll probably find it easier to explore HCCP first, and then decide on your theme/topic.

What should you write about in your term paper? A checklist:

- A key part of your paper is to simply **explain, as best you can, what's contained in the document(s) you have chosen**, and why they might be of interest to a study of your chosen theme in 19th century Irish economic history. As the semester and the course continues, and we cover more material, this 'why' bit should become a little easier to handle.
- Some of your discussion in the paper, apart from explaining something about the documents, might be to speculate a bit about **how the material they contain could be used in economic research**, or how the material throws light on economic conditions/policy in 19th century Ireland. Again, it should become clearer over the semester, as we do more economic history, how you can approach this. Your paper is not in itself a research paper, more like a preliminary report for such a paper.
- You may find it helpful to consult some of the references I've listed in the course outline for examples of how parliamentary papers (often the original printed versions) have been used in Irish economic history to date, and you can **refer to any such reading** you've done in your discussion, but the main focus should be on the HCPP documents themselves.
- In your paper, you'll need to **specify clearly which documents** you've chosen. The HCPP system will generate the citation i.e., document author and title, volume no., year, etc. and the 'durable URL' i.e., the permanent web address from which it can be accessed. You should list these citations (including the durable URL) in your reference list.
- Many of the documents on HCPP are 'statistical returns' or reports of commissions of inquiry, and these are potentially very good sources, because they will contain quantitative data, as well as background information. Your own term paper could reproduce and **discuss some of the data in the documents, by way of tables or graphs**.
- Naturally, it may be difficult at first, as you get used to HCPP, to know what you're looking for, and to understand the documents themselves: some after all, were written two centuries ago. So you might include in your term paper sections which simply **note questions or difficulties you've had with these sources**.

The 1 page hard copy outline

Please submit a 1 page hard copy outline of your proposed paper by Friday 17th October 2013.

I want from each student a general sense of their progress with this paper, including an indication of the document(s) selected. You can use the checklist above (or parts of it), for the term paper itself above to structure this outline.

I'll accept this outline in class the week of the deadline, or you can leave it in the assignments cabinet in the economics corridor, first floor, in the St Anthony's (i.e., the older part) of the Cairnes Building, to the north of the main campus. There will be a slot in that cabinet marked for this assignment.

I will not accept submissions by email. If you're not able to leave in your work in person, please arrange for someone else to do this on your behalf.

I will not give a formal grade for these '1 pagers', but I may restrict the maximum grade on the final version (e.g., to 40%) if I don't receive this outline from you at all, or late, or if your final version is not in some way related to this outline.

This exercise is subject to the University's Code of Conduct on plagiarism, of which you should make yourself aware.

Help along the way

I'll take some time in class to pick up on problems/questions people have with this as the semester progresses.

The Library staff will always try to be helpful if you have problems with any of these electronic resources, but **please don't burden them with basic issues you can sort for yourself**: you're welcome to let me know first if you need assistance with the technology and I'm very happy to address questions on the HCCP system in class or in person.

Submitting the final version

I'll make arrangements for you to submit the hard copy final version of the term paper in the Economics office in the week of the deadline above. You will be asked to sign for it, as it's part of your exam mark.

Next steps

Your best next steps on this are simply to begin exploring HCCP, particularly the 19th century subject catalogue as it relates to Ireland, and the associated topics and sub-topics. You might also run through a few searches (full-text) and have a go at downloading documents in pdf, which takes a few steps.

AK September 2014