

The long-term evolution of Economic History: evidence from the top five field journals (1927-2017)

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ABSTRACT: The growing appeal of the long run perspective among economists and the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of the Conrad and Meyer article (1958), which signed the Cliometric Revolution, have attracted a lot of interest on the origin and the development of Economic history. This paper explores the evolution of the field with a new articulated database of all the 6,516 articles published in five journals (*Economic History Review*, *Journal of Economic History*, *Explorations in Economic History*, *European Review of Economic History* and *Cliometrica*) from their establishment to 2017. Our main results are that the Cliometric Revolution took quite a long time to fully display its effects, which became evident only in the 1990s, when personal computer and software packages became available. Moreover, to explore the integration of economic history into economics, we use another database of 808 economic history articles published, in 2001-2017, in ten generalist economics journals, the top five plus other five journals which have shown particular interest in economic history. Our main results are that, despite the citation analysis shows a sizeable strengthening of overall connections between economic history and economics, the economic history articles published in economic journals diverge from those in economic history journals for different issues, but the main difference lies in the affiliations of their authors. The process of integration of economic history into economics is, so far, slower than previously suggested and limited to US, while Continental European scholars have a growing success within the field. Are these changes the harbinger of a new divergence between the two shores of the Atlantic with the rise of a new paradigm based on the “Historical economics” approach? It is too early to tell.

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1. Introduction

Economists are paying a lot of interest to economic history in recent times, after decades of relative neglect, and this shift has rekindled the interest in the history of the field. The conventional wisdom singles out two major breakthroughs, the Cliometric Revolution of the 1960s and the currently on-going “integration of economic history into economics” (Margo 2018). The Cliometric Revolution is credited to have changed economic history from a historical discipline, relying on descriptions of events based on archival material into an economic one, heavily relying on economic reasoning and statistical testing of hypotheses (Andreano 1970, Fogel and Elton 1984, Lyons, Cain and Williamson 2007, Boldizzoni 2011, Boldizzoni and Hudson 2016, Hauptert 2016, Diebolt and Hauptert 2018a). This Revolution started with the publication of the seminal article on slavery by Conrad and Meyer (1958), in the *Journal of Political Economy*, swept the United States in the 1960s and diffused in United Kingdom in the 1970s and 1980s and in Continental Europe in the 1990s. The second major change, spearheaded by the publication of the hugely influential paper on *The colonial origins of comparative development* (Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson 2001), can be interpreted as a further, and possibly final, step in the same direction. Cliometricians still aimed at preserving a specific role of economic history as a bridge between economics and history, and at speaking to historians as well as to economists (Sutch 1991, Collins 2015, Lamoreaux 2015). In contrast, the new generation of economic historians mimics the economists’ approach, and tries to convince them that economic history is relevant not just for the sake of knowledge, but also to understand the present (McCloskey 1976, Arrow 1985, Nunn 2014, Abramitzky 2015, Temin 2016). Many recent papers directly link current outcomes (GDP per capita or similar data) to specific historical events, such as colonial institutions in the already quoted paper by Acemoglu Johnson and Robinson (2001) or slave trade in another famous paper by Nunn (2008).

This conventional wisdom has long been based on anecdotal evidence, but recent works show a welcome shift towards a quantitative approach, which had been pioneered by Harte (1977). Yet, all this literature is partial in a way or another. Some deal with a journal only,

such as the *Economic History Review* (Wrigley 1999), the *Journal of Economic History* (Whaples 1991, 2002) and the *Australian Economic History Review* (Morgan and Shanahan 2010, Selzer 2018): Di Vaio and Weisdorf (2010) compare the citations success of thirteen economic history journals but cover only the citations from other journals of that specific sample to articles published in 2007, while Ojala et al (2017) focus on the most cited articles in the two long-established *Business History* and *Business History Review*. Other works deal with one specific research question, such as the causes of the growth in co-authorship (Selzer and Hamermesh 2018), the growing interest in non-Western economic history (Fourie and Gardner 2014), the spread of quantitative methods in business history (Eloranta, Ojala and Valtonen 2010), the increase of articles on economic history in economic journals (Abramitzky 2015, Diebolt and Hauptert 2018b) and the diffusion of advanced statistical techniques in economic history journals (Margo 2018, Wehrheim 2018).

This paper contributes to this line of research by addressing a wide range of issues with a comprehensive database, covering five economic history journals (henceforth T5-EH), *Economic History Review* (*EHR*), *Journal of Economic History* (*JEH*), *Explorations in Economic History* (*EEH*), *European Review of Economic History* (*EREH*) and *Cliometrica* (*CLIO*). Our database includes a total of 6,516 articles – i.e. articles published in these journals from their establishment (respectively in 1927, 1941, 1969, 1997 and 2007) to 2017. Moreover, we explore the integration of economic history into economics (Margo 2018) by comparing the articles in T5-EH with articles on economic history published, since 2001 up to 2017, in ten major economic journals (henceforth T10-E), the top five (henceforth T5-E) - *American Economic Review* (*AER*), *Econometrica* (*ECMA*), the *Journal of Political Economy* (*JPE*), the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (*QJE*), and the *Review of Economic Studies* (*RES*) - and other five very influential economics journals (henceforth T5-Ebis) - *Economic Journal* (*EJ*), the *Journal of Development Economics* (*JDE*), the *Journal of Economic Growth* (*JEG*), the *Journal of Economic Literature* (*JEL*), and the *Review of*

Economics and Statistics (RESTAT) - which have shown a growing interest in economic history issues in recent times.¹

We justify our selection of the T5-EH in Section 2 by showing that they have been the most quoted in the field since the data are available and that they form a strong network, which attracts a lot of citations from economics and other disciplines. We describe our databases in Section 3, while in Section 4 and 5 we outline the main trends in economic history using respectively as unit of analysis papers and authors. Section 6 explores the long-term evolution of citations received by articles contained in the database, while Section 7 contrasts the evolution of economic history, both in articles and in authors, in the T10-E with the trends in the T5-EH. Section 8 concludes.

2. A bibliometric analysis of economic history journals

According to a recent survey (Poelmans and Rousseau 2016), the decision of the outlet of the publications of economic historians is heavily affected by the kind of department they are affiliated with.² Economic historians working in economics department aim at publishing their work as articles in international journals with Impact Factor (IF). They regard journals without IF as the second best and books with major international publishing houses only as their third option. This ranking is deeply different for their colleagues working in history departments, who deem books with international publishing houses as the best option and rank journals according to their general standing rather than their IF. Although there is no comparable survey for the 1950s, all anecdotal evidence suggests that the pre-eminence of journals outlets for advanced research in economic history is by itself a product of the Cliometric Revolution. The first journal in economic and social history, the *Vierteljahrschrift für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte*, had been founded in 1903, the first business history journal (the *Bulletin of the Business Historical Society*, renamed *Business History Review* in

¹ We have chosen these journals because they have received the highest number of citations from T5-EH and have been quoted most often by the T5-EH in 2017 among economic journals other than the T5-E according to the *Journal of Citation Report* (See Section 2 for details).

² The survey received 332 responses on a total of a list, assembled on the basis of different criteria, of about 1,200 economic historians (28.7%).

1954) in 1926 and the first journal specialized in economic history, the *EHR*, one year later. Yet economic historians traditionally published their main work in books, and earlier Cliometricians imitated them (Margo 2018). The two 1993 Nobel laureates, Robert Fogel and Douglas North published most of their path-breaking researches in books (Fogel 1964, 1989, Fogel and Engerman 1974, North and Thomas 1973, North 1981, 1990). Even nowadays, economic historians still write more books than economists, either to convey the results of new research (e.g. Mokyr 1990, 2002, Pomeranz 2001, Clark 2007, Allen 2009, Rosenthal and Bin Wong 2011) or to synthesize research articles for a wider audience (Williamson 2011).

In the last decades, the number of economic history journals in the world has greatly increased and trace all of them would be impossible. Thus, we consider only journals which are listed at least in one of the two main citation databases, *Web of Science (WoS)* and *Scopus*, and thus arguably fit the definition of “international journal”. This choice is certainly restrictive, as it omits some journals of long tradition, such as the already quoted *Vierteljahrschrift* or the Italian *Rivista di Storia Economica*, established in 1936. It can be justified by the careful vetting which citation databases subject journals to before admitting them. In contrast, we take into account also journals of business history, even if many consider it as a separate subfield (Ojala et al 2017) and some interdisciplinary journals with a strong interest in social and economic history.³ We have selected the two most representative measures of impact, the IF (Impact Factor) from *WoS* and SNIP (Source Normalised Impact per Paper) from *Scopus*. We report them in Table 1 for 2013-2017, alongside the position of each journal by quartile, in the *SCImago* ranking, for the two main subject area (History, and Economics and Econometrics). The results are quite neat: no other economic history or business history journal matches the selected five for any criteria, and only two of the interdisciplinary ones have a comparable SNIP (but they are well behind on the two other indicators). On the other hand, no economic history journal can match the impact of top economic journals. In the same years, the T5-E had an average IF around 4.4

³ Di Vaio and Weisdorf (2010) focus on economic history only, but they include in their list journals outside the *WoS* such as the *Irish Economic and Social History*, *Jarhbuch für Wirtschaftsgeschichte* and *Rivista di Storia Economica* as well as the *Annales*.

and a SNIP around 4.7 both almost four times higher than the indexes for the T5-EH. The indexes for the T5-Ebis (respectively around 3.3 and around 4.1) are slightly lower than the T5-E, but still much higher than the T5-EH.

Table 1 about here

The prominent role of the T5-EH in economic history is confirmed by two other pieces of evidence. They appear top in the citations' ranking by Di Vaio and Weisdorf (2010: 11), and are placed quite high in three major international rankings, the *Categorization of Journals in Economics and Management* by the French Comite National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS 2017), the *Academic Journal Guide* by the Association of Business Schools (ABS 2018) and the *Academic journals in Economics* by Kalaitzidakis, Mamuneas and Stengos (KMS 2011). In this latter, the *JEH*, *EEH*, and *EHR* are in the top 100, while *EREH* and *CLIO* do not feature at all, having too short track record to be included. For the same reason, they are in the second or third tier in the two other rankings. Other journals from Table 1 are not ranked at all or are ranked much below the top three.

The discussion so far has focused on the past five years, which might not be representative of long term trends. What happened before 2013? One cannot compare trends for most journals in Table 1, including *EREH* and *CLIO*, because they have entered in the databases only in recent years.⁴ The impact of three other T5-EH has been growing in time according to both IF and SNIP, with substantial (but shrinking) variations from one year to another. These fluctuations caused the ranking of journals to change in the short-term, but in the long run it remained pretty stable (first *EHR*, then *JEH* and third *EEH*). The rise in impact is to some extent a natural consequence of the growing number of economic history journals in the *WoS* and *Scopus* databases, but it also reflects the growing impact of T5-EH outside the field as shown by the changes in the pattern of citations in the last twenty years.

We have extracted all citations received and done in 1997 by the *EHR*, *JEH* and *EEH*, and in 2017 by all the T5-EH from the *Journal of Citation Report* (Clarivate Analytics).

⁴ For the yearly data and additional comments on this issue, see the working paper version of this paper (Cioni, Federico and Vasta 2018, Table 3).

This source is very detailed, but it has some limitations. First, it does not list items, including journals, which cite or are cited by the journals only once. They are lumped together in the generic category “other”, which in the case at hand accounts for over a half of all citations done (56% in both years) and for a small share for citations received (16% in 1997 and 22% in 2017). Second, the source includes books and documents other than journal articles (e.g. primary sources, working papers, and PhD dissertations) only in citations done but exclude them from the citations received. We deal with this asymmetry by excluding these items from our analysis, which thus refers only to journals. It is however important to remind that books are still a relevant source of ideas and information, accounting for 22.2% of citations by T5-EH in 1997 and for 19.2% in 2017.⁵ Actually, these figures might underestimate the share of books, because books, especially in languages other than English, are likely to account for a large proportion of the items cited only once.

In Figure 1 we plot separately the T5-EH and we gather all other journals in eight groups: *i*) the T5-E, *ii*) the T5-Ebis, *iii*) the other economic journals, *iv*) the top three journals in business history (T3-BH) - *Business History*, *Business History Review* and *Enterprise & Society* -, *v*) the other economic history journals (Other EH) from Table 1, *vi*) other social science journals, which could include some economic history journals not in the *Journal of Citations Report* database, *vii*) history journals, *viii*) other journals, a residual category which includes different subject areas, such as chemistry or computer science and so on. The circles' size refers to all citations received by T5-EH (red) and, for the other groups (blue), citations received from T5-EH only. The arrows show the underlying pattern with different colors to mark flows within each group (black for flows amongst the T5-EH included the self-citations, red for citations done by T5-EH towards the other seven groups, and blue for citations received by T5-EH from the eight groups).⁶

⁵ Books have been singled out on the basis of abbreviation of the titles of individual items or of series (such as *Routledge Research in Gender and History* or *The Cambridge History of Science*). Thus there is a margin of uncertainty in the classification.

⁶ For a detailed analysis of the citation done and received by the T5-EH, see Cioni, Federico and Vasta (2018, Tables 4a-b and 5a-b).

Figure 1 about here

The first more evident feature concerns the increasing popularity of economic history in the last twenty years. Citations received by T5-EH increased by almost 4 times from 1,066 in 1997 to 3,836 in 2017. Most of the overall increase (almost 90%) in citations received by T5-EH (i.e. the ballooning of the red circles) reflects the success of economic history outside the field. Indeed, this growth is due to a general increase of all groups, also outside the traditionally neighboring fields of economics and history, such as “others”, which rose from 25 citations in 1997 to 332 twenty years later (from 2.3% to 8.7% of the total), and “other social science” from 83 to 469 (from 7.8% to 12.2%).

The second characteristic refers the permanent strength of the network of the T5-EH (illustrated by the black arrows). In 1997, the three journals had received about half of their citations from themselves (502 out of 1,066). Twenty years later, the total number of these citations increased to 841, even if they accounted only for a fifth of the total. Additionally, the data highlight a substantial change from a journal-centered pattern (each journal citing itself) to a fully developed network of journals. Indeed, in 1997 self-citations within the T3-EH accounting for more than half of the total (277 on 502), while in 2017 this share is about one third (292 on 841). Furthermore, the T5-EH have enhanced their prominent position in the field: in 2017, they received 5.5 times more citations than in 1997 from other economic history journals and almost 2.7 times from business history journals.

The third most striking feature concerns the big change occurred during the interval in the relationship of the T5-EH with the other groups. Indeed, there is a massive shift from 1997, when the “history” journals was the group with the highest number of citations received and done by the T5-EH, to 2017 when they were substituted by economics journals. Overall, in 1997, these latter accounted for 16% of citations received from and for 23.9% of citations done by T5-EH. In 2017, they cited the T5-EH 1,043 times (27.1%) and were cited 1,221 times (42.2%). This rise was however deeply unbalanced. The T5-EH quoted the T5-E very often (131 in 1997 and 439 times in 2017), but received very few citations (21 times in 1997 and 33 times in 2017) by them. In contrast, citations received from T5-Ebis jumped

enormously from 14 times in 1997 to 219 in 2017 and grow considerably also for “other economics” journals from 135 in 1997 to 791 in 2017. Citations towards the same two latter groups increased from 40 to 217 for T5-Ebis and from 185 to 565 for “other economics”. These two groups together account for 31% and for 40% of the total increase of citations received and done by the T5-EH in the period 1997-2017. The big change is also confirmed by the fact that, in 2017, the T5-EH cited all economics journals (42.2%) more frequently than economic history ones (33.6%).

The overall shift towards economics was spearheaded by the *EEH*, which, in 1997, had cited economics journals less than the *JEH*. In 2017, all economics journals accounted for almost two thirds of all citation done by *EEH*, the T-10E for more than a third. The *EEH* quoted T5-5 more frequently the T5-E than all T5-EH, including the *EEH* itself. In contrast, the *EHR* was still strongly oriented towards the journals of the field, with the share of citations to T5-EH (30.4%), above the share of all economics journals (25.6%). The same differences amongst T5-EH appear from citations received. In 2017, the *EEH* and *JEH* accounted for three quarters (76.5%) of all citations received from economic journals. Unsurprisingly given its age, *CLIO* got comparatively few citations from economics journals, but they accounted for a large proportion of the total citation it got (29 on 78). The *EHR* exhibits a more traditional pattern: in 2017, it received three times more citations from T5-EH (212) and “history” ones (327) than from economics journals (173).

3. The databases

As said, our main database includes all articles published in the T5-EH since their establishment to the last issue of 2017, inclusive of short notes, comments, replays, rejoinders, rebuttals, and essays in bibliography (Table 2).⁷ We prefer to include all these non-research articles, unlike Hamermesh (2018), for two reasons. In the early period, the distinction between regular articles and short research notes is not so clear and, although

⁷ The *EEH* had been established in 1948 as *Explorations in entrepreneurial history*, but we include it only since 1969, when it was taken over and re-named by “new” economic historians.

their number is small (about 2.5% of the total), the movements in the yearly share on total articles reveal some relevant changes in the scholarly debate (see Section 4). On the other side, the database excludes book reviews, summary and reviews of PhD thesis, introduction to conferences and obituaries, that are obviously not refereed.

Table 2 about here

Half of all the articles in the database (3,247) have been published in the last 30 years and almost four fifths (5,182) in the last 50 (Figure 2). Before 1940, the *EHR* published on average 12 articles per year and its size shrank remarkably during WWII. The establishment of the *JEH*, which since its beginning was double the size of the pre-war *EHR*, marked a first major discontinuity. The total number of articles increased steadily in the 1950s and 1960s, especially in the *EHR*, and jumped to over 100 after the transformation of the *EEH* in 1969. It declined somewhat in the early 1990s, and grew in the last years up to 140 and beyond. In 2012, the T5-EH published a total of 159 articles, five more than the whole period 1927-1940. The establishment of the *EREH* in 1997 and of *CLIO* in 2007 account for slightly more than half of this increase: in 2015-2017 they jointly published on average 21 articles per year, while the other three journals 18 articles more than in 1994-1996. The number of pages increased even more because the average length of the articles grew from about 15 pages until the mid-1980s to a peak close to 30 in the mid-2000s.

Figure 2 about here

The information on author(s) include name, gender and the institutional affiliation at the time of publication, as stated in the article. A small number of articles (0.7%), especially in the early years reports only a name of city without institutional affiliation, possibly because authors were independent scholars. Unfortunately, a large number of articles specifies only the University (or college) and thus we cannot keep the distinction between departments of Economics and History, which would have been informative (Poelmans and Rousseau 2016).

We have collected the same set of information for the articles in “economic history” in the T10-E, which we have selected by looking at the abstracts and/or at their contents and, when available, at the JEL code by choosing all the N category (Economic History). In our first pass, we have included any article which explores the relations between some events, institutional changes or a given situation in the past, and economic outcomes, either in the past or in the present. Then, we have further classified these articles according to their main research question. Our core categories are “History” (henceforth H) and “Historical economics” (HE), which deal with the effect of past events respectively on past and current outcomes (e.g. GDP per capita). Thus, we classify H the article by Squicciarini and Voigtlander (2015) on the effects of endowment of upper tail human capital on the regional differences in the diffusion of modern technologies in XIX century France, and HE the article by Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson (2001), which deals with the effect of white settlement, via institutional change, on levels of GDP in 1995. In practice, we have distinguished between “History” and “Historical economics” according to the dependent variable in their main regression. We have classified the other articles in the database as either “Model testing” (henceforth MT) or “Long term empirical economics” (LTEE). The former category includes all tests of economic models with limited use of historical data and/or attention to the context (including most DGSE models). We have classified as LTEE all articles which aim at uncovering regularities in the development process (growth regression) or at analyzing other present economic and social facts.⁸

Our selection has yielded a database with a total of 808 articles – 275 in the T5-E and 533 in T5-Ebis. This one-to-two ratio is rather different from the total number of articles in the two groups of journals (6,983 for the T5-E vs 4,510 for T5-Ebis).⁹ Thus, the share of “economic history” articles differs quite markedly across journals. The JEG stands out, as about a half of its articles deals somehow with historical issues. Economic history articles

⁸ These two categories overlap to some extent. We have empirically classified articles according to the number of pages allocated to the description of the model and to the empirical analysis. We include in both categories only articles which use at least 25 years of data.

⁹ The count based on Scopus, excludes reviews JEL (a total of 122, 27 of history books proportion higher because economic historians are more likely to write books than economists.

exceed a tenth of the total for *JDE* (12.3%) and *RESTAT* (11.1%). The shares are lower for the *EJ* (7.5%) and still lower for the *JEL* (4.6%), which has published few highly cited surveys. As expected given the criteria of choice of T5-Ebis, the overall proportion of economic history articles in the T5-E is substantially lower, but there is clear cleavage between the *QJE*, the *AER* and the *JPE* (with shares respectively 7.5%, 4.9% and 3.8%) and the *ECMA* and *RES* (less than 1% of the total). The outlook changes if we drop the *LTEE* and *MT* articles and we focus only on the H and HE works. The share of these “core” historical works declines by about one percentage point in the T5-E (down to 6.1% in *QJE*, 3.8% in *AER* and 3.2 in *JPE*) but halves from 11.5% to 5.1% in the T5-Ebis. It collapses to a sixth for *JEG* (16.5%), and becomes comparable to the share in the two more history-friendly T5-E in the other T5-Ebis journals (4.1% for *JEL*, 5.1% for *RESTAT*, 4.5% for *EJ* and 4.1% for *JDE*). Most of these articles can be classified as H, the “traditional” economic history works. There are only 55 HE articles in the whole database (i.e. the 6.8% of all “economic history” articles and a mere 0.5% of all articles published in the T10-E). The HE articles are overrepresented in *ECMA* (3 out of 7 “economic history” articles) and, to some extent in *QJE*, where they account for 16.3% of “core” economic history articles, but still for 1% of the total.

We have classified the articles in both databases by four main features (topic, historical period, area and method) by looking at the title, abstract and, in some controversial cases, directly at the text:

i) the classification by topic is the most problematic, as any list is to some extent arbitrary and many articles deal with more than one issue. We have defined 17 topics, aggregated in five categories, trying to achieve the maximum level of detail without being forced to allocate arbitrarily articles on broad issues (for a full description, see Table 3).¹⁰

ii) we follow the standard division by historical period in “Classical history” (before 476), “Medieval history” (476-1492), “Early modern history” (1492-1815) and “Modern history”

¹⁰ We have decided not to use the JEL codes of the American Economic Association because we deem them too aggregate.

(1815-present). We have labelled as “long-run” articles straddling two periods, even for relatively few years (e.g. from 1750 to 1870) and as “no period” articles on methodology. Given the large number of articles on the “Modern history” period, we have further distinguished four sub-periods (1815-1870, 1871-1913, 1914-1945 and after 1945), five extended periods (1815-1913, 1870-1945, 1914-present, 1915-1945 and 1870-present) and a residual category which includes paper dealing with all the period from 1815 to present (“all modern”).

iii) we classify article by area in five different categories, plus a residual (“no area”) one for articles on methodology. We distinguish articles as referring to a single country, two or more countries in the same continent (e.g. France and United Kingdom), two or more countries in different continents (e.g. United States and Japan), a whole continent without indication of countries and the whole world.

iv) we distinguish articles which use simple descriptive tools (tables, figures and graphs), “basic econometrics” (OLS regressions and so on) and “advanced econometrics” (differences in differences, instrumental variables, panel regression, propensity score matching, vector-autoregression or VAR, and vector error correction model or VECM). Following Margo (2018), we have classified articles as using “advanced econometrics” by searching words related to these techniques with the advanced search tool of *Google Scholar*. This method might yield false positives, if these words are quoted in the references, in the literature survey, or appear in negative statements (“we cannot use panel regression”). Thus, in any doubtful case, we have double-checked the results with a direct reading of the selected articles.

Finally, we have collected the information on the yearly number of citations of all articles in our database from *Scopus*, which we prefer to Clarivate because it offers a wider coverage of journals and a simpler method to retrieve data. In theory, *Scopus* should register the total number of citations received by all articles from 1970 onwards, but the data are missing for 241 articles in the T5-EH (3.7% of the total). By definition, our count underestimates the impact of articles published before 1970 as it omits citations from the

publication date to 1969. The coverage is quite good for articles published since the 1970s and excellent from the 1990s, when a wider range of journals have been included in *Scopus*. The total number of citations, calculated as of 31 December 2017, are 96,827 for the T5-EH. Considering only the articles published in the period 2001-2017, we have 24,560 citations for the T5-EH and 52,852 for the T10-E (24,281 for the T5-E and for 28.571 for the T5-Ebis).

4. The evolution of economic history: articles

The changes in the sample of journals and in the number of articles (Figure 2) have some relevant implications for the interpretation of our results. First, by definition, before 1940 our analysis is limited to the *EHR*, which mainly published works by British scholars on the economic history of the United Kingdom (Section 5). Second, the combined effect of their earlier establishment and their bigger size implies that *JEH* and *EHR* dominate the database, accounting for three quarters of all articles (Table 2). Third, the overall growth in the number of articles augmented the number of pages corresponding to any given share of the total: a 1% share corresponds to 0.1 article per year before 1940, to 0.4 in the 1940s and 1950s, to around 1 from early 1960s to mid-2000s and finally to 1.5 articles after 2007. Last but not least, the number of articles per year shows a hump in the 1970s and 1980s, which reflects the large number of short articles (less than four pages long). They accounted for 5.7% of the total from 1968 to 1984, with a peak of 11.2% in 1977. Arguably, this increase is a consequence of the Cliometric Revolution, which stimulated the discussion on methods and results. These of exchanges have largely disappeared in more recent years (the share of short articles in 1997-2017 is only 0.25%), because nowadays the research works are subject to much more intense scrutiny in seminars and conferences and are quite often published as working papers before submission, reducing the scope for ex post comments.

In the following, we take into account the growing journal coverage as well as the broad methodological changes by dividing the ninety years in four periods: before 1940, the “British period”; 1941-1960, “the traditional economic history”; 1961-1996, “the age of the

Cliometric Revolution”; and 1997-2017, “the rise of the new European journals”, which broadly coincides with the “integration of economic history into economics”.

Over the whole period, the distribution of articles by topic changed substantially at the level of the five categories and even more at the level of the 17 specific topics (Table 3 and Figure A1 in the Appendix).¹¹ The decline and fast rise of “institutions” reflect a deep change in the object of interest. The early works described organizations such as the Islamic guilds (Lewis 1937), the more recent ones, such as the article by North and Weingast (1989) on property rights and debt management after the Glorious revolution, the most cited articles in the whole database, deal with institutions as rules of the game.

Table 3 about here

The “EH” articles in the “British period” informed readers of the *EHR* about teaching of Economic history, on economic history in other countries and similar topics. This type of articles disappeared rather early, and the topic reappeared only sporadically in the 1970s for the methodological controversies during the Cliometric Revolution and very recently with the debates on the integration of economic history into economics. In the 1940s and 1950s, the category “Methodology” featured mostly articles in “History of Economic Thought” (HET), many of them from the newly established *JEH*. The interest in the topic declined sharply from the late 1960s onwards, as in the *Australian Economic History Review* (Morgan and Shanahan 2010), for the combined effect of the Cliometric Revolution and the growing availability of alternative opportunities of publication in specialized journals, most notably the *History of Political Economy* (established in 1969). A similar pattern explains the changes in the “Micro approach”. In the 1940s and 1950s, the articles in this category consisted mostly of descriptions of the features and the evolution of areas or of specific companies (“Firms”). This traditional approach disappeared with the Cliometric Revolution. Business history developed as a separate field, with its own journals (such as *Business*

¹¹ A chi-square test rejects the null hypothesis of equal distribution at 1% for the long run comparison between 1927-1940 and 1997-2017, and also for all pairwise comparisons between subsequent periods except between the second and the third.

History since 1958 and *Enterprise and Society* since 2000), while economic historians tackled more specific research questions, as shown by the rise of topics such as “Innovation” and “Finance”, which include articles on patents and capital markets. The most relevant change in the distribution by category is however the massive increase in the share of articles on “Personal conditions and behavior”. The rise of this category during the Cliometric Revolution reflects largely the debates on slavery after the publication of the seminal book of Fogel and Engerman *Time on a cross* (1974): “Labour” was the third larger topic, accounting for 11.6% of the total from 1975 to 1996. The increase of the category in the 1997-2017 is accounted by the recent rise of articles on “Human capital” (5.4% of all articles in 2013-2017), “Income distribution” (4.4%) and, above all, the very fashionable “Standard of living” (12.5%).

These changes depend not only on the shifting interests of scholars, but also on the specific features of journals, which reflected the nature of national scientific communities. We explore these interactions by running a set of multinomial logit estimates (Hamermesh 2013). The dependent variable is the number of articles, explained by dummies for each journal (*EHR* omitted variable) and publication period (1961-1996 omitted variable) with interactions between 1997-2017 and the three longer established journals. In all our tables, we report the estimated coefficient for these latter in Roman and the net effect (with the corresponding standard errors) in *Italic*. Table 4 reports the results for five topic categories using “institutions” as base outcome. First, the data show that, even controlling for the evolution in time, contents differ between the *EHR* and the other journals. The differences are quite stark for *EEH* and *CLIO*, substantial for the *JEH* and smaller for the *EREH*. Second, *EEH* shows a substantial change in its evolution: in the period of the Cliometric Revolution was more oriented to “micro”, “macro” and “personal conditions and behavior”, while in the last period (1997-2017), the shift towards “Institutions” is particularly significant if compared to relative neglect of this category in the previous period. This latter trend is confirmed also for the other American journal (*JEH*) in comparison to the British one (*EHR*), but not for *CLIO*.

Table 4 about here

Figure 3 shows that the establishment of the *JEH* tilted decidedly the distribution by historical period towards “Modern history”.

Figure 3 about here

Before 1940, the *EHR* had published as many articles in “Early modern” (53) and almost as many in “Medieval history” (38) as in “Modern history” (53) and its distribution changed little in 1941-1960. The *EHR* still published more articles in “Early modern history” (174) than either “Modern history” (103) or “Medieval history” (60). In contrast, the *JEH* published 214 articles on “Modern history”, three times more than “Medieval history” and “Early modern history” combined (respectively 24 and 48). The strong focus on more recent historical period in the *JEH* is hardly surprising, given the prevalence of Americans among its authors and the home bias of the economic historians. The Cliometric Revolution shifted further the distribution of articles towards modern issues. Four fifths of articles published in the *EEH* deal with the “Modern” period and the share increased both in the *JEH* (by about ten percentage points) and, somewhat belatedly, in the *EHR*, up to about a half in the 1970s. The prevalence of “Modern history” was sealed by the establishment of *EREH* and *CLIO*. The shares of articles on “long-run” and “Classical history” have remained broadly constant, respectively around a tenth and below 1%. The total number of articles in “Medieval history” collapsed quickly in the 1960s but afterwards it has remained low but constant around four per year, with a correspondingly low but stable share. In contrast, the decline in the share of “Early modern” issues has been more gradual, and the total number of articles has even increased, from 12 articles per year on average in the 1940s and 1950s (a third of the total) to about 20 (a sixth) after 1997. Last but not least, the coverage of the “Modern” period is rather unbalanced. Over 2,000 articles (i.e. a third of the total in the database excluding the “No period” ones) deal with the “long XIX century”, from Waterloo to

WWI. The XX century has been paid much less attention: there are 724 articles exclusively on interwar years (11.2%) and only 287 (4.4%) exclusively on the period after 1945.¹² The low share of articles on post-1945 period cannot be explained only by the lack of historical depth, as it has risen only marginally in most recent years, up to 6.2% of the total since 1997 (9.6% adding articles dealing also with the interwar period).

The multinomial logit regression for historical periods (Table 5), with “Early modern” as base outcome, shows clearly both the differences among journals (the highly positive coefficients for “Modern” period for all journals relative to the *EHR*) and the change in time (the negative coefficients for “Modern” period in the two first periods and the positive one in the last).

Tables 5 about here

The coefficients for *EREH* and *CLIO* and the interaction terms for *JEH* and *EEH* for the last period (1997-2017) show a shift towards “Modern history”. Actually, since 2007, the share of article in “Early modern history” has risen somewhat in all journals, and it has tripled in the *EREH*, up to 27%. However, this increase has been clearly too limited to affect the regression results. Additionally, *EHR* is traditionally more specialized in “Medieval history” than any other journals, while the coefficients for *EEH* implies a greater attention, especially in the last period, to “Classical history”.

Unsurprisingly, economic history was a local field in the early period and, somewhat more surprisingly, it has largely remained such (Figure 4). All comparative articles (i.e. papers dealing with more than one polity) account for slightly more than a sixth of the total of the whole database. The share fluctuated significantly, especially in the early years, but there is no clear upward trend. The aggregate share for T5-EH is still stuck around a fifth in 2013-2017, although it is a bit higher in the two newcomer journals, *CLIO* and *EREH*. The editorial statement for this latter quotes comparison within Europe as a key interest area of

¹² These figures do not change much if we add the articles dealing with interwar years and the period before 1913 (416) or articles dealing with both interwar and post 1914 years (157).

the journal (Hatton, Persson and Zamagni 1997) and yet comparative papers accounted for less than a third on average in the whole history of the journal. Moreover, our definition of “comparative” article is arguably rather generous, as it includes any paper dealing with two polities in the same continent. Articles dealing with polities in different continents (or “intercontinental”) accounted for about a quarter of the comparative ones (i.e. for about 3% of the total) until 1960, rose after the Cliometric Revolution, up to a maximum slightly about a half in the 1990s (about 10% of the total) and then declined again. In spite of the hype on globalization, since 2007, the T5-EH have published only 115 “intercontinental” articles, about a third of the comparative ones but 8.5% of all articles. Moreover, only a minority of these articles would still be classified as intercontinental in a narrow definition of the category, which included only articles dealing with all the world, or with representative samples of polities in several continents.

Figure 4 about here

The high share of single country papers reflects the strong home bias which has featured economic history for almost the whole period: scholars worked mostly on their own country and published mainly on national (or area-specific) journals. Thus, the shares of papers by area reflected closely the distribution of articles by journal (Figure 5), and ultimately the distribution of authors by country, which we will discuss in Section 5.¹³

Figure 5 about here

Before 1940, United Kingdom accounted for about 70% of the articles in the *EHR* and Continental Europe, including 17 comparative papers with United Kingdom, for almost all the rest. Only 7 papers out of 150 dealt with other continents. The start of publications of the *JEH* and later of the *EEH* boosted the share of North America, from 1.3% (2 articles) before 1940 to 25.3% in 1941-1960 and 34.2% in 1961-1996. These latter figures were not as high as one would expect because American journals were less home-biased (only 50% of

¹³ These shares are computed on a total of 5,903 articles, which excludes “no area” and “intercontinental” papers.

their articles focused on North America) than the *EHR*. Indeed, until 1996, only 108 papers out of almost 1,600 published in *EHR* dealt with countries outside United Kingdom and Continental Europe. The distribution changed since the mid-1990s, when the share of articles on Continental Europe doubled.¹⁴ They accounted for most articles in the *EREH* (72.5%) and *CLIO* (52.4%) but also for a growing share of articles in the Anglo-Saxon journals. In 1997-2017, the papers on Continental Europe accounted for about 25% of the articles in the *JEH* and about 30% in the *EHR* and *EEH*. Remarkably, in 2016-2017, the *EHR* published more articles on Continental Europe than on the United Kingdom.

In contrast with these substantial changes, the share of articles on the rest of the world (“others”) remained remarkably stable, around 10%, until the end of the century, and increased a little only in the last years (Figure 5). The *EHR* had published five articles on Asia in the first fourteen years, 3.3% of the total, and since then the share of Asia has fluctuated widely around 5%, with peaks around or over 10%, but also years without a single article. Oceania remained always below 1%, and the only substantial change was the “renaissance” of African economic history (Austin and Broadberry 2014). Actually, economic history of Africa was never totally absent from the T5-EH: the earliest research on African economic history had appeared in the 1950s in *EHR* (Hancock 1954) and in *JEH* (Apter 1954). Yet, there is a striking contrast between the 61 articles published until 2003 and 44 from 2007 to 2017 (13 in 2014 alone).

The defining characteristic of the Cliometric Revolution was the combination of economic theory and statistic tools for the interpretation of history. To be sure, tables and figures are not an exclusive feature of Cliometric articles: the so called *histoire serielle* was a major current of the *Annales* school in the 1960s (Chaunu 1970). Yet, as pointed out by Wrigley (1999), tables and graphs can be considered a harbinger of the methodological change. Indeed, before 1950, only a quarter of articles had at least one table and almost none a figure. As Figure 6 shows, the proportion of articles with tables has been rising steadily, up to over 90% in the 2000s.

¹⁴ Continental Europe includes also comparative articles dealing with United Kingdom and other European countries.

Figure 6 about here

Figures may be considered more representative of the Cliometric Revolution, as they include also the graphical illustration of neoclassical economic models. Yet, their number has risen much more slowly, possibly because drawing good figures was technically challenging before the age of personal computer. As late as the 1980s, only about a quarter of the articles had any figure, and even in most recent years a quarter has no visual help.

The first regression appeared, in 1950, in the *JEH* in an article by Fabricant (1950), who was part of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) team directed by Kuznets, and in the *EHR* 11 years later (Cousens 1961). These early regressions were used as an illustrative device rather than to test hypotheses and the results are literally “hidden” in the text rather than reported in tables. The first article to present a proper regression with some coefficients is a reply by Landes (1958) in *JEH* to a note by Danière (1958). The first two authors to report the results in the “modern” style, as a test of an equation, were Fishlow (1961) and Williamson (1962), respectively in articles on trustees banks in the United States in 1817-1861 and on the balance of payments between United Kingdom and United States in 1820-1913, both in the *JEH*. The number of articles with econometrics remained very low in the 1960s (a total of 22 articles in 1961-1969, less than 4% of the total) and jumped in the early 1970 to around a third. Their share fluctuated between a quarter and a third until the 1990s and then rose further, up to about three quarters.¹⁵

Economic historians do not use advanced econometric techniques, as defined in Section 3, as often as economists. There were some distinguished pioneers, such as Newell (1973), who used instrumental variable and Rosenbloom and Sundstrom (1999), who computed the first panel regression, both published in the *JEH*. However, these pioneers found few imitators: the number of articles with advanced econometrics remained negligible until the late 1990s and they are still a minority. The peak was reached in 2014 with 21 articles out of 103 with some econometrics and out of 131 articles overall. The still limited resort to

¹⁵ Our results for *JEH* and *EEH* tally well with results by Margo (2018), who measures the diffusion of econometric words by using *Google Scholar*. The results are only partially consistent with those by Wehrheim (2018), who extracts clusters of words from the *JEH* and label them ex-post.

advanced techniques reflects probably the lack of suitable data: it is unlikely that scholars trained in modern economics are unaware of the potential of VECM or panel regression for the historical analysis.

For the regressions on the use of econometric techniques (Table 6), we use a slightly different specification of our logit models. The dependent variables are two dummies and we cover only the period after 1969, when econometric techniques started to be used frequently.¹⁶ The baseline becomes 1969-1996 and the subsequent years are divided in two periods (1997-2006 and 2007-2017), so that it is possible to add an interaction also for *EREH*. The results show that as a rule, the *EHR* used less econometric techniques and advanced econometric techniques than the other journals. Indeed, as late as 2013-2017, basic econometrics was used only in 55% and advanced techniques only in 7% of the article in the *EHR*. There are also notable differences between the *EEH*, constantly on the forefront of the use of econometrics, both basic and advanced, and the other journals. In its earlier period (1997-2006), the *EREH* published significantly fewer papers with basic econometrics than the *EHR* (but more with advanced econometrics, although in this case the numbers are very small) and then it zoomed ahead after 2007. Likewise, the *JEH* published as many econometric papers as the *EHR* before 2006 and increased sharply the use in the latest years.

Table 6 about here

As we have shown above, all journals, including the *EHR*, have been using these techniques more intensively. In a nutshell, there has been a convergence towards the “hard clio” model of *EEH* and *CLIO*, which is almost complete for the *JEH* and *EREH*, while the *EHR* still lags behind.

¹⁶ We have also run probit models and results are almost identical.

5. The evolution of economic history: authors

The 6,516 articles have a total of 8,597 authors, many of whom authored more than one paper. Thus, the database lists a total of 3,884 individuals.¹⁷ We estimate (an upper bound of) the number of still active ones by assuming that each scholar in that list published her first article at 30 years of age and their her last at 72 (after having retired at 70).¹⁸ These quite optimistic assumptions yield a total of 2,889 individuals – i.e. about a quarter of the 10,700 economic historians in the world who were active around 2010 according to Baten and Muschallik (2012).

Figure 7 shows that economic history has always been and still is a male dominated field, even if slightly less than economics (dots in the Figure). Women account for 12.2% of all authors (1,045 out of 8,597) and for 14.8% of individuals (574 out of 3,884). Interestingly, they were quite well represented in the early years. From 1927 to 1947, 30 different women authored 39 articles (out of 359 in total), with all-time peaks of 3 out of 10 articles in 1930 and 4 out of 13 in 1932. After 1948, the share of female authors dropped dramatically: from that year to 1960, they published only 25 articles out of 604 (4.1%) and only 7 out of 275 in the *JEH* (2.5%). The situation did not change much in the early years of the Cliometric Revolution: female authors accounted for 5.1% of total authors in 1961-1978, with a share more than double in the more traditional *EHR* (6.8%), than in the hardline cliometric *EEH* (3.0%). Then, the share of female authors rebounded up to almost a fifth in 1994-1996. Since then, it has fluctuated between 10 and 20% without a clear trend and in the last five years has been on the low side (14.9%), exceeding a fifth only in the women-friendly *EHR*.

Figure 7 about here

¹⁷ This figure may be slightly overstated, as the earlier issues of *EHR* reported, for some authors, only the initial of the given name.

¹⁸ These assumptions are an upper bound for two reasons. First, they imply that all individuals who published at least one article since 1975 were professional economic historians, and that they have continued to work in the field throughout all their career. This is unlikely. Several authors belonged to other fields (Weingast is a political scientist), others may have changed field in the meanwhile, or may have left academia, or, sadly, may have passed away. Second, it is more likely than an author publishes her/his first article after, than before, her 30 birthday. Furthermore, the estimate includes authors who have published in recent years but were not active around 2010.

Before 1970, co-authored papers were quite exceptional, around one out of twenty (Figure 8, solid and red line). Their share increased to a sixth in the 1970s and 1980s, to a third in the 1990s, eventually exceeding a half of the articles since 2010. Thus, economic historians have followed, with a substantial lag, the path of economists, where co-authored papers exceeded a half already in 1993 (Hamermesh 2013, table 2). Indeed, Selzer and Hamermesh (2018) argue that the rise in co-authorship in economic history reflects the push in economics departments towards more publications without penalties for co-authorship. Moreover, collaborations in economic history have been and, to some extent, still are quite limited undertakings in comparison not only with sciences but also with economics. Until recent time, very few articles were co-authored by individuals affiliated to universities in different countries (Figure 8, dotted line). The share of these transnational collaborations remained very low, around 15% of co-authored articles (and thus less than 2% of all articles) until the late 1970s. Thereafter, the share rose slowly but steadily, up to a sixth of all articles in the database, after 1997. Articles from the last period account for two thirds of all transnational co-operations. These trends affected all journals, but to a different extent. In 1997-2017, co-authored articles accounted for over a half of the total in the *EEH* (and internationally co-authored ones for 18%) but only for a third (13%) in the *EHR*.

Figure 8 about here

This overall increase has coincided with the rise of cross-gender collaborations, from only 8 articles (out of 64 written by at least one woman) in the first two periods, to 288 in 1997-2017 (over a half). In the last three years, these cross-gender collaborations accounted for two thirds of all articles authored by women and for 18% of all articles. On the other hand, economic history lags clearly behind economics in the growth of co-authorship (Hamermesh 2013: table 2). In 2011 all co-authored articles accounted for 79.1% of the total of the T5-E (vs. 55.1% in T5-EH) and articles with three authors or more for 38.5% (vs. 17.9%). In contrast, articles with more than two authors are still quite rare in economic history. Most co-authored articles are the work by two individuals only (Table 7). The first article with three authors was published, in 1953, in *EHR* (Hyde, Parkinson and Marriner

1953) and the first with four ones in the *JEH* only in the early 2000s (Hoffman et al 2002), when articles with more than three authors exceeded a tenth of the total for the first time. There are only three articles with five authors in the whole database, two in 2011 (Allen et al 2011, Breschi et al 2011) and the third two years later (Boppart et al 2013).

Table 7 about here

We measure the influence of each country with the number of authors affiliated to its institutions at the time of the publication of the article. We do not take into consideration the nationality of the author, nor her affiliation before or after the publication of the article. In order to avoid distortions from the rise in co-authorship, we use fractional counting. We assign to each author (and thus to her institution and, ultimately, to country) the inverse of the number of authors of the article (0.5 if there are two authors, 0.33 if there are three and so on). We distinguish fractionally weighted articles from unweighted ones by using the word “contribution” instead of “article”.

The database lists 870 institutions of higher education (universities and colleges) and 201 other affiliations, from New York Citibank to Dorset History Center, for a total of 1,071 institutions from 55 countries.¹⁹ However, a handful of universities produced most of the output in economic history: sixteen of them accounted for a quarter of all contributions from 1927 onwards, 61 for a half and 178 for three quarters. Until 1990, almost all these institutions (95.1%) were located in Anglo-Saxon countries (Table 8a and Figure A2 in the Appendix). The United States accounted for over a half (54.9%) of contributions, the United Kingdom for a third (32.4%), Canada for a twentieth (4.7%) and Ireland, after 1921, Australia, and New Zealand for the rest. The whole Continental Europe produced less contributions than Canada (108 vs. 159) and no other country exceeded 1% of total contributions (the most productive one being France with 25 articles or 0.7%). The total share of each country depend of course on its size: adjusting for population, the United Kingdom jumps to the first place, double than the United States (7 contributions per million

¹⁹ This estimate refers to the number of different polities along the entire period. Thus, for example, we consider Czechoslovakia from the 1927 to 1992 and then, since 1993 to nowadays, we consider Slovakia and Czech Republic as separate countries.

inhabitants in 1927-1989 vs. 3.5) placed second, and Israel to the fourth, after Canada (Table 8b).²⁰ This dominance of Anglo-Saxon authors reflects largely our selection of journals, given the home bias in the choice of the outlet for publication. British authors accounted for 70.7% of the articles of the *EHR*, Americans for 77.9% of the *EEH* and 84.3% of the *JEH*. Continental Europeans seldom published in Anglo-Saxon journals because they had their own journals. Furthermore, it is likely that also authors from non-Anglo-Saxon universities had links to the Anglo-Saxon world, via their nationality and/or PhD.

Table 8a-b about here

The situation changed rather suddenly around 1990. The share of Continental Europeans started to rise in the early years of the decade, jumped to about a sixth of all contributions after 1997 and continued to grow up to 38.3% in the last five years. Correspondingly, the share of contributions from Anglo-Saxon declined to 54.3%. The jump after 1997 coincides in time with the establishment of the *EREH*. However, the availability of two European journals does not explain fully the success of European authors. From one hand, they did not dominate these two journals as the American and the British had done before 1990 with their home journals. Continental Europeans accounted for 59.3% of all articles in the *EREH* and for 55.2% of articles on *CLIO*. From the other hand, Continental Europeans succeeded to publish more and more contribution in the Anglo-Saxons journals. In 2013-2017, they contributed a quarter of the total articles published in *JEH* and *EEH* and one third for the *EHR*. Actually, Continental Europeans published more in the *EHR* than in the *EREH* (28.6% of contributions vs. 26.8%) and the two American journals has published as many contributions, about 15%, from Europeans as *CLIO*. As a result, the population-adjusted ranking for 1997-2017 features six Continental European countries, plus Iceland, in the top ten positions. The gap further widened in the last period: in 2013-2017 the top performer, Sweden, has about 50% more contributions than the second, the United Kingdom, and six times more than the United States. Furthermore, the rise of Continental Europeans

²⁰ We compute population as the sum of 1940, 1960 and 1996.

was not helped neither by a shift in topics nor by a reduction in their home bias since few articles by Europeans dealt with English or American economic history (cfr. Section 4).

In contrast, little changed since 1997 in the contributions of scholars from non-European and non-Anglo-Saxon countries. They accounted for 4.6% of total contributions in the whole period 1990-2017 and for 7.4% in 2013-2017. Japan maintained its position, Israel slipped somewhat relative to its ranking before 1990 and the four Asiatic tigers (Hong-Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea) entered in the ranking. The contribution of less developed countries, including large countries such as India and China, remained very small if not negligible: in 1990-2017 authors from Indian and (mainland) Chinese universities published a total of 10.1 contributions, slightly more than Finland. Thus, the distribution by country of contributions in T5-EH differed widely from the tentative estimates by Baten and Muschallik (2012) on the number of economic historians. They reckon that 17% of economic historians are working in Japan (1.1% of all contributions from 1997 to 2017) and 43% in other non-Western countries (4.4%).

The early dominance of Anglo-Saxon countries and the recent success of Continental European ones appears clearly also from the list of the top 10 institutions (Table 9). The University of Cambridge, the University of Oxford and the London School of Economics (LSE) held the three top spots overall and in each period, but for the third place of Harvard University during the Cliometric Revolution. Three Continental European universities, including Moscow State University, appear in the list in the first period, but they disappear in the second and third. In contrast, in 1997-2017, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Utrecht University and Lund University are respectively fourth, seventh and ninth and four other universities (Tubingen, Copenhagen, Antwerp and Munich) are in the list of the top twenty-five institutions. The rise has continued to present: in the last five years the number of Continental European universities in the top 25 has risen to eleven, with a cumulated share higher than the British one (14.6% vs. 14%). In contrast, and somewhat surprisingly, few American universities appear in the top 25 in recent years. The best placed one, Harvard University, is only ninth in 2013-2017. The relative ranking of top American institutions is not so high even if one considers the whole period since 1927. Harvard is fourth, and only

three other American universities feature in the top ten (against six British ones) although ten other rank between the eleventh and the twenty-fifth place.

Table 9 about here

The combination of the high country shares and comparatively low shares of top universities clearly reflects the large number of American institutions. Indeed, in the 1940s the Herfindhal-Hirschman index of concentration of contributions was already about a third the British one (Table 9, last rows).²¹ It declined sharply during the Cliometric Revolution, when the popularity of (by then) “new” economic history stimulated departments of economics all over the country to hire talented young scholars, and remained pretty stable thereafter. The affiliation of prominent economic historian explains the high ranking of universities such as the University of Washington and the University of Wisconsin in 1961-1996 (respectively sixth and eighth) or the University of California Davis (eighth in 1997-2017). The British pattern differed somewhat. The concentration by institution declined from the high initial level the 1970s, but then it rebounded in the XXI century. In 2013-2017, the top three British (and world) universities produced 45% of the contributions (and 10% of all world-wide contributions).

The worldwide concentration by institutions was quite high before WWII, when the number of articles was low. Unsurprisingly, given the size of the country, trends in worldwide concentration are quite similar to American ones, with sharp decline in the 1960s and stagnation to present. In all likelihood, the success of Continental European universities compensated the growing concentration in the United Kingdom.

6. Measuring the impact of economic history articles with citations

The citations count has become the standard gauge to measure the impact of research first in scientific fields and, more recently, in social science and economics (Card and Della

²¹ We compute concentration with Herfindhal indexes on ten-year rolling windows (i.e. 1931 is compute with data 1927-1936). The statement refers to the average 1945-2012, excluding the first period, when American contributions to the *EHR* were few and thus highly concentrated. For the full results of this analysis, see Cioni, Federico and Vasta (2018, Figure 17a-c).

Vigna 2013, Hamermesh 2018). In Section 2, we have used total citations to assess the influence of different journals. Here we shift our attention to articles in the T5-EH, using, as explained in Section 3, the number of citations according to *Scopus*.²² In this case, we have the number of citations received yearly since 1970 for almost all articles of the main database and not only the total number of citations by journals.²³ The raw average number is for this reason a flawed measure of the impact of recent articles and thus in Figure 9 we compare the average number of citations received by each yearly cohort of articles at three different time horizons – i.e. 2, 5 and 10 years after publication.

Figure 9 about here

Articles from the last cohort (respectively 2015, 2012 and 2007) for the three time horizons have been cited around eight times more frequently than articles published in the 1970s. The absolute number jumps, for the ten years horizon, from 2.3 for the 1970 cohort to 18.8 for the 2007 one. The increase reflects both the growth in the number of journals included in *Scopus* and the “citation inflation”, that is the increase of the number of references per article included in the more recent articles which has been documented in scientific fields (Neff and Olden 2010) and in economics too (Anauati, Galiani and Galvez 2016).

Figure 9 by construction omits all citations received after the tenth year since publication, which account for 78 percent of the total received for the article published up to 1997.²⁴ This very long life cycle can differentiates economic history from economics: the articles in T5-E received most citations in the first ten years after publication and almost no citations thereafter (Anuati, Galiani and Galvez 2016).²⁵ We speculate that articles in

²² For a more detailed discussion of this issue, including an econometric analysis of citation success, see Cioni, Federico and Vasta (2019).

²³ We recall here that 241 articles, 169 published after 1970, are not included in *Scopus*.

²⁴ Our analysis is here limited to 1997 because, for the sake of comparison, we need to have a period of at least ten years after the first ten years since the publication.

²⁵ Anauati Galiani and Galvez (2016) use *Google Scholar* rather than *Scopus* as source, but the number of citations are strongly correlated. It is worth noting that *Google Scholar* reports a larger number of citations from WP, books and so on, which are rarely accounted in *Scopus*. It is worth mentioning that the top 10 most cited articles of our database after 1970 have a total of 6,922 citations in *Scopus* and three times (21,786) in *Google Scholar* (data extracted 10 October 2018).

economic history continue to be quoted many years after publication as source of data or information. By the way, this longevity might imply that indexes with short time horizons such as the IF and the SNIP seriously underestimate the overall impact of economic history research.

The increase in average number of citations by cohort seems to have been determined by a reduction in the number of not cited articles rather than by an increase in the number of citations of the most cited articles. We document the change by comparing the distribution of citations after 5 years since publication for articles published in 1970-1996 and in 1997-2012 (Figure 10).

Figure 10 about here

As usual in most scientific fields (Seglen 1992), the curve for 1970-1996 cohorts is strongly left skewed: the median is 1 and about a third of all articles got no citations at all. In contrast, the curve for the most recent cohorts exhibits bimodality, with a median of 5 and a share of non-cited articles down to 6.8 percent. The combined sum of articles with 0 and 1 citation falls from 53.2 percent in 1970-1996 to only 17.4 percent in 1997-2017. The change might be explained by the growing number of self-citations, those where authors cite their own work (Fowler and Aksnes 2007, Seeber et al 2018), but, jointly with the longevity of economic history articles, it points to a clear specificity of the discipline. The change in the left side of the distribution has not been matched by a parallel shift in the other side. The kurtosis indexes are high and similar for the two distributions (33.9 and 30.9). The contribution of the most cited articles (the top 1 and the top 10 percent) has not changed that much. Overall, the 1 percent top cited articles for the entire period garnered 15 percent of total citations and the top 10 percent about 40 percent of the total. As said, this is a crude measure since it lumps together periods with different citations' habits and articles with a different age. All articles are cited now more than in the past, but younger articles have had less time to accumulate citations than older ones. However, the shares of top articles on total citations do not change substantially between sub-periods (Table 10).

Table 10 about here

A look at the list of the twenty top cited articles by sub-period (Table 11a-d) illustrates some of the changes we have discussed in the paper. All articles in the first period (Table 11a) were published in the *EHR*, by definition, and got very few citations. The top one would not make the top twenty in any other period. This comparison is unfair as the database does not register citations received before 1970, but still meaningful given the longevity of economic history articles. The second period (Table 11b) shows the growing relevance of the *JEH*, which has 11 articles between the top 20, even if the most cited article (*The imperialism of free trade*), with 630 citations, by Gallagher and Robinson was published in *EHR* in 1953. The second most cited article (*The creative response in economic history*) was published on the *JEH* by Schumpeter in 1947. Articles published in the *JEH* dominate the ranking in the third period (Table 11c), with 16 articles in the top 20, 9 in the top 10 and the most cited article in the whole database, the famous 1989 article (*Constitutions and commitment: the evolution of institutions governing public choice in seventeenth-century England*) by the Nobel laureate North and Weingast. It received a total of 1,867 citations – i.e. 67 per year (and 120 per year in the last five ones, as evidence of the longevity of economic history works). This specific paper is clearly exceptional, but in general all top papers have had a long citation life receiving about 80 percent of the citations after the tenth year since publication. That paper did not use econometrics (just few tables), and it was not an exception. During the Cliometric Revolution, the proportion of econometric articles was slightly lower among the most cited articles (5 out of 20) than in the full database (928 out of 3,173) and the highest-ranked one (*Proto-industrialization: the first phase of the industrialization process*), by Mendels (1972) is only sixth. None of the articles on institutions and innovation, which account for half of the top 20 in those years, used econometrics tools.

The 1997-2017 period (Table 11d) shows the growing diversification of the field in terms of journals and issues. All the T5-EH are represented in the list: indeed, both *EREH* and *CLIO*, the two newcomers journals, have one article each, while the *EHR* is back as the

most represented journal (10 articles). Articles on issues we defined in Section 4 as “personal conditions and behaviour” accounted for almost half of the total. Indeed, at the top of the ranking we find the articles by Allen (2001) on real wages in early modern Europe (*The great divergence in European wages and prices from the middle ages to the first World War*) and by Komlos (1998) on heights (*Shrinking in a growing economy? The mystery of physical stature during the industrial revolution*). Furthermore, the list of top twenty confirms three already noticed trends: *i*) the increase in the number of co-authored articles, which has risen to 5 (one of which with five authors); *ii*) the increasing presence of female authors, which was very sporadic in the previous periods, while, in this latter, the articles with at least one woman as author account for more than a third (7); *iii*) the notable growth of the contributions by authors from Continental Europeans. They were absent in the first three periods, with the exception of an article, published in 1929 in *EHR*, by Sombart (*Economic theory and Economic history*), while accounted for 30 percent of articles in the last period.

Table 11a-d about here

7. Integration or divergence?

As said in the introduction, several recent works have stressed the growing integration of economic history into economics, citing as evidence the rise of the number of articles in economic history in top economic journals (Abramitzky 2015, Tab. 1) or the convergence of methods of articles in economic history journals towards the economic approach (Margo 2018, Diebolt and Hauptert 2018a, 2018b). The first claim is only partially true. Starting from a comparison with the estimates by McCloskey (1976, Tab. 1) for the years 1945-1974, we see that integration, in the period 2001-2017, has progressed to some extent since what he complains to have been the dark ages of decay of economic history. The two sets of data are not perfectly comparable (he uses the number of pages rather than the number of articles) but there has been a substantial increase in the share of economic history in the *QJE* (7.5% in 2001-2017 vs 3.3% in 1945-1974) and *AER* (4.9% vs. 2.2%), not compensated by the decline in the *JPE* (3.8% vs 5.4%). Looking at Figure 11, where we report the shares of all

economic history articles in the T5-E, in the T5-Ebis and in the T10-E, we have a more detailed framework. The share of articles of economic history in T10-E has risen, but this is due almost exclusively to the increase in T-5bis, which, as said, have been selected precisely because they pay much attention to economic history. From this point of view, it seems more relevant the failed growth of the share of economic history articles in the T5-E.

Figure 11 about here

Furthermore, our wide definition of “economic history” articles is likely to bias the comparison, as it seems rather unlikely that, for instance, McCloskey included any LTEE or MT in his estimate. Dropping LTEE and MT articles from the analysis, and thus considering only the “core” economic history articles (H and HE), we find values considerably lower than those previously observed (Figure 12). For the entire period, the share of “core” economic history articles in the T10-E is 3.8%, about half of the share obtained adopting the wider definition of economic history articles. Hence, adopting the “core” definition, our values are not thus far from the McCloskey estimates.

Figure 12 about here

Looking at the “core” economic history, we find that changes in time are rather limited in the T5-E. The process has been rather steady for H, with the odd fall (eg. in 2009 and 2012), which probably reflects the vagaries of the publication process. In contrast, as said in the introduction, the HE approach was pioneered by Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson in *AER* in 2001, but only two other HE articles appeared in the T10-E in the following six years. Thirty two of the 55 HE articles have been published after 2013. Their share has been marginally higher in the T5-Ebis than in the T5-E (36 out of 55), but they still account for 0.8% of total articles, with a peak of 8 articles in the T5-Ebis in 2016.

Summing up, the “core” economic history articles represent still a niche pursuit in main economic journals, although expanding in recent years in the T5-Ebis. Within that niche, the

HE is still a very limited approach, although it is impossible to predict if this rise will continue in the future.

What about the other claim, the growing similarity in topics methods? In the following, we focus exclusively on H and HE articles, as LTEE and TM, as said, use historical data simply to prove economic arguments and, of course, on the period 2001-2017. Note that here we measure the integration of economic history, as a broad discipline, into economics, even if we focus only on a specific subset of articles in some economics journals. In principle, (our selection of) articles in economic history can differ from the universe of “economics” for some or all characteristics. For now on, we will refer simply to T-10E (or T5-E and T5-Ebis) meaning articles in economic history. The first message is clear: articles in economic journals differed from articles in T5-EH, with one only exception, the share of female authors – 15.4% in T%-EH vs 15.0% in T10-E (T5-E 16.7%). In all other characteristics, there are substantial differences. The share of comparative articles is somewhat higher in the T10-E (35.5% vs 19.7 in T5-EH), but much higher in the T5-Ebis, almost half of the total (46.6%). Two thirds of these comparative articles are intercontinental, with a very consistent number of world articles *vs* only two fifths in the T5-EH, most of them comparing two countries in different continents. Among articles on a single continent (Figure 13), we see similar and quite low shares for Asia, Africa and Oceania, which accounted jointly for around a tenth of the total. In contrast, there is a massive difference in the relative weight of America and Europe – the former accounting for 52.4% in T-10E and 27.3% in T5-EH, and the latter 33.8% and 62.9%. The weight of articles focusing on America is particularly high in T5-E in which they accounted for more than 60% of the total.

Figure 13 about here

As expected, the differences in tools are quite evident. The proportion of econometrics is considerably higher in T10-E (86.4 vs. 71.4% in T5-EH) and the proportion in the use of advanced econometrics is four times higher (48.8% vs. 11.6%). In Table 12, we tackle the issue of co-authorship, which is significantly more common in T10-E (68.7%) than in T5-EH

(48.2%), and the difference proportionally is even larger for share of articles with more than two authors (24.2% vs. 14.1%).

Table 12 about here

In Table 13, we look at the topic of the articles in the different groups of journals. The data suggest a large concentration of articles in the category “institutions”, which accounts for almost a fifth of the total in T10-E, and on “population and demography” and “finance”, with about a tenth each. The category institutions covers a wide range of topics such as the study of a single institution, the analysis of policies or articles which adopt a political economy approach. In contrast, population and demography is substantial focusing on the demographic transition related to the Unified growth theory (mostly on the T5-Ebis) and finance articles on Great Depression.

Table 13 about here

As expected, most articles of all groups of journals focus on the modern period as showed in Figure 14. This share is particularly high in T5-E for which they account for three quarter of the total. Surprisingly there is a high share of articles adopting a long-run perspective, especially in T5-Ebis (a quarter of the total). This is due both to articles focusing on two contiguous periods and on a really very long run view.

Figure 14 about here

We investigate formally the differences between the economic journals with the T5-EH with multinomial regressions (Table 14 for topics and Table 15 for historical periods). We have tested separately all T10-E journals but most of the coefficients were not significant, so we run regressions dividing in the two groups(T5-E and T5-Ebis). The base categories are T5-EH and institutions in the topic regression (Table 14) and T5-EH and early modern history in the period one (Table 15). In the former, the anomaly of positive and significant coefficient for “methodology” in T5-Ebis is due to the *EJ*, which published in 2015 a special issue for the 125th anniversary of the Royal Economic Society with many articles on the

evolution of economics. All other significant coefficients are negative: this means that there have been relatively more articles on institutions than on micro and macro (growth) approaches in both T5-E and T5-Ebis, although for the latter group the coefficients for the macro approach is not significant. As for the historical period, the multinomial logit regression confirms the evidence emerged in Figure 14, showing that articles in both T5-E and T5-Ebis are more interested in “Modern” period and in “Long run view” (particularly T5-Ebis for the latter) respect to “Early Modern” period than articles in T5-EH.

Tables 14 and 15 about here

However, arguably the main difference between the T10-E and the T5-EH is relative to the characteristics of the authors – and thus of the institutional affiliation and country distribution. The total 450 articles in T10-E has been produced by 601 authors. This compares with much larger number of articles (2,036) and thus authors (3,352) in the T5-EH. Only 171 authors have published in both T10-E and T5-EH (i.e. respectively 28.4% and 5.1% of the total in the two samples). These authors accounting for 36.9% in the T10-E and for 20.2% in the T5-EH in term of contributions. The overlapping is thus rather modest and it is confirmed to be smaller if one concentrates only on the most prolific authors in both groups of journals. Only four authors appear in the top twenty in both rankings. Only half of the top twenty authors in T5-EH for number of contributions in 2001-2017 have published at least one article in the T10-E, but only three of them have more than one contribution in the T5-E. In contrast, amongst the top twenty authors of economic history articles in the T10-E, two third have written contributions in the T5-EH.

The overall limited overlapping and the differences in the ranking are not random. On the contrary, they highlight a relevant difference between the T10-E and the T5-EH (Table 16). The (Continental) European wave which we have already emphasized looking at the T5-EH articles is much less evident in economic history articles in T10-E. Indeed, in the T5-EH articles, American, other Anglo-Saxon (British, Canadian and so on) and Continental European authors accounted for about a third each of total contributions in 2001-2017. Looking at the T10-E the situation is completely different: the share of American authors is

about double (63.6%) and even higher in T5-E (77.4%) and the shares of Continental Europeans and Anglo-Saxon universities is correspondingly lower (18.4% and 14.4%). These differences explain the different distribution by area of papers, as the home bias that affects also the T10-E.

Table 16 about here

The above mentioned differences determine also totally different rankings in the institutions (Table 17). Nine out of the top ten universities for economic history articles in T10-E are American with Harvard University, University of California Berkeley and University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) as the first three with a total of 13.8% of all contributions. Harvard University accounts for 7.3%, which is a value higher than any Continental European country. Looking at the T5-E, the concentration is impressive since that the first four university in the ranking (Harvard University, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), University of Chicago and University of California Berkeley) account for a quarter of all contributions with Harvard University presenting a tremendous 10.3%. Harvard and University of California-Davis are the only two American universities in the top ten for T5-EH, while the only non/American university in the top ten for T10-E is the Universitat Pompeu Fabra ranked tenth. Finally, we can note how the ranking for the T5-EH is characterized by a lower concentration considering that all the top ten account for 20% of the total, with the University of Oxford and the London School of Economics leading with a rather low 3.1%.

Table 17 about here

Summing up, we can say that the provided evidence shows two different but strictly linked phenomena. On the one hand, there is a divergent publication strategy between economic historians in the United States and in Europe. American economic historians aim to publish in the economic journals, particularly in the T5-E. This is the result of the incentives in United States (top) economics departments, which are increasingly using the publications in the T5-E as the key criteria in their decision about tenures and salaries

(Gibson, Anderson and Tressler 2014, Heckman and Moktan 2018). On the other hand, there is a small number of economists who publish articles on economic history issues in the T10-E that, occasionally, publish their works also in the T5-EH. Still, the two communities seem to be rather unconnected.

A further element to understand the issue can be found by looking at the citation pattern of both samples. Indeed, the citation analysis allows us to understand how the strategy to find new outlet for economic history issues can be rewarding. Economics is a much larger field than economic history, and thus publishing in its general journals is much more likely to attract attention and citations. The raw difference is rather large: articles published in the T10-E have received more than five time more citations than articles in the T5-EH (67.8 on average vs 12.6). Interestingly enough, the articles published in the T5-E received, on average, 87.4 citations, while those in the T5-Ebis obtained 49.8 citations. “Historical economics” articles are particularly successful (135.9 citations on average, but a terrific 323.1 for the ones published in the T5-E). However, also “History” articles are cited much more in the T10-E (58.4 times) than in the T5-EH. It is possible that the difference would be smaller in the long run, if economic history articles in T5-E will share the fast decay after then years of average articles in those journals (Section 6). Furthermore, it is worth noting that the statistics are skewed by two path-breaking contributions (“The colonial origins of comparative development: an empirical investigation” and “Reversal of fortune: geography and institutions in the making of the modern world income distribution”), by Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson (2001, 2002), which have received respectively 3,198 for the *AER* article and 1,252 citations for the *QJE* one, more than 14.6 percent of the whole total, and a striking 23.6% for the T5-E. Nevertheless, it is evident that the publication in the T10-E provides for economic historians more opportunities in terms of careers and also more visibility. This is particularly true for articles published in the T5-E. For instance, considering the median, this is 19 for the T10-E (28 for the T5-E) vs a value equal to 7 for the T5-EH.

Our data have shown that the process of integration of economic history into economics seems to be rather slow. If, on the one hand, it is evident that the decline of interest in economic history, illustrated by McCloskey (1976), up to the mid-1970s is inverted, on the other hand, our data have shown that this phenomenon is still rather limited to a small number of American economic historians.

8. Conclusions

Rather than summing up the results, we deem it useful to extract from our analysis four general points.

First, we have highlighted several differences among the T5-EH, which ultimately can be traced back to their institutional history. The *EEH* enters the database after the take-over by cliometricians in 1969, becoming the journal of the Cliometric Society after its establishment in 1983. Likewise, the *EREH* was established, in 1997, as the journal of the European Historical Economics Society (Sharp 2013) and *CLIO*, in 2007, as the journal of the Association Francaise de Cliométrie. Thus all three journals, to some extent, were “native cliometrician”. In contrast, the *EHR* and the *JEH* had a long tradition, with a very strong home bias, and changed progressively since the 1960s, as the result of a take-over by a new generation of cliometricians (Lyons, Cain and Williamson 2007, Hauptert 2016, Diebolt and Hauptert 2016). In recent times, all journals have undoubtedly been converging, even if not completely, towards a common model. The home bias, although somewhat reduced, is still strong, as shown by the fairly low share of comparative articles and some differences still remain, for instance, in the use of econometric tools.

Second, our results downplay the short term impact of the Cliometric Revolution. From one hand, the three decades before 1961 cannot be considered as a single period dominated by a vaguely defined traditional or historical approach. The establishment of the *JEH* marked a major discontinuity both in the contents and in methods. Before 1941, the *EHR* had published few articles, almost exclusively on British subjects, and largely focused on “Medieval” and “Early modern” periods. The *JEH* was much bigger since the early years, and, given the home bias, there was a big increase in American issues and consequently a

massive shift towards the “Modern” period. Furthermore, there were also substantial methodological differences, at least according to the authoritative opinion of Charles Feinstein: “I’ve always thought that the Americans needed the Cliometric revolution because their work had lacked quantitative analysis entirely; whereas in Britain, we’d had a very long tradition of it. This was not cliometric in the shiny sense that it developed in America, with neoclassical economics and econometrics at its core, but it was deeply quantitative in terms of measuring what happened and making the numbers the basis for any analysis” (Thomas 2007: 293). On the other hand, the Cliometric Revolution took quite a long time to fully display its effects, even in the American journals. Our database cannot capture the use of neoclassical economic reasoning, but it does show that the topic distribution did not change that much and, above all, that the share of articles using econometrics increased very slowly, and they were not so prominent in terms of impact (Cioni, Federico and Vasta 2018: Table 13). They become the majority only in the 1990s, many years after the success of the (by then) “new” economic historians in their *Methodenstreit* with “traditional” ones. In all likelihood, the accomplishment of the Revolution had to wait for the early phase of the “4D (Digitally-Driven Data Design) economic history” in which personal computers and software packages made easy to manage data, produce figures and use econometric tools (Mitchener 2015).

Third, economic history in the T5-EH does not seem neither to became more comparative nor more focussed on peripheral countries. For instance, the share of articles on Africa and Asia remained stable along all the period, with only a slight increase in the last decade. The relevance of different topics did change over time, but, with some exceptions, the changes have not been permanent. The historical periods studied do not change considerably, even if as time goes by there is a “natural” increase of interest in the XX century issues. Most articles use some econometrics but only a minority of them feature advanced techniques. Economic history is indeed becoming more democratic, but only in a very narrow meaning. The number of co-authored articles has risen substantially, but comparatively few of them involve international collaborations. In spite of the large number

of scholars active in developing regions (Baten and Muschallik 2012), publication on the T5-EH remains limited to scholars from advanced countries. The most remarkable novelty is the great success of economic historians from Continental European universities. We speculate that this depends on institutional changes on both shores of the Atlantic. The growing relevance of publications in top international journals for promotion and funding in European universities is pushing scholars to submit their research in American and British journals. At the same time, and probably for similar reasons, American economic historians tend to publish their works in economics journals, as we show in a companion paper (Cioni Federico and Vasta 2019).

Last but not least, our results suggest that the “integration of economic history into economics” is far from to be completed. To be sure, the citation analysis shows a sizeable strengthening of overall connections between economic history and economics, with the highly relevant exception of flows of citations from T5-E to T5-EH journals. Furthermore, the number of economic history articles in leading economic journals, although greater than during the dark period of the 1970s and 1980s (McCloskey 1976, 1987), has been growing slowly since 2001 (Cioni, Federico and Vasta 2019). The number fluctuated without any clear upward trend in the “tyrannical” T5-E (Heckman and Moktan 2018), while it did increase in the T5-Ebis. However, we have chosen those latter journals exactly because they are quoted more frequently in T5-EH and likely this result cannot be generalized to all other economics journals. The economic history articles in these T-10E differ quite substantially from articles in T5-EH (they are more comparative, have more co-authors, use more advanced econometric tools and so on), but the main difference lies in the affiliations of their authors. Indeed, the authors of articles in the T-10E are predominantly affiliated to American universities, and this affects also the main area of interests. Furthermore a still small but fast growing articles adopt the radically different HE approach, focusing on the present-day consequences of events in the past, rather than on the interpretation of the past events. These trends might be the harbinger of a new divergence between Europe and the United States, but it is probably too early to tell.

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Tables and Figures

Tab. 1. *The impact of economic history journals in 2013-2017*

Journal	Established	Included in WoS with IF since	Included in Scopus with SNIP since	IF	SNIP	Scimago Quartile History	Scimago Quartile Economics and Econometrics
<i>EHR</i>	1927	1997	1999	1.123	1.975	Q1	Q1
<i>JEH</i>	1941	1997	1999	1.109	1.643	Q1	Q1
<i>EEH</i>	1969 ¹	2007	1999	0.956	1.465	Q1	Q1
<i>EREH</i>	1997	2009	2002	0.829	1.352	Q1	Q1
<i>CLIO</i>	2007	2010	2008	0.884	0.960	Q1	Q2
<i>Business History</i>	1958	1997	1999	0.778	1.004	Q1	
<i>Business History Review</i>	1926	1997	1999	0.714	1.407	Q1	
<i>Enterprise & Society</i>	2000	2006	2001	0.488	1.152	Q3/Q1	
<i>Australian Economic History Review</i>	1956	1997	1999 ²	0.401	0.619	Q1/Q2	Q3/Q4
<i>Entreprises et Histoire</i>	1992		2002 ³		0.360	Q2/Q3	Q3/Q4
<i>Financial History Review</i>	1994		1999 ⁴		0.872	Q1	
<i>Historical Social Research</i>	1979	2008	2007	0.246	0.566	Q2/Q1	
<i>International Review of Social History</i>	1956	1997	1999	0.354	1.082	Q1	
<i>Investigaciones de Historia Economica</i>	2005		2006 ⁵		0.707	Q2/Q1	Q4/Q3
<i>Journal of European Economic History</i>	1972		2013 ⁶		0.828	Q1/Q3 ⁶	Q2/Q4 ⁶
<i>Journal of Global History</i>	2006	2010	2007	0.739	1.941	Q1	
<i>Journal of Interdisciplinary History</i>	1970	1997	1999	0.510	1.173	Q1	
<i>Journal of Management History</i>	1995		2007		0.652		
<i>Management & Organizational History</i>	2006		2007		0.628	Q1	
<i>Revista de Historia Economica - Journal of Iberian and Latin American Economic History</i>	1983	2010	1999	0.351	0.657	Q2/Q1	Q4/Q3
<i>Revista de Historia Industrial</i>	1992	2011	2012	0.231	0.661		
<i>Scandinavian Economic History Review</i>	1953		1999		0.857	Q2/Q1	
<i>Social Science History</i>	1976	1997	1999	0.272	0.863	Q2/Q1	

Sources: for IF: *Journal of Citation Reports*, Clarivate Analytics (www.jcr.incites.thomsonreuters.com/) data extracted on 15 September 2018; for SNIP: CiteScore™ Calculated by *Scopus* on 15 September 2018; for Scimago Quartiles: www.scimagojr.com/ data extracted on 18 September 2018.

Notes: ¹previously titled *Explorations in entrepreneurial history* (1948-1959 and 1963-mid-1969); ²gap between 2004-2006; ³gap between 2007-2008; ⁴gap in 2003; ⁵gap between 2009-2011; ⁶data only for 2013-2015.

Tab. 2. *The database at a glance*

Journal	Covered years	N. articles	Average articles/year	Average pages/year
<i>EHR</i>	91	2,395	26.3	17.7
<i>JEH</i>	77	2,491	32.4	19.8
<i>EEH</i>	49	1,139	23.2	20.4
<i>EREH</i>	21	346	16.5	26.3
<i>CLIO</i>	11	145	13.2	25.3
Total		6,516	71.6	19.6

Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Tab. 3. *Classification and share of articles' topics by period*

Category/Topic	Description	1927-1940	1941-1960	1961-1996	1997-2017
Methodology		16.2	13.0	3.9	1.2
EH	Economic History as discipline	14.9	6.6	2.7	0.9
HET	History of Economic Thought	1.3	6.4	1.2	0.2
Institutions		15.6	9.2	8.6	13.3
Institutions	Institutions, regulation, role of culture and religion, empires and imperial expansion. Electoral issues and general politics, war	15.6	9.2	8.6	13.3
Macro-approach		21.4	23.1	25.7	22.3
Growth	Growth, national accounts and economic fluctuations. General economic history (also industrialization process) of a specific geographical area (continent, country and region)	9.1	11.3	12.7	10.5
Macroeconomic and monetary policies	Monetary and fiscal policy, central banking	1.3	4.0	6.4	5.6
Trade	Trade and trade policies. Market integration (commodities)	11.0	7.8	6.6	6.2
Micro approach		33.8	43.8	37.2	33.2
Agriculture	Agriculture (including forestry and fishing), land policy, natural resources, energy and environmental history	11.7	10.3	10.9	5.7
Finance	Banking and financial systems, private investment and capital markets (domestic and international, including integration) and credit regulation	6.5	7.4	8.3	12.4
Firm	Business history on specific companies in industry and banking, entrepreneurship	5.2	8.3	2.3	1.8
Industry	Manufacturing, mining and construction. Industrial policy	7.1	11.4	9.4	6.3
Innovation	Innovation and technology	1.9	1.6	3.0	3.8
Services	Insurance, transportation (roads, railways and canals) including construction. Retailing	1.3	4.8	3.2	3.1
Personal conditions and behaviour		13.0	10.8	24.5	30.0
Human capital	Human capital and education	-	0.1	1.5	3.1
Income distribution	Inequality and wealth distribution	0.6	0.4	1.6	3.1
Labour	Labour force (including gender issue), slavery (including trade), industrial relations and trade unions, welfare state (including pensions)	5.2	6.0	10.1	6.7
Population and demography	Demographic behaviour (birth, marriage and mortality), famines and their demographic effects, migrations, urbanization and city growth	2.6	1.7	4.4	4.6
Standard of living	Wages, consumption, biological standard of living (heights, wellness and health)	4.5	2.6	6.9	12.6
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of articles		154	769	3,173	2,420

Sources: our own database.

Tab. 4. *Multinomial logit estimates: topics*

Variables	Methodology	Institutions	Macro approach	Micro approach	Personal conditions and behaviour
<i>CLIO</i>	2.163*** (0.667)		1.676*** (0.454)	0.603 (0.462)	1.264*** (0.450)
<i>EREH</i>	-0.545 (0.803)		0.953*** (0.246)	0.219 (0.241)	0.158 (0.247)
<i>EEH</i>	0.247 (0.370)		0.569** (0.222)	0.481** (0.218)	0.849*** (0.222)
<i>JEH</i>	0.542*** (0.186)		-0.264** (0.133)	-0.0126 (0.126)	-0.146 (0.138)
1927-1940	1.157*** (0.331)		-0.803*** (0.288)	-0.625** (0.267)	-1.146*** (0.321)
1941-1960	1.144*** (0.193)		-0.0753 (0.159)	0.165 (0.149)	-0.735*** (0.179)
1997-2017	-1.047*** (0.373)		-0.697*** (0.173)	-0.327** (0.160)	-0.0684 (0.167)
Period (1997-2017) * <i>EEH</i>	-2.465** (1.123)		-0.621** (0.299)	-0.884*** (0.286)	-0.928*** (0.289)
<i>EEH</i> + [Period (1997-2017) * <i>EEH</i>]	-2.218** (1.060)		-0.052 (0.200)	-0.403** (0.185)	-0.079 (0.185)
Period (1997-2017) * <i>JEH</i>	-0.969* (0.515)		-0.144 (0.231)	-0.317 (0.209)	-0.264 (0.221)
<i>JEH</i> + [Period (1997-2017) * <i>JEH</i>]	-0.427 (0.481)		-0.408** (0.188)	-0.329** (0.166)	-0.410** (0.172)
Constant	-1.116*** (0.166)		1.121*** (0.105)	1.399*** (0.101)	0.964*** (0.108)
Observations	6,516	6,516	6,516	6,516	6,516

Note: Standard errors in parentheses, ***p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1. Journal base category (omitted): *EHR*; Period base category (omitted): 1961-1996.

Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Tab. 5. *Multinomial logit estimates: historical periods*

Variables	Classical history (Before 476)	Medieval History (476-1492)	Early Modern History (1500-1815)	Modern History (1815-present)	Long run view
<i>CLIO</i>	-14.76 (2,131)	-2.029* (1.036)		0.638** (0.258)	0.0825 (0.362)
<i>EREH</i>	0.0767 (0.878)	-0.734** (0.351)		0.293* (0.167)	-0.982*** (0.300)
<i>EEH</i>	1.457** (0.594)	-0.128 (0.254)		1.333*** (0.146)	0.553*** (0.210)
<i>JEH</i>	0.179 (0.428)	-0.899*** (0.170)		0.991*** (0.0887)	0.144 (0.135)
1927-1940	-16.00 (3,131)	0.540** (0.234)		-0.563*** (0.205)	-0.807** (0.358)
1941-1960	1.157*** (0.428)	0.158 (0.156)		-0.706*** (0.103)	-0.243 (0.153)
1997-2017	0.449 (0.628)	-0.142 (0.187)		0.399*** (0.117)	0.442*** (0.162)
Period (1997-2017) * <i>EEH</i>	-0.101 (0.911)	-0.163 (0.433)		-0.0980 (0.232)	-0.422 (0.331)
<i>EEH</i> + [Period (1997-2017) * <i>EEH</i>]	1.356** (0.691)	0.291 (0.351)		1.235*** (0.180)	0.131 (0.256)
Period (1997-2017) * <i>JEH</i>	-14.98 (952.5)	0.104 (0.345)		-0.437*** (0.168)	-0.298 (0.246)
<i>JEH</i> + [Period (1997-2017) * <i>JEH</i>]	-14.801 (952.5)	-0.795*** (0.300)		0.554*** (0.143)	-0.154 (0.205)
Constant	-4.067*** (0.372)	-0.873*** (0.0983)		0.563*** (0.0657)	-0.861*** (0.0964)
Observations	6,437	6,437	6,437	6,437	6,437

Note: Standard errors in parentheses, ***p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1. Journal base category (omitted): *EHR*; Period base category (omitted): 1961-1996. Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Tab. 6. *Logit estimates: use of econometrics and advanced econometrics techniques*

Variables	Dependent variable	
	Econometric tools	Advanced econometrics
<i>CLIO</i>	2.000*** (0.289)	0.165 (0.371)
<i>EREH</i>	-0.462** (0.195)	2.362*** (0.824)
<i>EEH</i>	1.401*** (0.101)	1.888** (0.750)
<i>JEH</i>	-0.0752 (0.0864)	2.015*** (0.743)
1997-2006	1.399*** (0.0891)	1.465*** (0.349)
2007-2017	1.156*** (0.117)	3.596*** (0.779)
Period (2007-2017) * <i>EREH</i>	1.813*** (0.281)	-1.818** (0.883)
<i>EREH</i> + [Period (2007-2017) * <i>EREH</i>]	1.350*** (0.203)	0.543* (0.317)
Period (2007-2017) * <i>EEH</i>	0.182 (0.208)	-1.153 (0.800)
<i>EEH</i> + [Period (2007-2017) * <i>EEH</i>]	1.583*** (0.181)	0.736*** (0.279)
Period (2007-2017) * <i>JEH</i>	1.071*** (0.178)	-1.505* (0.797)
<i>JEH</i> + [Period (2007-2017) * <i>JEH</i>]	0.995*** (0.156)	0.510* (0.289)
Constant	-0.996*** (0.0686)	-5.958*** (0.745)
Observations	5,121	2,596

Note: Standard errors in parentheses, ***p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1. Journal base category (omitted): *EHR*; Period base category (omitted): 1969-1996. Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Tab. 7. *Co-authorship: number of authors per article by period*

No. of authors per article	1927-1940	1941-1960	1961-1996	1997-2017	Total
1	94.2	96.4	82.9	54.5	74.2
2	5.8	3.3	15.4	33.1	20.3
3	-	0.4	1.7	10.5	4.8
4	-	-	-	1.7	0.6
5	-	-	-	0.1	0.0
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Tab. 8a *Share of nationality of the contributions' authors affiliations by period*

	1927-1940	1941-1960	1961-1996	1997-2017	Total
USA	20.0	50.5	56.5	33.9	46.6
UK	64.2	40.7	28.4	25.2	29.3
Canada	-	2.7	5.7	4.9	4.9
Australia	-	0.8	3.1	1.6	2.2
Ireland	-	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.6
New Zealand	-	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.5
Germany	1.7	0.9	0.5	4.7	2.2
Spain	-	-	0.2	5.1	2.0
Italy	-	0.5	0.4	3.5	1.5
Netherlands	-	0.3	0.3	3.4	1.4
France	5.0	1.2	0.6	2.4	1.4
Sweden	1.7	0.3	0.1	2.9	1.2
Japan	-	-	0.7	1.1	0.7
Other European Countries	6.7	0.8	1.0	5.9	2.9
All others	0.8	0.9	1.4	4.1	2.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Tab. 8.b *Share of nationality of the contributions' authors affiliations per million inhabitants by period*

	1927-1940	1941-1960	1961-1996	1997-2017
UK	1.6	5.9	15.4	9.2
Sweden	0.3	0.3	0.3	7.0
Denmark	-	-	0.6	5.7
Netherlands	-	0.2	0.6	4.9
Ireland	-	0.7	4.3	4.4
Belgium	0.4	0.2	0.9	3.7
Canada	-	1.1	6.0	3.2
Iceland	-	-	-	3.0
Switzerland	-	0.2	1.0	2.6
Spain	-	-	0.1	2.6
USA	0.2	2.1	6.6	2.5
Israel	-	1.4	3.7	2.2
Norway	-	-	0.5	2.0
New Zealand	-	0.8	5.0	1.9
Finland	-	-	-	1.7
Australia	-	0.6	5.5	1.6
Italy	-	0.1	0.2	1.4
Germany	0.0	0.1	0.2	1.4
France	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.9
Portugal	-	-	-	0.8

Sources: elaborations on our own database; for population: *Maddison Project Database*, version 2018 (Bolt et al 2018).

Tab. 9. *Top 10 institutional affiliations by number of contributions*

#	1927-1940		1941-1960		1961-1996		1997-2017		1927-2017	
	Institution	%	Institution	%	Institution	%	Institution	%	Institution	%
1	University of Oxford	16.8	University of Cambridge	8.2	University of Cambridge	3.2	London School of Economics and Political Science	3.1	University of Cambridge	3.7
2	London School of Economics and Political Science	11.8	London School of Economics and Political Science	5.1	University of Oxford	2.7	University of Oxford	3.0	University of Oxford	3.3
3	University of Cambridge	6.3	University of Oxford	5.0	Harvard University	2.5	University of Cambridge	2.8	London School of Economics and Political Science	2.9
4	University College London	5.0	Harvard University	4.8	London School of Economics and Political Science	1.8	Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	1.9	Harvard University	2.5
5	Moscow State University	4.2	Columbia University	3.0	University of London	1.6	University of Warwick	1.8	University of London	1.3
6	University of Manchester	4.2	University of Chicago	2.8	University of Washington	1.5	Harvard University	1.7	Yale University	1.2
7	Harvard University	3.4	University of Manchester	2.6	Yale University	1.5	Utrecht University	1.7	University of Warwick	1.1
8	Université de Rennes	3.4	University College London	2.0	University of Wisconsin	1.4	University of California Davis	1.3	University of Manchester	1.1
9	University of Chicago	3.4	University of Pennsylvania	1.8	University of California Berkeley	1.4	Lund University	1.1	University of California Berkeley	1.1
10	Ghent University	2.5	Johns Hopkins University	1.8	University of Edinburgh	1.3	University of Reading	1.1	University of Chicago	1.1
	C10	60.9		37.2		19.0		19.5		19.3
	C25	84.9		57.6		34.4		31.6		32.2
	HHI (x 100)	6.2		2.2		0.8		0.7		
	HHI United Kingdom (x 100)	12.7		8.7		4.1		5.8		
	HHI United States (x 100)	10.4		2.8		1.2		1.3		

Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Tab. 10. *Share of citations received by the most cited articles by periods*

Periods	Citations received by top 1% articles	Citations received by top 10% articles	Total citations received by all articles	% Citations received by top 1% articles out total	% Citations received by top 10% articles out total
1927-1940	65	454	1,006	6.5	45.1
1941-1960	1,974	4,563	8,153	24.2	56.0
1961-1996	9,629	17,791	57,026	16.9	31.2
1997-2017	3,511	14,287	34,664	10.1	41.2
Total	15,179	37,095	100,849	15.1	36.8

Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Tab. 11.a *Twenty most cited articles by period (1927-1940)*

#	Citations received	Citations per year	Authors	Article title	Journal	Year	Topics
1	44	0.94	Shannon, H.A.	The limited companies of 1866-1883	<i>EHR</i>	1933	Institutions
2	41	0.87	Fisher, F.J. (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)	The development of the London food market, 1540-1640	<i>EHR</i>	1935	Standard of living
3	39	0.83	Lewis, Bernard (Princeton University, USA)	The Islamic guilds	<i>EHR</i>	1937	Institutions
4	35	0.74	Stenton, Frank Merry (University of Oxford, UK)	The road system of medieval England	<i>EHR</i>	1936	Services
5	32	0.68	Postan, Micheal Moissey (University College London, UK)	Recent trends in the accumulation of capital	<i>EHR</i>	1935	Growth
6	32	0.68	Habakkuk, Hrothgar John (University of Oxford, UK)	English landownership, 1680-1740	<i>EHR</i>	1940	Agriculture
7	29	0.62	Barbour, Violet (Vassar College, USA)	Dutch And English merchant shipping in the seventeenth century	<i>EHR</i>	1930	Services
8	28	0.60	Postan, Micheal Moissey (University College London, UK)	Credit in medieval trade	<i>EHR</i>	1928	Finance
9	28	0.60	Todd, Geoffrey	Some aspects of joint stock companies, 1844-1900	<i>EHR</i>	1932	Finance
10	27	0.57	Derry, Thomas Kingston (University of Oxford, UK)	The repeal of the apprenticeship clauses of the statute of apprentices	<i>EHR</i>	1931	Standard of living
11	26	0.55	Dale, Marian K.	The London silkwomen of the fifteenth century	<i>EHR</i>	1933	Labour
12	24	0.51	Sombart, Werner (University of Berlin, Germany)	Economic theory and Economic history	<i>EHR</i>	1929	EH
13	24	0.51	Nef, John Ulric (University of Chicago, USA)	The progress of technology and the growth of large-scale industry in Great Britain, 1540-1640	<i>EHR</i>	1934	Industry
14	24	0.51	Fisher, F.J. (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)	Commercial trends and policy in sixteenth-century England	<i>EHR</i>	1940	Trade
15	21	0.45	Jones, P.E. and Judges, A.V.	London population in the late seventeenth century	<i>EHR</i>	1935	Population and demography
16	19	0.40	Elman, P.	The economic causes of the expulsion of the Jews In 1290	<i>EHR</i>	1937	Institutions
17	16	0.34	Tawney, A.J. (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK) and Tawney, Richard Henry (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)	An occupational census of the seventeenth century	<i>EHR</i>	1934	Labour
18	16	0.34	Hamilton, Earl J. (University of Chicago, USA)	Revisions In Economic history: Viii.-The decline of Spain	<i>EHR</i>	1938	Institutions
19	14	0.30	Wagner, Donald O.	Coke and the rise of economic liberalism	<i>EHR</i>	1935	HET
20	13	0.28	Gilboy, Elizabeth Waterman (Wellesley College, USA)	Labour at Thornborough: an eighteenth-century estate	<i>EHR</i>	1932	Standard of living
20	13	0.28	Lennard, Reginald (University of Cambridge, UK)	English agriculture under Charles II: the Evidence of the Royal Society's "enquiries"	<i>EHR</i>	1932	Agriculture
20	13	0.28	Bishop, Tam Alan M. (University of Oxford, UK)	Assarting and the growth of the open fields	<i>EHR</i>	1935	Agriculture

Tab. 11.b *Twenty most cited articles by period (1941-1960)*

#	Citations received	Citations per year	Authors	Article title	Journal	Year	Topics
1	630	13.40	Gallagher, John (University of Cambridge, UK) and Robinson, Ronald (University of Oxford, UK)	The imperialism of free trade	<i>EHR</i>	1953	Institutions
2	528	11.23	Schumpeter, Joseph A. (Harvard University, USA)	The creative response in economic history	<i>JEH</i>	1947	EH
3	237	5.04	Machlup, Fritz (Johns Hopkins University, USA) and Penrose, Edith (Johns Hopkins University, USA)	The patent controversy in the nineteenth century	<i>JEH</i>	1950	Innovation
4	202	4.30	Bohannan, Paul (Northwestern University, USA)	The impact of money on an African subsistence economy	<i>JEH</i>	1959	Institutions
5	135	2.87	Rostow, Walt Whitman (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA)	The stages of economic growth	<i>EHR</i>	1959	Growth
6	127	2.70	North, Douglass C. (University of Washington, USA)	Ocean freight rates and economic development 1750–1913	<i>JEH</i>	1958	Services
7	115	2.45	Stoianovich, Traian (Rutgers University, USA)	The conquering Balkan orthodox merchant	<i>JEH</i>	1960	Trade
8	99	2.11	Yamey, Basil S. (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)	Scientific bookkeeping and the rise of capitalism	<i>EHR</i>	1949	Firm
9	96	2.04	de Roover, Raymond (Boston College, USA)	The concept of the just price: theory and economic policy	<i>JEH</i>	1958	HET
10	94	2.00	Landes, David S. (Harvard University, USA)	French entrepreneurship and industrial growth in the nineteenth century	<i>JEH</i>	1949	Firm
11	82	1.74	Lane, Frederic C. (Johns Hopkins University, USA)	Economic consequences of organized violence	<i>JEH</i>	1958	Institutions
12	71	1.51	Davis, Ralph (University of Hull, UK)	English foreign trade, 1660-1700	<i>EHR</i>	1954	Trade
13	63	1.34	Habakkuk, Hrothgar John (University of Oxford, UK)	Family structure and economic change in nineteenth-century Europe	<i>JEH</i>	1955	Labour
14	60	1.28	Hoover, Edgar M. (University of Michigan Ann Arbor, USA)	Interstate redistribution of population, 1850–1940	<i>JEH</i>	1941	Labour
15	59	1.26	Kellett, John R. (University of Glasgow, UK)	The breakdown of guild and corporation control over the handicraft and retail trade in London	<i>EHR</i>	1958	Institutions
16	57	1.21	Graham, Gerald S. (King's College London, UK)	The ascendancy of the sailing ship 1850-85	<i>EHR</i>	1956	Services
17	55	1.17	Coats, Alfred William (University of Nottingham, UK)	Changing attitudes to labour in the mid-eighteenth century	<i>EHR</i>	1958	Labour
18	52	1.11	Handlin, Oscar (Harvard University, USA) and Handlin, Mary F. (Harvard University, USA)	Origins of the American business corporation	<i>JEH</i>	1945	Firm
19	51	1.09	Tawney, Richard Henry (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)	The rise of the gentry, 1558-1640	<i>EHR</i>	1941	Institutions
20	50	1.06	Chambers, J.D. (University of Nottingham, UK)	Enclosure and labour supply in the industrial revolution	<i>EHR</i>	1953	Agriculture

Tab. 11.c *Twenty most cited articles by period (1961-1996)*

#	Citations received	Citations per year	Authors	Article title	Journal	Year	Topics
1	1,867	66.68	North, Douglass C. (Washington University St. Louis, USA) and Weingast, Barry R. (Stanford University, USA)	Constitutions and commitment: the evolution of institutions governing public choice in seventeenth-century England	<i>JEH</i>	1989	Institutions
2	1,380	44.52	Abramovitz, Moses (Stanford University, USA)	Catching up, forging ahead, and falling behind	<i>JEH</i>	1986	Growth
3	586	20.93	Greif, Avner (Stanford University, USA)	Reputation and coalitions in medieval trade: evidence on the Maghribi traders	<i>JEH</i>	1989	Trade
4	539	12.25	Alchian, Armen A. (University of California LA, USA) and Delmetz Harold (University of California LA, USA)	The property right paradigm	<i>JEH</i>	1973	Institutions
5	384	16.70	De Vries, Jan (University of California Berkeley, USA)	The industrial revolution and the industrious revolution	<i>JEH</i>	1994	Growth
6	313	6.96	Mendels, Franklin F. (Sir George Williams University, Canada)	Proto-industrialization: the first phase of the industrialization process	<i>JEH</i>	1972	Industry
7	306	6.51	Rosenberg, Nathan (Purdue University, USA)	Technological change in the machine tool industry, 1840–1910	<i>JEH</i>	1963	Innovation
8	253	9.37	Cowan, Robin (New York University, USA)	Nuclear power reactors: a study in technological lock-in	<i>JEH</i>	1990	Innovation
9	225	4.79	Domar, Evsey D. (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA)	The causes of slavery or serfdom: a hypothesis	<i>JEH</i>	1970	Labour
10	220	6.47	Mowery, David (Carnegie Mellon University, USA)	The relationship between intrafirm and contractual forms of industrial research in American manufacturing 1900-1940	<i>EEH</i>	1983	Innovation
11	219	7.55	O'Brien, Patrick Karl (University of Oxford, UK)	The political economy of British taxation, 1660-1815	<i>EHR</i>	1988	Institutions
12	210	9.55	Williamson, Jeffrey G. (Harvard University, USA)	The evolution of global labor markets since 1830: background evidence and hypotheses	<i>EEH</i>	1995	Labour
13	204	6.38	Eichengreen, Barry (Harvard University, USA) and Sachs, Jeffrey (Harvard University, USA)	Exchange rates and economic recovery in the 1930s	<i>JEH</i>	1985	Finance
14	201	5.58	Easterlin, Richard A. (University of Pennsylvania, USA)	Why isn't the whole world developed?	<i>JEH</i>	1981	Institutions
15	200	9.52	Bordo, Michael D. (Rutgers University, USA) and Rockoff, Hugh (Rutgers University, USA)	The gold standard as a "good housekeeping seal of approval"	<i>JEH</i>	1996	Finance
15	200	4.26	Olson, Mancur (Princeton University, USA)	Rapid growth as a destabilizing force	<i>JEH</i>	1963	Growth
17	190	9.05	Williamson, Jeffrey G. (Harvard University, USA)	Globalization, convergence, and history	<i>JEH</i>	1996	Trade
18	182	4.04	Rosenberg, Nathan (University of Wisconsin, USA)	Factors affecting the diffusion of technology	<i>EEH</i>	1972	Innovation
19	173	6.41	Humphries, Jane (University of Cambridge, UK)	Enclosures, common rights, and women: the proletarianization of families in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries	<i>JEH</i>	1990	Institutions
20	167	3.55	Schmookler, Jacob (University of Minnesota, USA)	Economic sources of inventive activity	<i>JEH</i>	1962	Innovation

Tab. 11.d *Twenty most cited articles by period (1997-2017)*

#	Citations received	Citations per year	Authors	Article title	Journal	Year	Topics
1	389	24.31	Allen, Robert C. (University of Oxford, UK)	The great divergence in European wages and prices from the middle ages to the first World War	<i>EHR</i>	2001	Standard of living
2	249	13.11	Komlos, John (University of Munich, Germany)	Shrinking in a growing economy? The mystery of physical stature during the industrial revolution	<i>JEH</i>	1998	Standard of living
3	218	11.47	Epstein, S.R. (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)	Craft guilds, apprenticeship, and technological change in preindustrial Europe	<i>JEH</i>	1998	Institutions
4	212	11.16	Feinstein, Charles H. (University of Oxford, UK)	Pessimism perpetuated: Real wages and the standard of living in Britain during and after the industrial revolution	<i>JEH</i>	1998	Standard of living
5	208	10.40	Offer, Avner (University of Oxford, UK)	Between the gift and the market: the economy of regard	<i>EHR</i>	1997	Institutions
6	187	23.38	Steckel, Richard H. (Ohio State University, USA)	Heights and human welfare: Recent developments and new directions	<i>EHR</i>	2009	Standard of living
7	163	8.58	Goldin, Claudia (Harvard University, USA)	America's graduation from high school: the evolution and spread of secondary schooling in the twentieth century	<i>JEH</i>	1998	Human capital
8	159	14.45	Broadberry, Stephen (University of Warwick, UK) and Gupta, Bishnupriya (University of Warwick, UK)	The early modern great divergence: wages, prices and economic development in Europe and Asia	<i>EHR</i>	2006	Growth
9	151	7.95	Szreter, Simon (University of Cambridge, UK) and Mooney, Graham (University of London, UK)	Urbanization, mortality, and the standard of living debate: new estimates of the expectation of life at birth in nineteenth-century British cities	<i>EHR</i>	1998	Standard of living
10	137	13.70	David, Paul A. (Stanford University, USA)	Path dependence: a foundational concept for historical social science	<i>CLIO</i>	2007	EH
11	128	21.33	Allen, Robert C. (University of Oxford, UK), Bassino, Jean Pascal (Université de Montpellier, France), Ma, Debin (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK), Moll-Murata, Christine (Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany) and Van Zanden, Jan Luiten (Utrecht University, Netherlands)	Wages, prices, and living standards in china, 1738–1925: in comparison with Europe, Japan, and India	<i>EHR</i>	2011	Standard of living
12	122	17.43	De Moor, Tine (Utrecht University, Netherlands) and Van Zanden, Jan Luiten (Utrecht University, Netherlands)	Girl power: the European marriage pattern and labour markets in the north sea region in the late medieval and early modern period	<i>EHR</i>	2010	Population and demography
12	122	12.20	Ogilvie, Sheilagh (University of Cambridge, UK)	Whatever is, is right'? Economic institutions in pre-industrial Europe	<i>EHR</i>	2007	Institutions
14	117	39.00	Bolt, Jutta (University of Groningen, Netherlands) and Van Zanden, Jan Luiten (Utrecht University, Netherlands)	The Maddison project: collaborative research on historical national accounts	<i>EHR</i>	2014	Growth
15	114	5.70	O'Rourke, Kevin (University College Dublin, Ireland)	The European grain invasion, 1870-1913	<i>JEH</i>	1997	Agriculture
16	112	8.00	Allen, Robert C. (University of Oxford, UK)	Progress and poverty in early modern Europe	<i>EHR</i>	2003	Growth
17	111	8.54	Ogilvie, Sheilagh (University of Cambridge, UK)	Guilds, efficiency, and social capital: evidence from German proto-industry	<i>EHR</i>	2004	Institutions
18	107	6.29	Prados De La Escosura, Leandro (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain)	International comparisons of real product, 1820-1990: an alternative data set	<i>EEH</i>	2000	Growth
18	107	10.70	Clark, Gregory (University of California Davis, USA)	The long march of history: farm wages, population, and economic growth, England 1209–1869	<i>EHR</i>	2007	Growth
20	104	5.78	Van Zanden, Jan Luiten (Utrecht University, Netherlands)	Wages and the standard of living in Europe, 1500-1800	<i>EREH</i>	1999	Standard of living

Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Notes: for articles published before 1970 citations per year are calculated on a period of 47 years.

Tab. 12. *Co-authorship: number of authors per article*

No. of authors per article	T5-E		T5-Ebis		T10-E		T5-EH	
	No. articles	%	No. articles	%	No. articles	%	No. articles	%
1	63	29.2	78	33.3	141	31.3	1,054	51.8
2	105	48.6	95	40.6	200	44.4	695	34.1
3	40	18.5	51	21.8	91	20.2	243	11.9
4	7	3.2	10.0	4.3	17	3.8	41	2.0
5	1	0.5	0	-	1	0.2	3	0.1
Total	216	100.0	234	100.0	450	100.0	2,036	100.0

Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Tab. 13. *Share of articles' topics by period*

Groups of topics	Topic	T5-E	T5-Ebis	T10-E	T5-EH
Methodology		0.5	6.0	3.3	1.1
EH	Economic History discipline	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.9
HET	History of Economic Thought	-	5.6	2.9	0.2
Institutions		20.4	16.2	18.2	13.7
Institutions	Institutions, regulation, role of culture and religion, empires and imperial expansion. Electoral issues and general politics, war	20.4	16.2	18.2	13.7
Macro approach		15.7	18.8	17.3	22.3
Growth	Growth, national accounts and economic fluctuations. General economic history (also industrialization process) of a specific geographical area (continent, country and region)	7.4	9.8	8.7	10.2
Macroeconomic and monetary policies	Monetary and fiscal policy, central banking	4.6	3.4	4.0	5.7
Trade	Trade and trade policies. Market integration (commodities).	3.7	5.6	4.7	6.3
Micro approach		26.9	17.9	22.2	33.1
Agriculture	Agriculture (including forestry and fishing), land policy, natural resources, energy and environmental history	4.2	4.3	4.2	5.3
Finance	Banking and financial systems, private investment and capital markets (domestic and international, including integration) and credit regulation	11.6	6.8	9.1	12.8
Firm	Business history on specific companies in industry and banking, entrepreneurship	-	-	-	1.7
Industry	Manufacturing, mining and construction. Industrial policy	2.8	2.1	2.4	6.1
Innovation	Innovation and technology	7.9	2.1	4.9	3.9
Services	Insurance, transportation (roads, railways and canals) including construction. Retailing.	0.5	2.6	1.6	3.2
Personal conditions and behaviour		36.6	41.0	38.9	29.8
Human capital	Human capital and education	5.6	9.4	7.6	3.4
Income distribution	Inequality and wealth distribution	5.6	4.3	4.9	3.2
Labour	Labour force (including gender issue), slavery (including trade), industrial relations and trade unions, welfare state (including pensions)	11.6	4.3	7.8	6.1
Population and demography	Demographic behaviour (birth, marriage and mortality), famines and their demographic effects, migrations, urbanization and city growth	9.3	14.5	12.0	4.7
Standard of living	Wages, consumption, biological standard of living (heights, wellness and health)	4.6	8.5	6.7	12.4
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of articles		216	234	450	2,036

Sources: our own database.

Tab. 14. *Multinomial logit estimates: topics*

Variables	Methodology	Institutions	Macro approach	Micro approach	Personal conditions and behaviour
T5-E	-1.292 (1.034)		-0.748*** (0.241)	-0.609*** (0.212)	-0.196 (0.202)
T5-Ebis	1.494*** (0.381)		-0.344 (0.234)	-0.786*** (0.235)	0.146 (0.205)
Constant	-2.492*** (0.217)		0.490*** (0.0762)	0.886*** (0.0713)	0.781*** (0.0724)
Observations	2,486	2,486	2,486	2,486	2,486

Note: Standard errors in parentheses, *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$. Journal base category (omitted): T5-EH.
Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Tab. 15. *Multinomial logit estimates: historical period*

Variables	Classical history (Before 476)	Medieval History (476-1492)	Early Modern History (1500-1815)	Modern History (1815-present)	Long run view
T5-E	0.905 (1.085)	0.463 (0.494)		0.961*** (0.269)	1.208*** (0.320)
T5-Ebis	1.663** (0.825)	0.122 (0.576)		0.942*** (0.277)	1.846*** (0.304)
Constant	-3.678*** (0.338)	-1.444*** (0.121)		1.348*** (0.0595)	-0.547*** (0.0875)
Observations	2,464	2,464	2,464	2,464	2,464

Note: Standard errors in parentheses, *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$. Journal base category (omitted): T5-EH.
Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Tab. 16 *Share of nationality of the contributions' authors affiliations (2001-2017)*

Country	T5-E	T5-Ebis	T10-E	T5-EH
USA	77.4	50.9	63.6	32.2
UK	5.5	14.4	10.1	24.3
Germany	3.3	5.7	4.5	5.1
France	3.8	2.2	3.0	2.7
Spain	2.9	2.2	2.5	5.7
Canada	1.9	2.2	2.1	4.4
Denmark	-	3.4	1.8	1.5
Italy	1.1	1.9	1.5	3.9
Ireland	0.6	2.0	1.3	0.9
Belgium	0.6	1.7	1.2	1.9
Netherlands	0.5	1.7	1.1	3.8
Switzerland	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.1
Sweden	0.5	1.3	0.9	3.3
Australia	-	1.6	0.8	1.6
Japan	0.5	0.2	0.3	1.3
Others	0.7	7.5	4.3	6.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Tab. 17. *Top 10 institutional affiliations by number of contributions*

T5-E				T5-Ebis				T10-E				T5-EH			
#	Institutions	Area	%	#	Institutions	Area	%	#	Institutions	Area	%	#	Institutions	Area	%
1	Harvard University	AS	10.3	1	Harvard University	AS	4.5	1	Harvard University	AS	7.3	1	University of Oxford	AS	3.1
2	University of California Los Angeles	AS	4.8	2	London School of Economics and Political Science	AS	2.5	2	University of California Berkeley	AS	3.4	1	London School of Economics and Political Science	AS	3.1
3	University of Chicago	AS	4.5	2	World Bank	AS	2.5	3	University of California Los Angeles	AS	3.1	3	University of Cambridge	AS	2.9
4	University of California Berkeley	AS	4.4	4	University of California Berkeley	AS	2.4	4	University of Chicago	AS	2.9	4	Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	C	2.0
5	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	AS	4.2	5	University of Michigan	AS	1.9	5	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	AS	2.4	5	Utrecht University	C	1.9
6	Stanford University	AS	3.2	5	University of California Davis	AS	1.9	6	University of Michigan	AS	2.1	6	University of Warwick	AS	1.8
7	Universitat Pompeu Fabra	C	2.5	7	New York University	AS	1.7	7	University of California Davis	AS	2.0	7	Harvard University	AS	1.7
8	University of Michigan	AS	2.4	8	University of California Los Angeles	AS	1.6	8	Stanford University	AS	1.9	8	University of California Davis	AS	1.2
9	Yale University	AS	2.3	8	University of Oxford	AS	1.6	8	New York University	AS	1.9	8	Lund University	C	1.2
10	Northwestern University	AS	2.2	8	University of Southern Denmark	C	1.6	10	Universitat Pompeu Fabra	C	1.8	10	University of Reading	AS	1.1

Note: AS = Anglo-Saxon; C = Continental Europe
Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 1.a *T3-EH citations' network 1997*

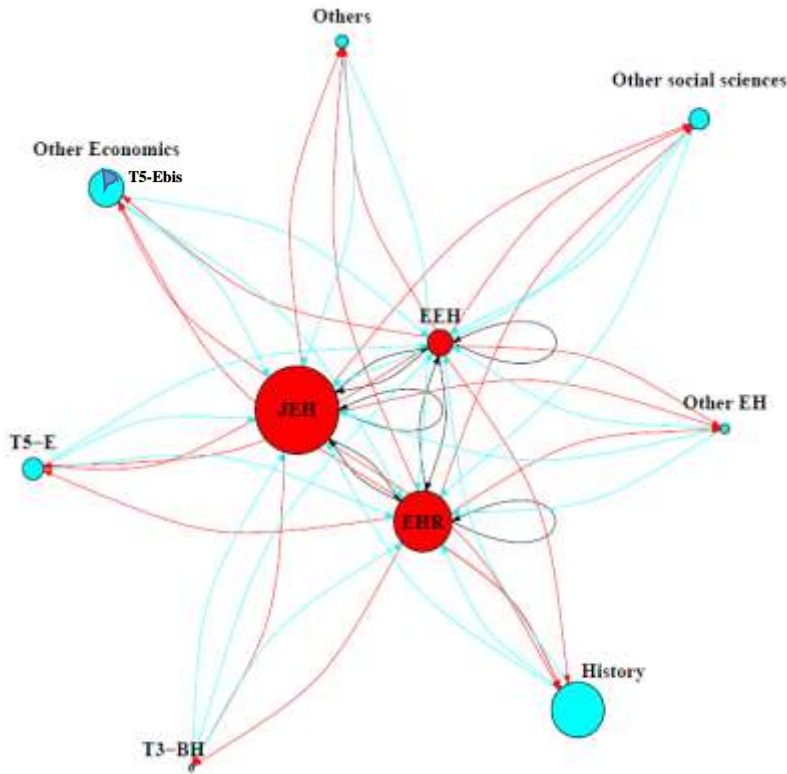
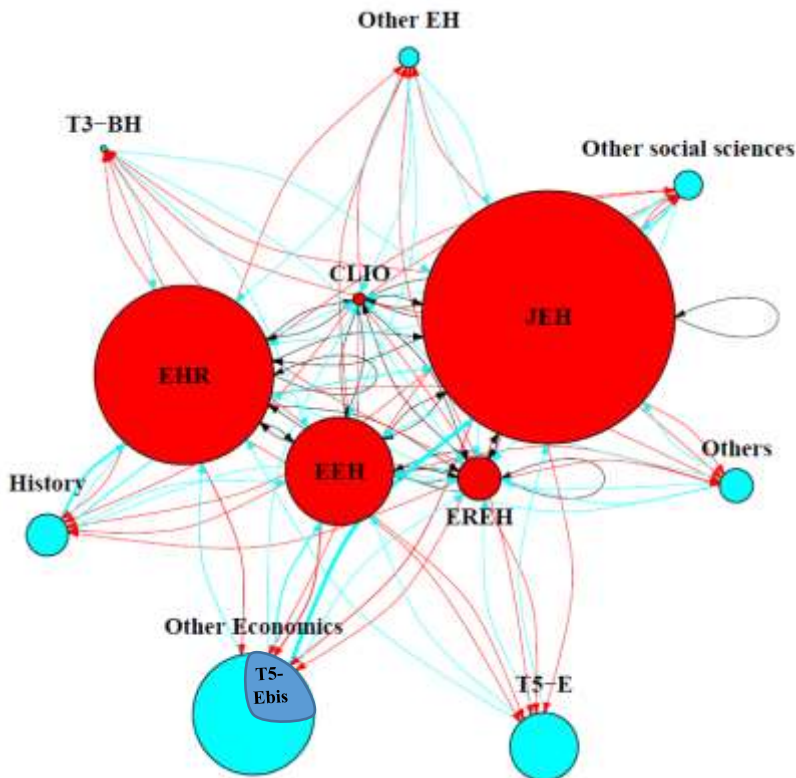


Fig. 1.b *T5-EH citations' network 2017*

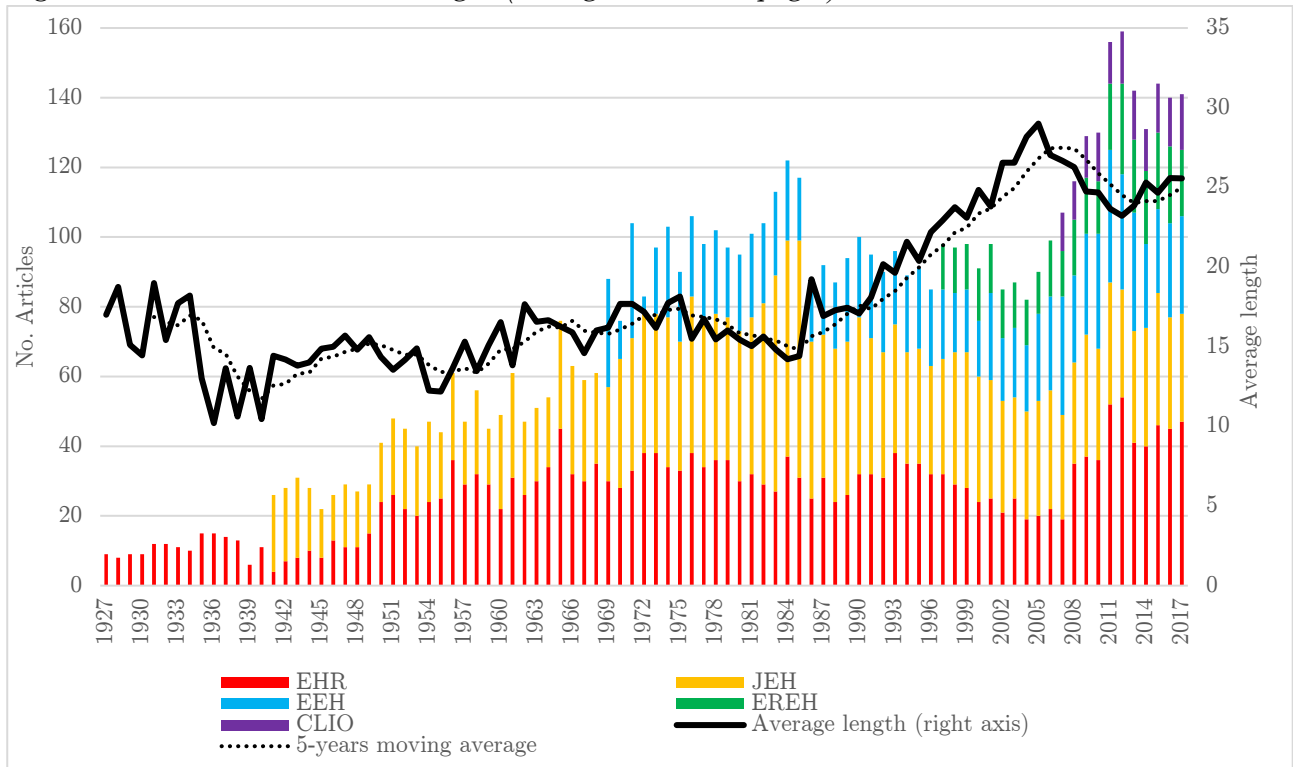


Legend: Circle size points out total citations received; arrow thickness points out the total number of citations between T5-EH and groups; black arrows indicate citations done and received within the T5-EH; red arrows indicate citations done by T5-EH and blue arrows indicate citations received by T5-EH from other groups.

Notes: from the total citations done and received are excluded all documents cited less than 2 times (because the source allows to identify single documents only if they have been cited at least 2 times).

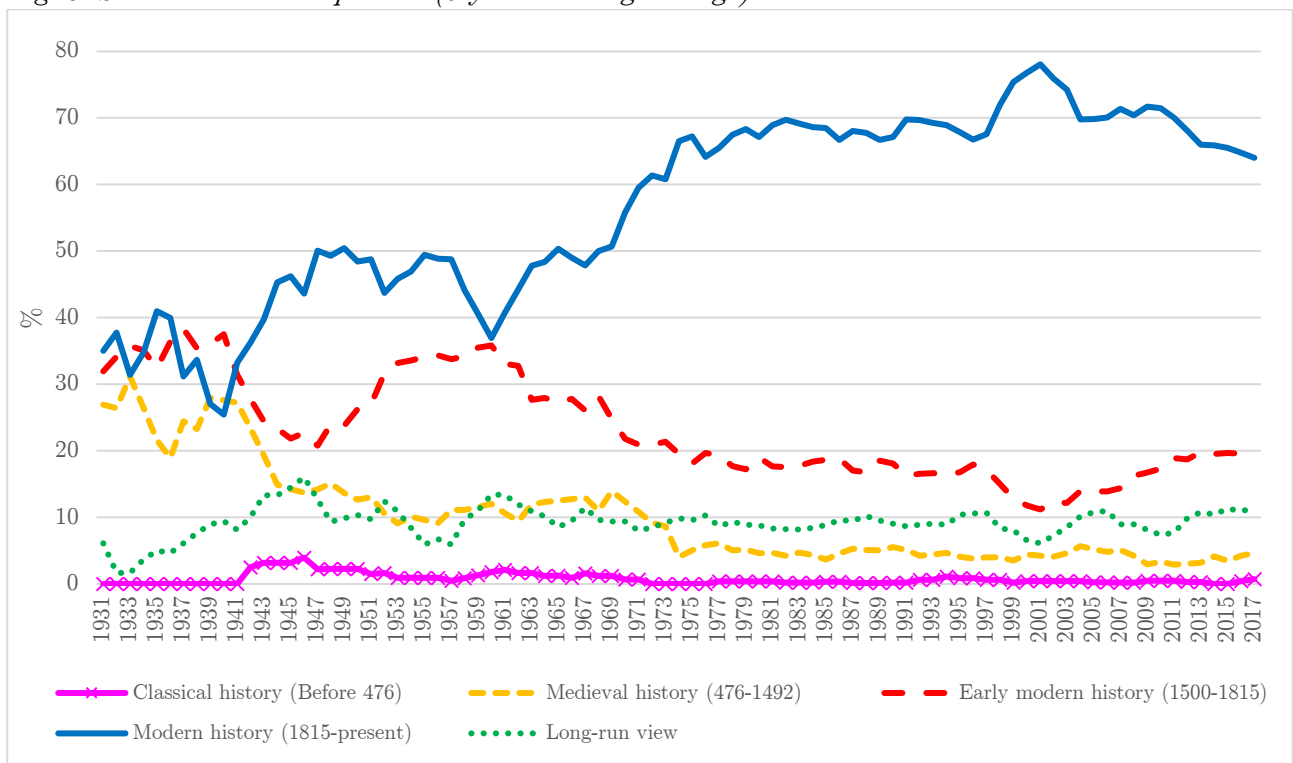
Sources: elaborations on data extracted by InCites *Journal of Citation Reports*, Clarivate Analytics, www.jcr.incites.thomsonreuters.com/ data extracted on 19 September 2018.

Fig. 2. *Evolution of articles and length (average number of pages)*



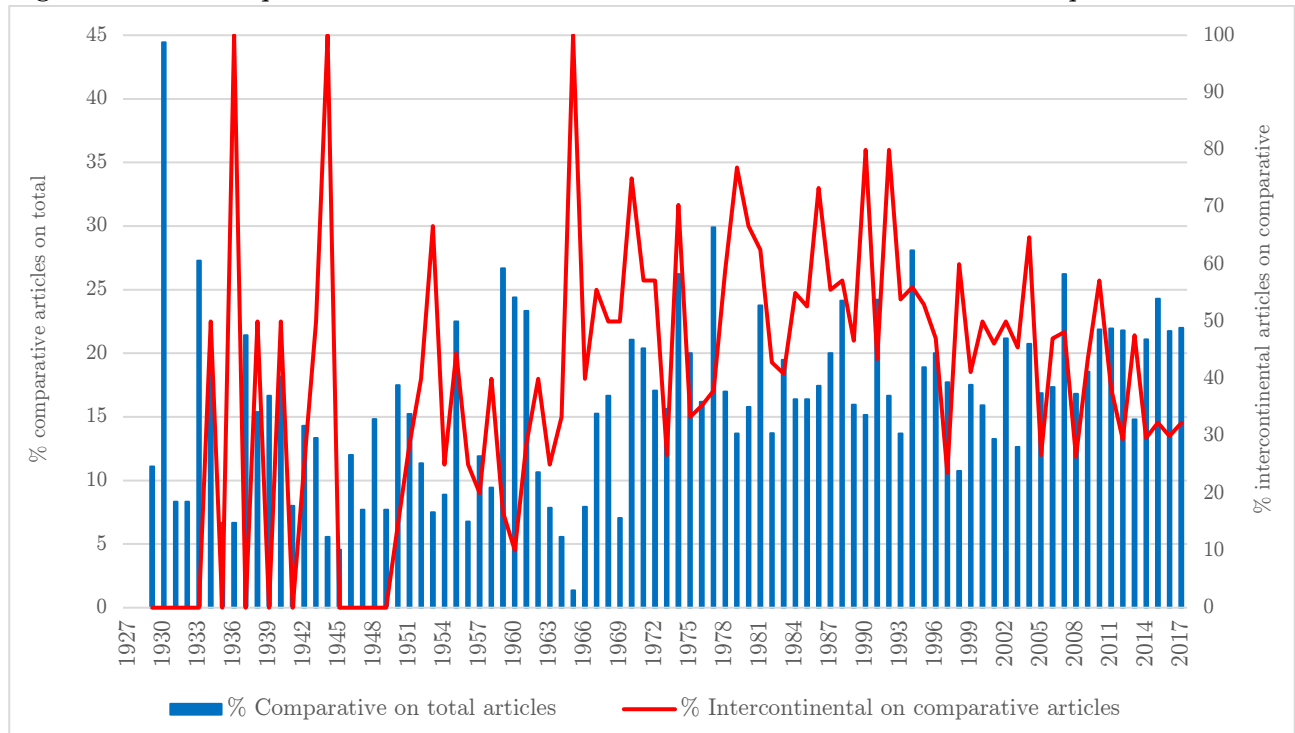
Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 3. *Share of historical periods (5-years moving average)*



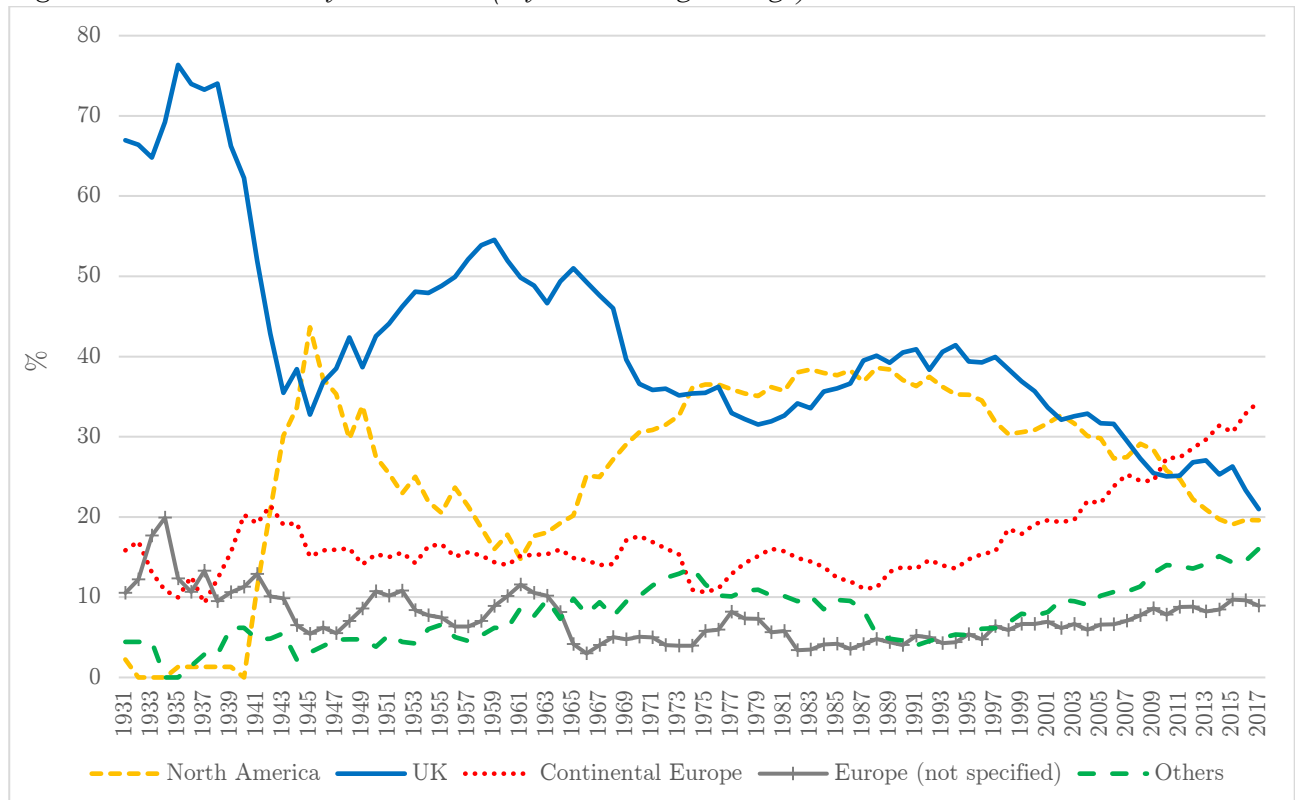
Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 4. *Share of comparative articles on total and of intercontinental articles on comparative ones*



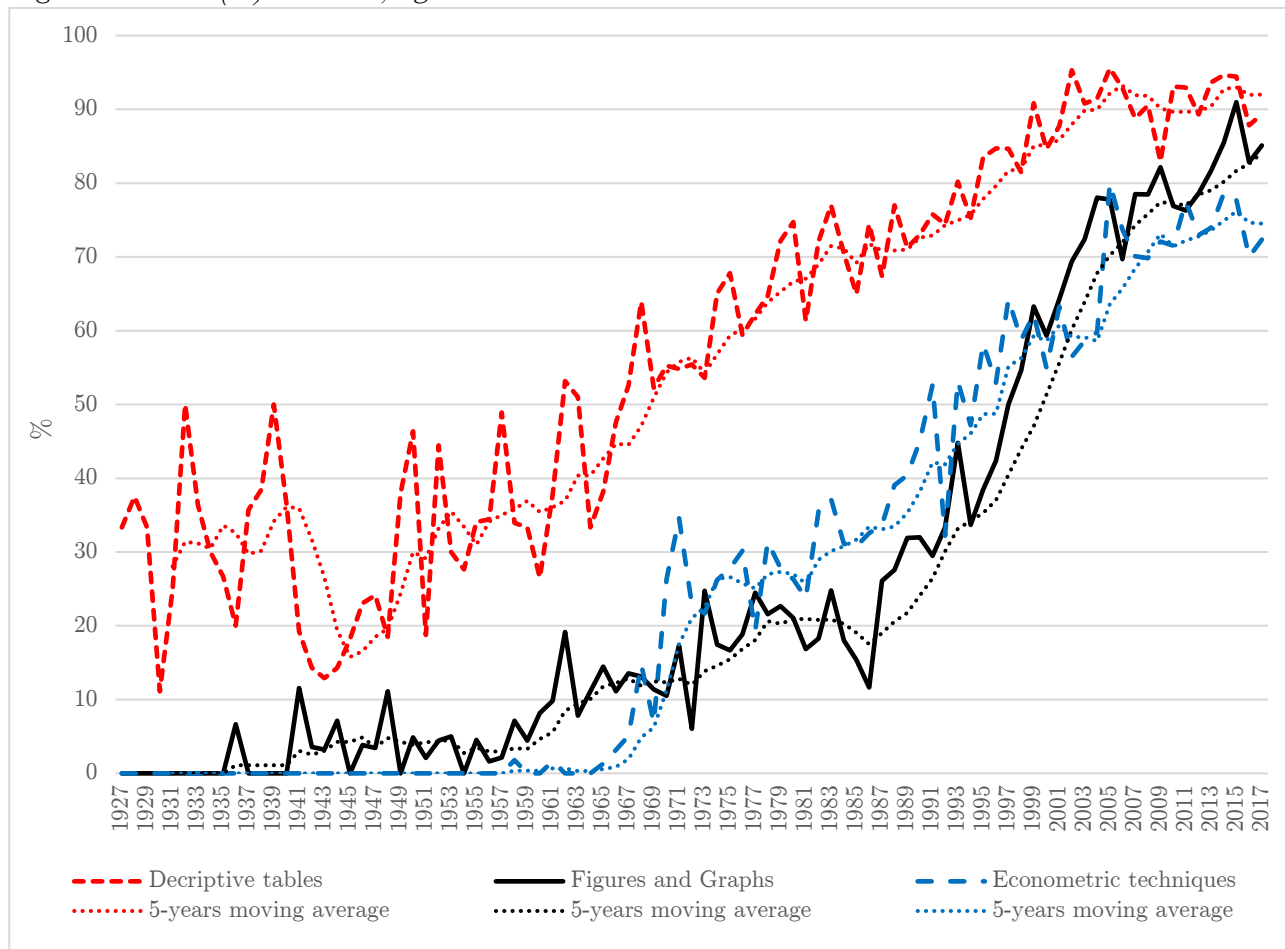
Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 5. *Share of articles by continents (5-years moving average)*



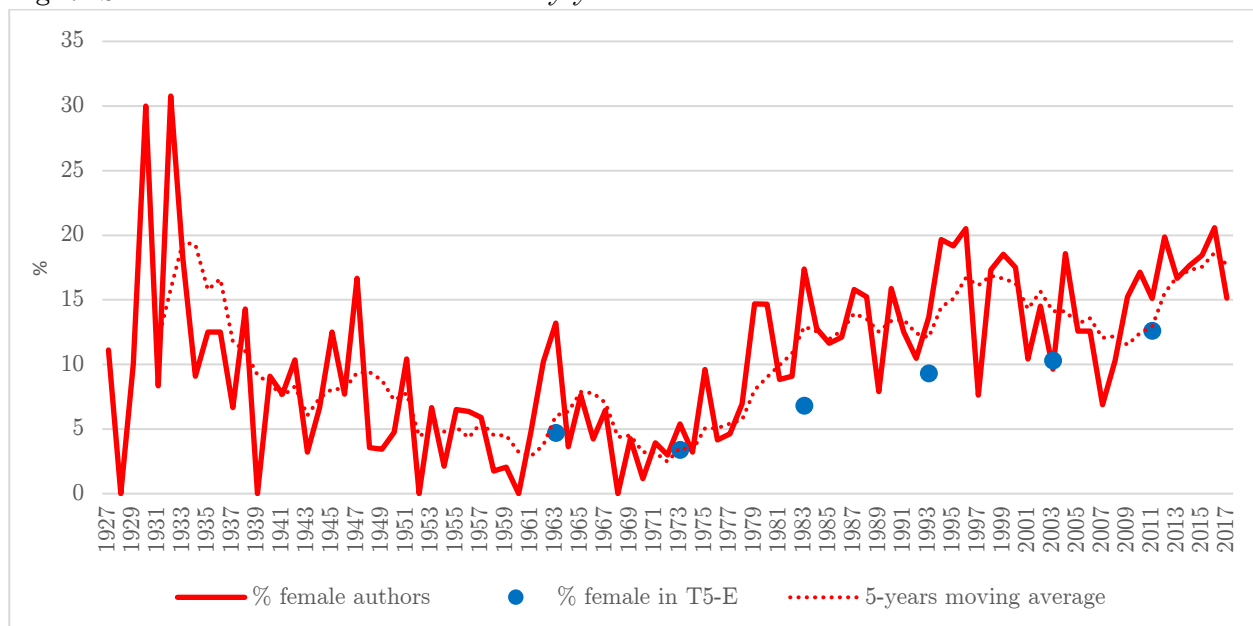
Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 6. Presence (%) of tables, figures and econometrics on total articles



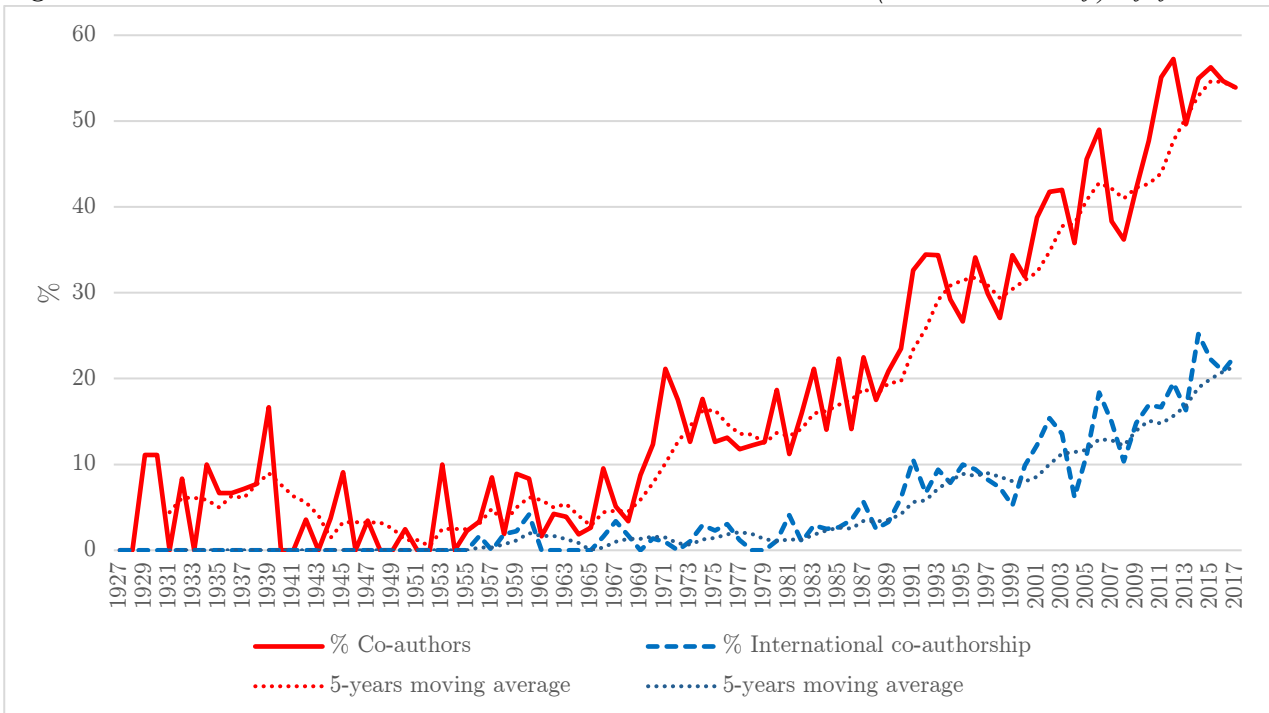
Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 7. Shares of women on total authors by year



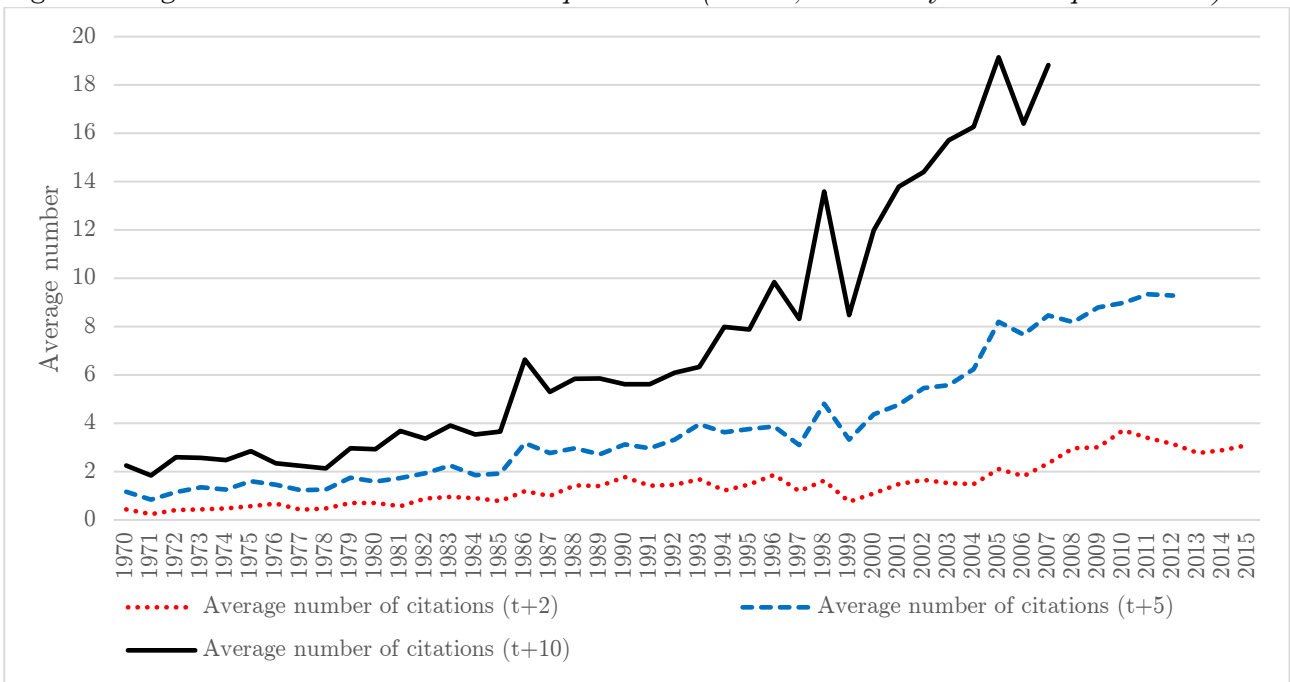
Sources: elaborations on our own database; for Top Economics Journals: Hamermesh (2013, table 1).

Fig. 8. Shares of co-authored articles and of international co-authors (different country) by year



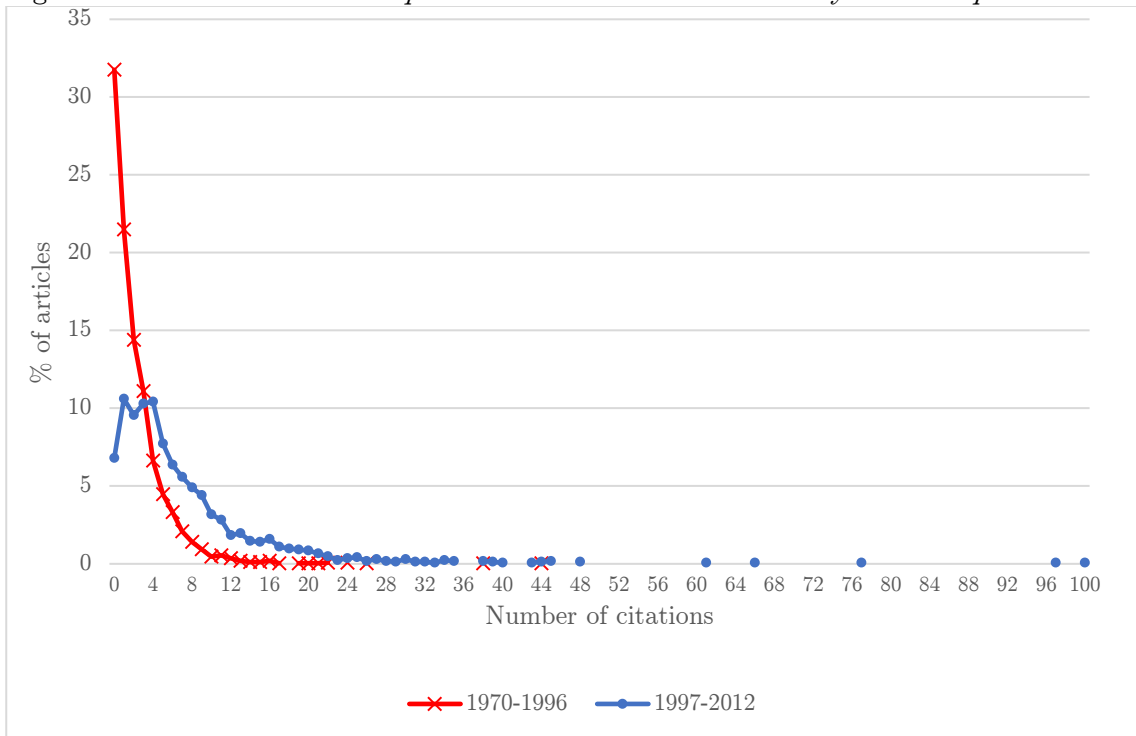
Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 9 Average number of citations received per article (after 2, 5 and 10 years from publication)



Sources: elaborations on our own database.
Notes: data start from the 1970 cohort.

Fig. 10. *Distribution of articles per number of citations after five years from publication*



Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 11. *Share of articles on economic history published in the T5-E, T5-Ebis and T10-E (2001-2017)*

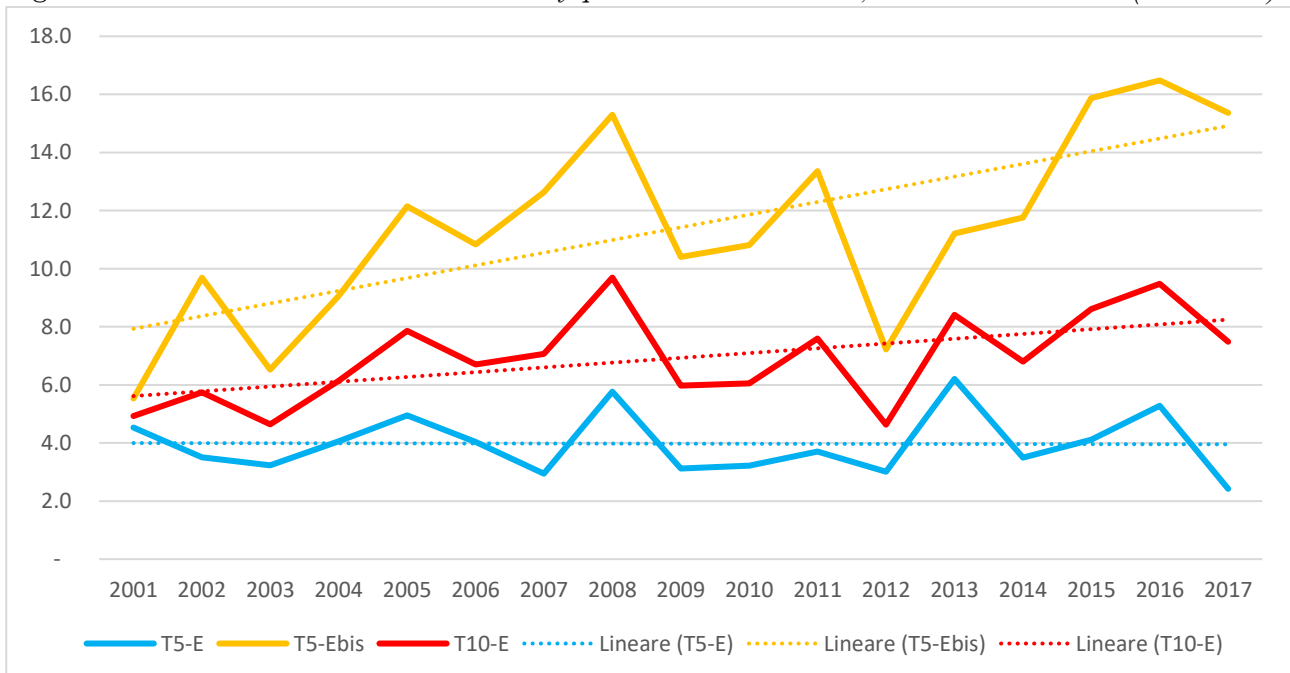
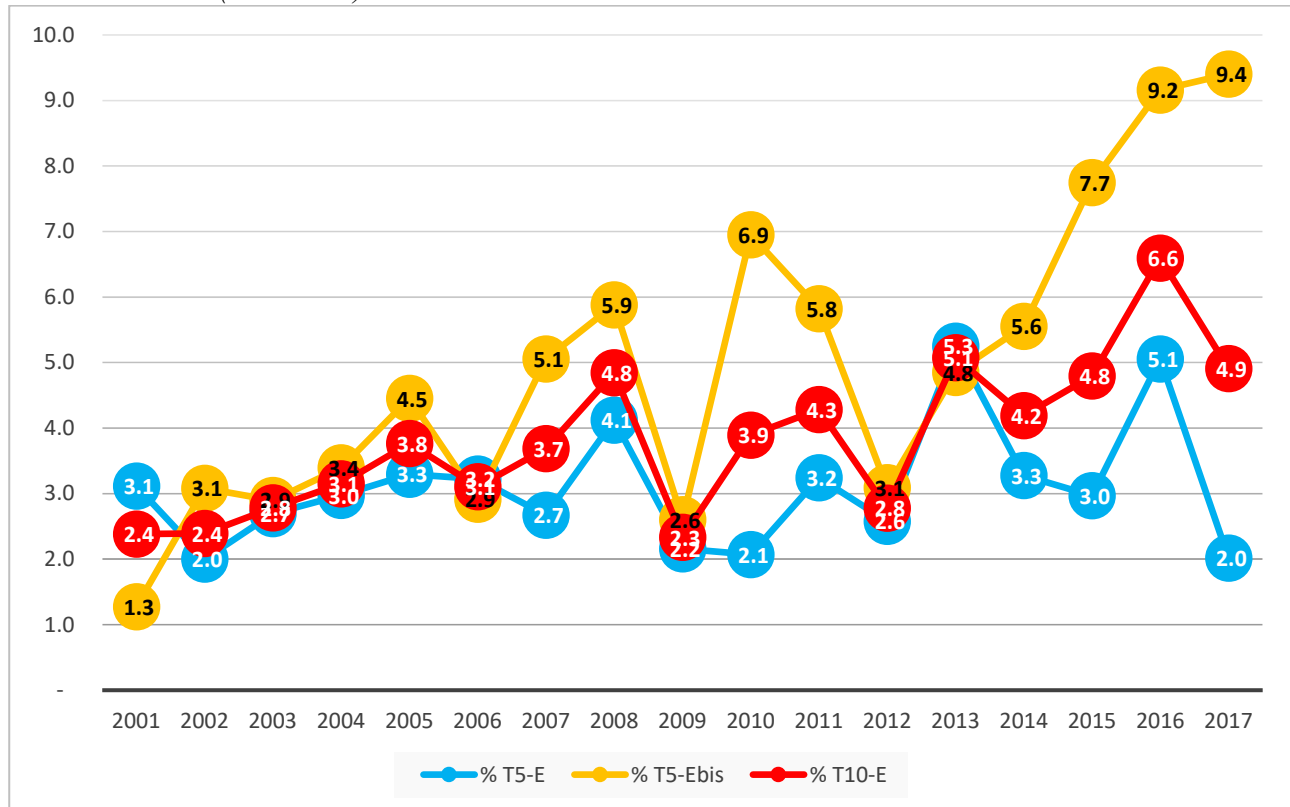
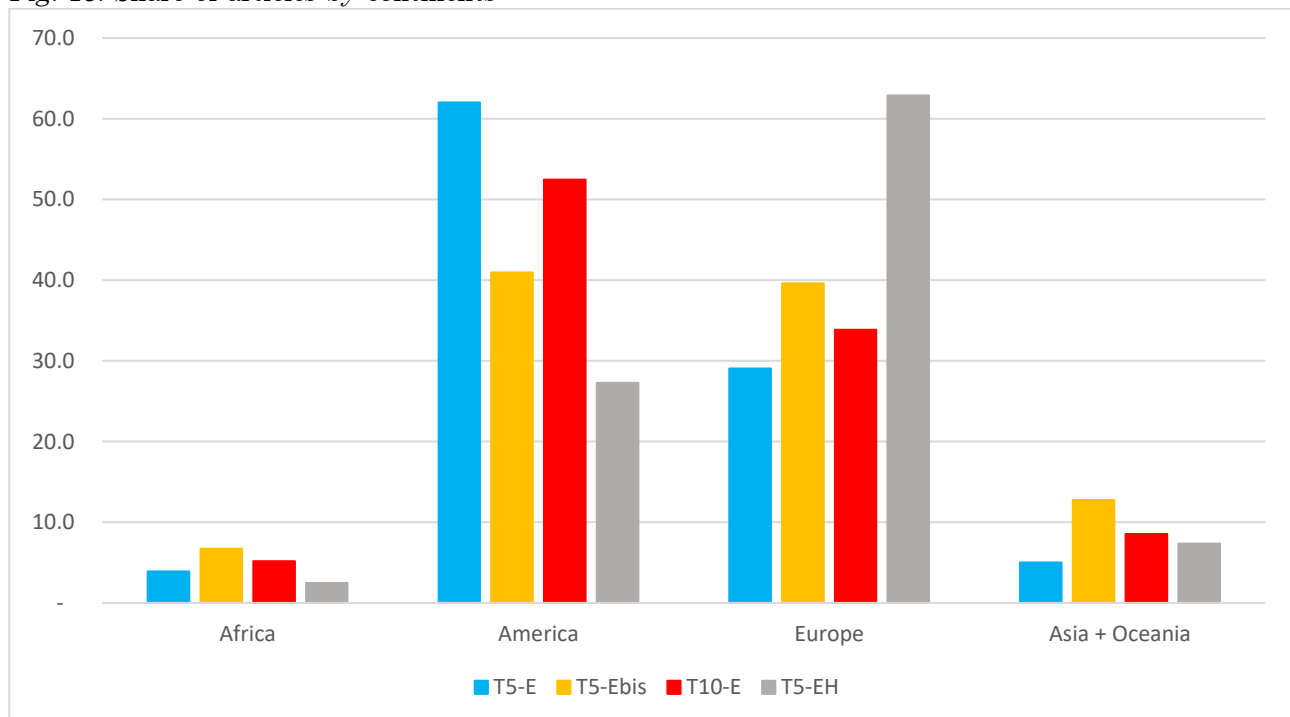


Fig. 12 Share of History and Historical Economic articles on total articles published in the T5-E, T5-Ebis and T10-E (2001-2017)



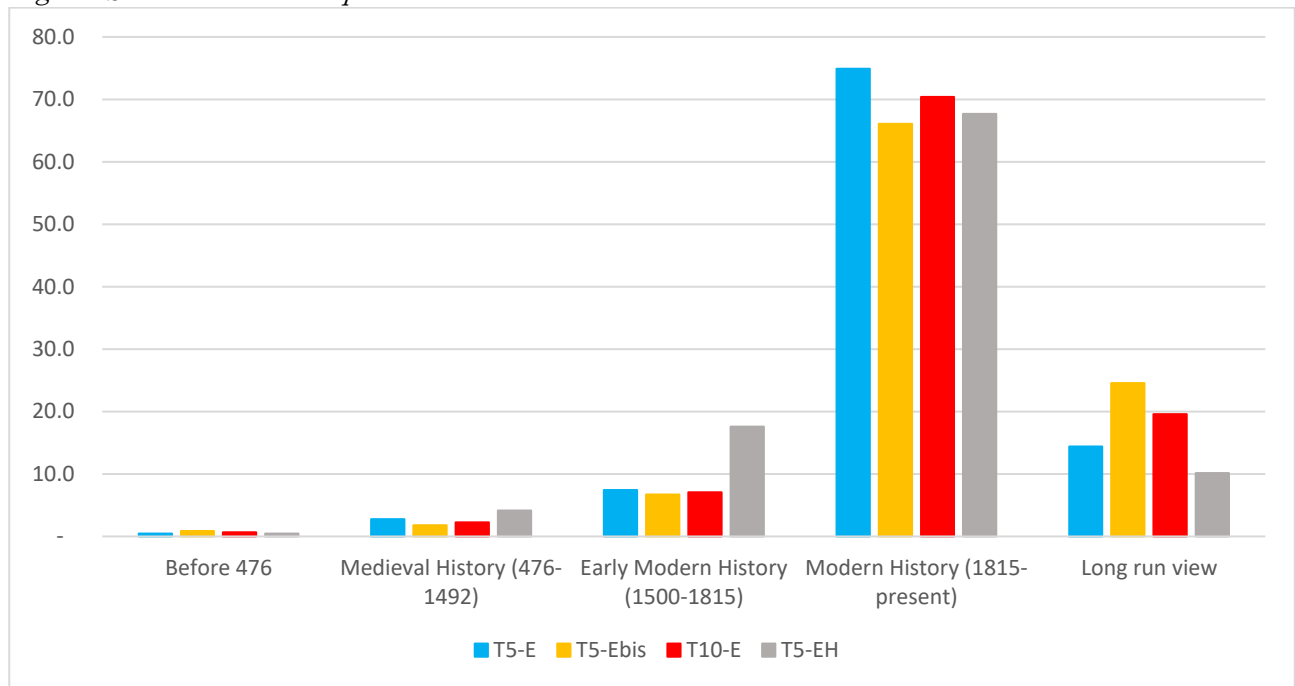
Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 13. Share of articles by continents



Sources: elaborations on our own database.

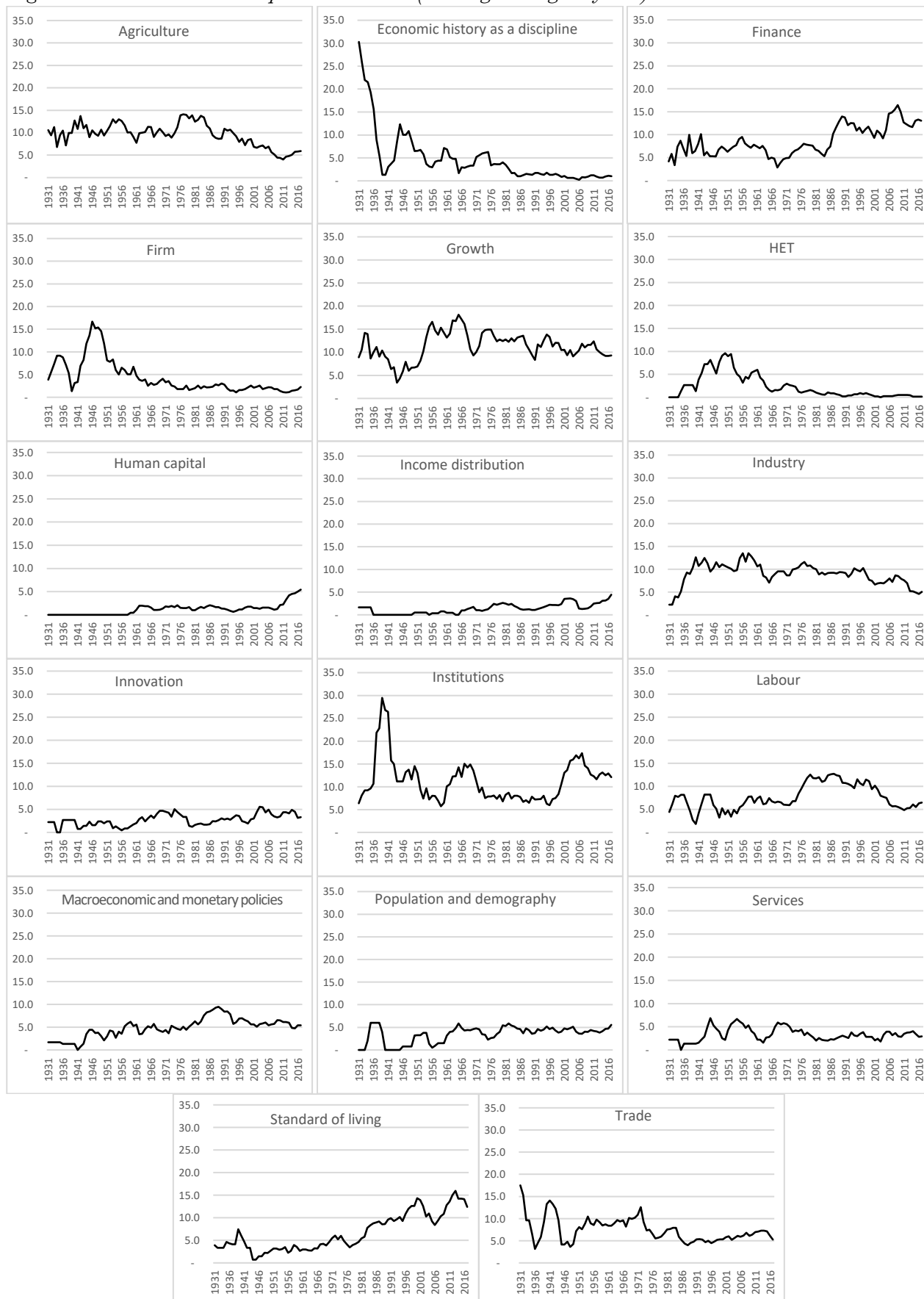
Fig. 14 Share of historical periods



Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Appendix

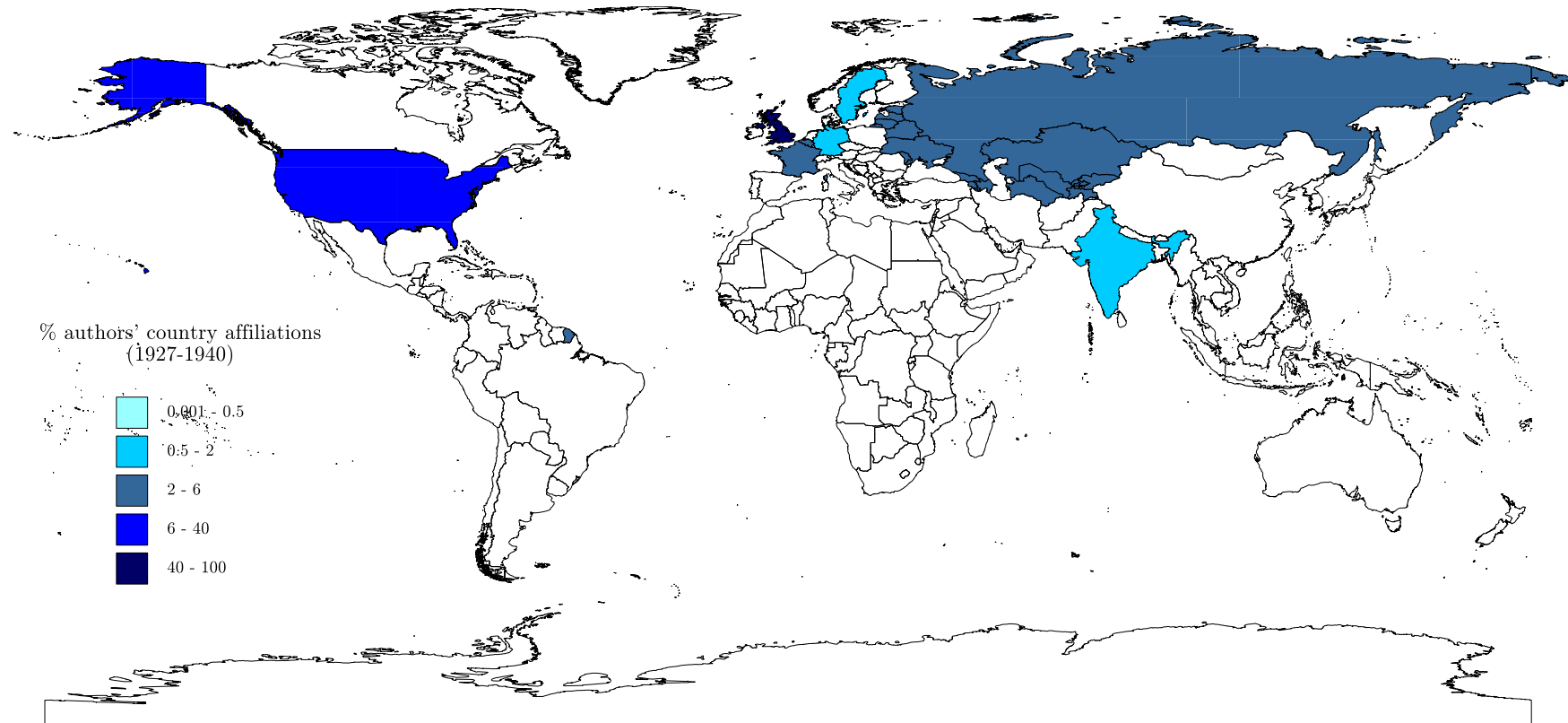
Fig. 1A. *Share of articles' topics: 1927-2017 (moving average 5 years)*



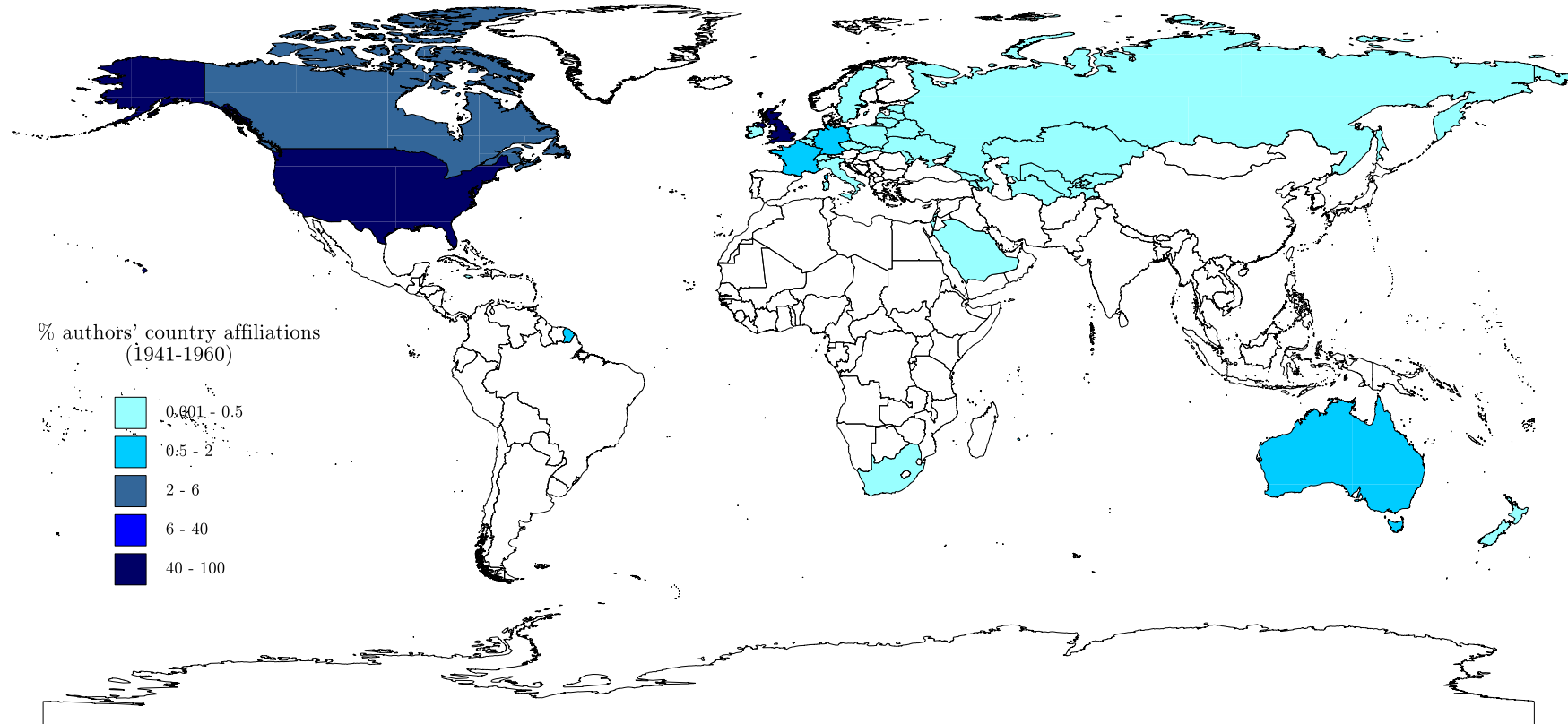
Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 2A. *Share of nationality of the contributions' authors affiliations by period*

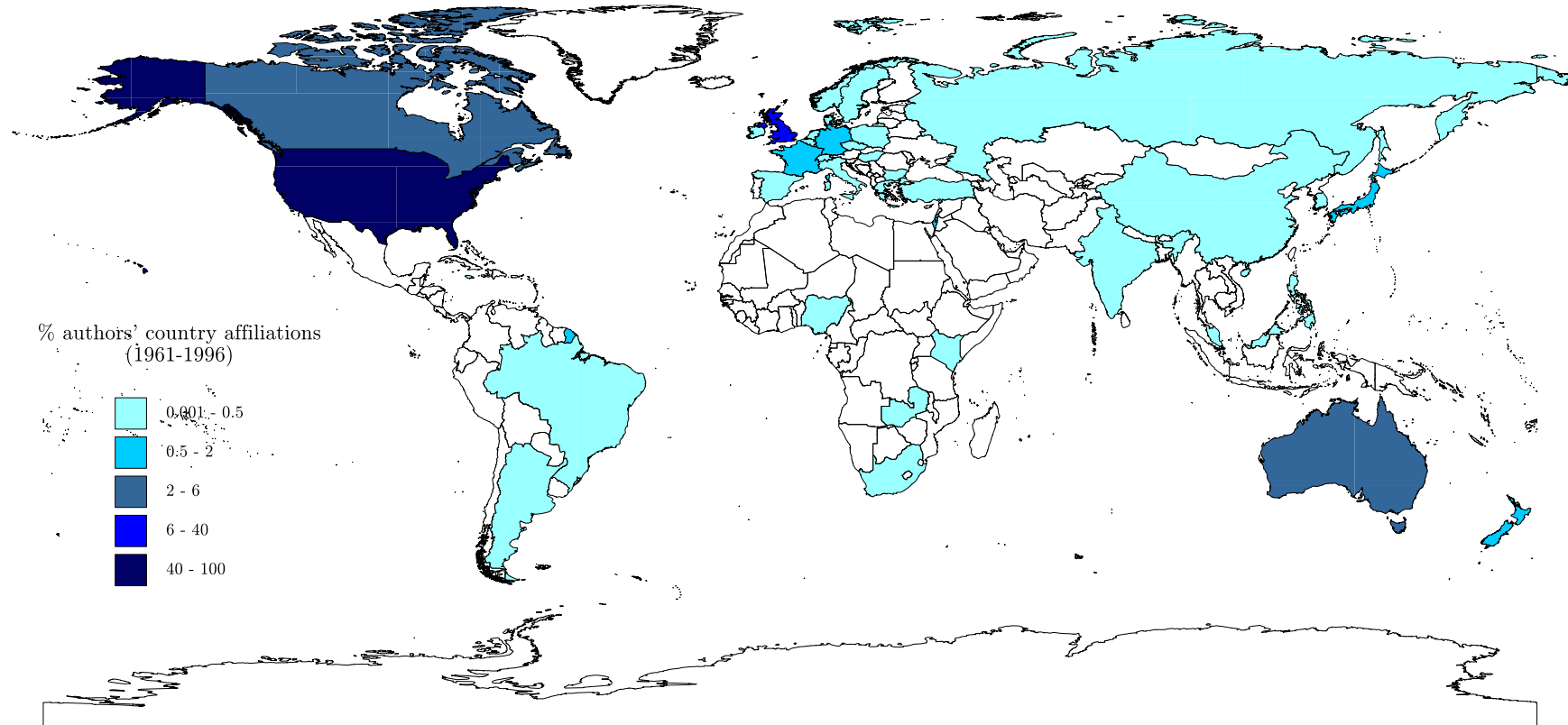
1927-1940



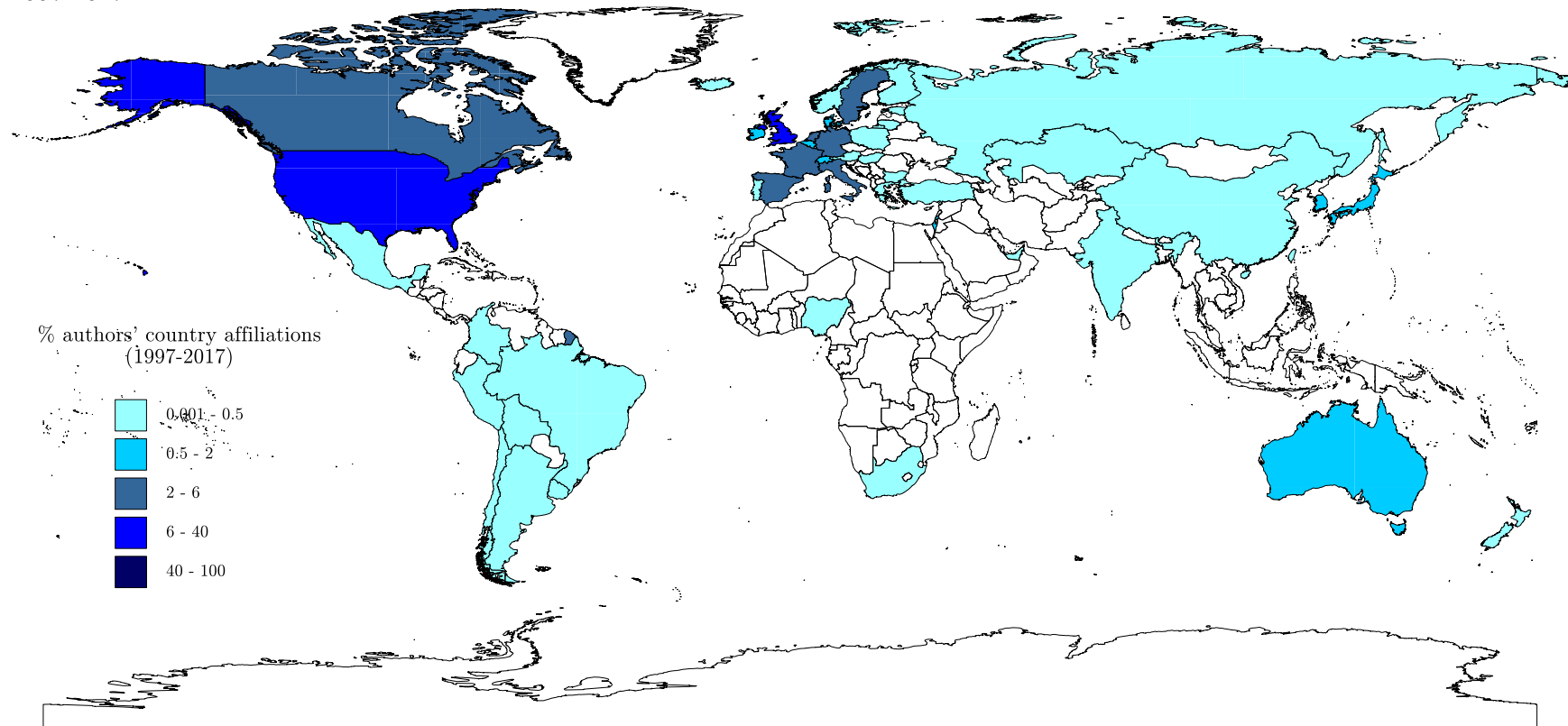
1941-1960



1961-1996



1997-2017



Sources: elaborations on our own database.