

*Call for papers for an accepted Session at the World Economic History Congress in Stellenbosch*

**Post, Telegraph & Telephone and the Economic Impact of their Rise**

The 19th century saw the rise of modern communication and information exchange systems. The provision of universal service through the postal services, the domestic and international spread of the telegraph as well as the introduction of the Telephone revolutionized the exchange and spread of information. The new communication networks extended the reach of these services all over the world and strengthened the first wave of globalization.

The aim of this panel is to explore the role of these services in the emergence of modern economic growth. These publicly accessible means of communication affected not only trading arrangements, but played a vital role in the allocation and monitoring of capital and labor. Progress in Information technology enabled organizational and institutional developments underlying modern corporations. Governments as regulators and owners of postal and telecommunication services affected growth, technological progress and the spatial structures in their respective economies.

The session is not restricted to a particular geographical region; papers with a comparative approach are especially welcome. Although the intended time period is the long 19th century, studies from other areas will be considered as well. The following topics represent potential mechanisms through which communication services could have affected economic growth and development:

- Capital allocation and monitoring
- Business Organization and the emergence of networks
- Arbitrage and Market Integration
- Public Service and Public Finance
- Private and Public Monopolies
- International Technical and Political Cooperation
- Technological Progress and R&D
- Literacy and Human capital

If interested in participating please submit an abstract (or full paper if available) to Florian Ploeckl at [florian.ploeckl@economics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:florian.ploeckl@economics.ox.ac.uk) before 31.January 2012.