



[INTENSIVE COURSE]

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC HISTORY AND SOCIOLOGY

by **Dr. GISELA HÜRLIMANN**
SENIOR RESEARCHER, ETH ZÜRICH

This course in comparative economic history and sociology covers the milestones of Swiss economic, technological and social developments in the 19th and 20th centuries. It offers insights into international fiscal sociology and economic inequality, and discusses changes concerning labor markets and migration in Switzerland and East Asia. The course consists of lectures and of seminars, where students are given a platform for developing their own analysis.



Gisela Hürlimann is a senior researcher and lecturer at ETH Zürich and the University of Zürich. She received her PhD on technological innovation and corporate change at the Swiss Federal Railways. In 2014, she was a fellow at the German Historical Institute (GHI) in Washington DC with a project on tax policy and redistribution. In Summer 2015, she is a guest scholar at Kyoto University.

This course is designed to be worth 1 credit.
(Registration required)



AGST (Asian Platform for Global Sustainability
& Transcultural Studies)
by Japan Gateway: Kyoto University Top Global Program

[CLASS SCHEDULE]

JULY		
Mon. 8:45-12:00 @ Room 101	Thu. 16:30-18:00 @ Room 102	Fri. 16:30-18:00 @ Room 101
	9	10
13	16	17
	23*	24
27	*...Room 101	

[MODULE 1]

**INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC HISTORY**
– THE SWISS EXAMPLE

[MODULE 2]

**TAXATION, NEW
FISCAL SOCIOLOGY
AND INEQUALITY**
– AN INTERNATIONAL
COMPARISON

[MODULE 3]

**LABOR MARKET AND M
IGRATION**
– SWISS, JAPANESE
AND INTERNATIONAL
EXAMPLES

**We welcome your
participation!**

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Course Title	International Economic History and Sociology			Instructor(s) Position ▪ Name	Dr. Gisela HUERLIMANN Senior researcher and senior lecturer at the Department of History of the University of Zurich and at the Institute of History of ETH Zurich		
Credits	1	Term	Spring	Day/Period	July 9/ 10/ 13/ 16/ 17/ 23/ 24/ 27, 2015	Class Methods	Lectures/ Seminars

Course Outline & Objectives

The course consists of **three modules** containing lectures as well as seminars covering different aspects of the history of economic and technological development in the 19th and 20th century, public finance, fiscal sociology and socio-economic inequality, as well as the sociology of migration and the labor market. In the **lectures**, students will obtain an interdisciplinary overview and insight into the case of a small, open and highly globalized economy (Switzerland) in the European and international context. Similarities with and differences to the Japanese case – f.e. industrial high-tech orientation, a similar tax-to-GDP ratio, and low unemployment, but a large internal market in Japan and an important role of immigrant labor force in the Swiss case – will exemplify the use of comparative analysis. The lectures will contain elements of classical ex-cathedra teaching, supported with PowerPoint presentations and handouts, and offer time for questions and discussion.

The three **seminars** – for modules 2 and 3 – are conceived as an interactive teaching and learning form giving the students a platform for training their presentation and speech skills as well as for developing their own analysis and interpretation of topics which had been outlined in the corresponding lectures: A series of texts for each of the seminars will be suggested to / will be at the disposal of 1-2 students each to prepare a short presentation which then shall undergo a peer-comment before entering the plenary discussion. If students already are working on a paper / thesis close to one of the topics suggested, the seminar offers a platform to discuss their objectives, methods and preliminary findings.

Course Schedule & Content

Module 1: International Economic History – the Swiss Example

Lecture 1.1: Histories of Industrialization and Innovation– the Swiss Example

The recent book by the Swiss historian and scholar at Kyoto University, Pierre-Yves Donzé, about the Japanese Watch Industry since 1850 has spread a new light and interest on the entangled international economic and business histories of Switzerland and Japan. The first of the two lectures in this module will offer the student a broad overview on the decisive steps of the industrialization process in Switzerland – a country which ranked among the three most industrialized economies in the early and mid 19th century. The early spinning and weaving industries were followed by the massive establishment of machine and pharmaceutical clusters in a second industrialization phase also transforming the urban spaces, apart from the watch making industry in the Western part of the country. The lecture sheds a light on the intertwined processes of wealth accumulation and investment into proto-industrial activities, state building and economic liberalisms, international networks, technology and innovation. Economic cycles, the development of sectors and employment as well as the impact of the World Wars and major crisis on the Swiss economy will be discussed.

Lecture 1.2: The History of the Swiss Financial Sector

Apart from watches and chocolate, Switzerland is most renowned for its banking services. The finance and insurance branches contributed up to 13 percent to Swiss GDP in the record year of 2007 – only in Luxembourg and since recently also in Singapore is the economic significance of banking and finance higher. While Swiss banks have played an important role in the high foreign direct investment ratio of the country, it has mostly been the massive management of international offshore wealth since World War I, which made Swiss banks (in-)famous. The lecture sheds a light on the history and causes of this singular success story which has reached its critical climax in the context of the last financial crisis which triggered multilateral pressure on the Swiss banking secrecy and the Swiss tax haven.

Module 2: Taxation, New Fiscal Sociology and Inequality – An International Comparison

Module 2a: The History and Sociology of Tax States – Lecture (2.1) and seminar (2.2)

The most recent foreign policy developments surrounding the Swiss banking secrecy and the OECD-Automatic Exchange on Tax Information highlight the significance of tax policy for the political economy of a country in an international context. This first lecture of module 2 aims at demonstrating the research potential public finance and taxation offer to economic historians and sociologists. Following Joseph Schumpeter and current scholars of Fiscal Sociology, the lecture shows the interconnectedness of state building and financing, warfare and welfare, and of taxation, coercion and democratic consent with Switzerland as a showcase.

In the subsequent **seminar**, which is conceived as an interactive teaching and learning form giving students a platform for training their presentation and speech skills, the participants have the possibility to present and discuss examples of comparative and transnational fiscal sociological research which focus on the Japanese case, such as:

- Fukagai, Yasunori: Political Languages of Land and Taxation: European and American Influences on Japan, 1880s to 1920s (pp. 143-166).
- Prasad, Monica: Avoiding the Aid Curse? Taxation and Development in Japan (pp. 289-305).

Both texts are from:

- Brownlee, W. Elliot, Eisaku Ide and Yasunori Fukagai (eds.), The Political Economy of Transnational Tax Reform: The Shoup Mission to Japan in Historical Context, Cambridge UP 2012.

Lecture 2.3: The (New) Debate on Inequality and its Historic Precursors

Not only, but especially since Thomas Piketty's bestseller "Capital in the 21st Century" of 2013/2014, the socio-economic inequality of income and wealth are high on the agenda of economic history again. The success of Piketty reflects a growing uneasiness with international trends towards more inequality in a majority of OECD-countries – a development which is documented and closely followed by a myriad of international organizations such as OECD, IWF and the World Bank, NGOs, transnational data networks such as the Luxembourg Income Studies, or even the international wealth management industry (Barclay's or Credit Suisse wealth research for example). The lecture reflects on this new debate and its historic precursors which prominently include the American economist Simon Kuznets in the 1950s, and presents data and reasons on the income and wealth development in the 20th century.

Seminar 2.4: Socio-economic Inequality: Historic and Current Perspectives

The **seminar** will tie in with the lessons from the morning and discuss two iconic research contributions – the one by Kuznets of 1955 and the corresponding one by Piketty in 2014 – and studies on the income and wealth concentration in Japan. The seminar is conceived as an interactive teaching and learning form giving students a platform for training their presentation and speech skills. Ideally, two students jointly prepare a short presentation on each of these or other texts, while another student is given the role of a short intervention/comment introducing the plenary discussion.

Possible texts for presentation and discussions are:

- Kuznets, Simon: Economic Growth and Income Inequality, in: The American Economic Review, Vol. 45, No. 1. (March 1955), pp. 1-28.
- A selected chapter of: Thomas Piketty, Capital in the Twenty-First Century, Belknap Press 2014 (or the Japanese edition).
- Moriguchi, Chiaki and Emmanuel Saez: The Evolution of Income Concentration in Japan, 1885-2002: Evidence from Income Tax Statistics, Working Paper, rev. 25.8.2005, plus newspaper / blog debates on the Japanese case.

Module 3: Labor Market and Migration – Swiss, Japanese and International Examples

Lecture 3.1: Migrants on the Labor Market: Historic Trends and Policy Turns in Switzerland

One of the characteristics of the second of globalization or hyper-globalization is the international "war on talent" or: "battle for brainpower". Even traditionally migration-adverse Japan recently changed its laws to attract highly skilled foreigners. Highly skilled labor force is being actively recruited by companies around the world while national governments are under pressure to

adapt their national regulatory policies on immigration law, the access to the labor market and social protection. As the lecture will show, immigrants have played a decisive economic role in Switzerland since the advent of industrialization, starting with skilled Huguenots in the 16th and 17th centuries, passing on to Italian tunnel builders in the 19th centuries, and mostly South-European construction and industrial workers after World War II. The lecture will end with the paradigm shift the Swiss migration regime has undergone since the 1990s, within the context of an increased tertiarization, the high-tech turn of industry and the European common market. It will be shown how government policy walks a thin line between the interests of enterprises and xenophobic tensions put forth by populist parties and in people's initiatives (referendums).

Seminar 3.2: Labor Market and Migration –Swiss, Japanese and International Examples

In the subsequent **seminar**, students shall have the opportunity to discuss national economy, globalization and migration in the Japanese case. They shall be free to select either among the suggested texts or other studies, media contributions or their own ongoing research concerning the topic for presentation and discussion. The seminar is conceived as an interactive teaching and learning form giving students a platform for training their presentation and speech skills.

Possible texts for presentation and discussion:

- Yonezawa, Akiyoshi: Japan's Challenge of Fostering „Global Human Resources“: Policy Debates and Practices, in: Japan Labor Review, Vol. 11, No. 2, spring 2014, pp. 37-52.
- Lee, Yean-Ju: Overview of Trends and Policies on International Migration to East Asia: Comparing Japan, Taiwan and South Korea, in: Asian and Pacific Migration Journal, Vol. 20, No. 2, 2011, pp. 117-131.
- Oishi, Nana: Redefining the "Highly Skilled": The Points-Based System for Highly Skilled Foreign Professionals in Japan, in: Asian and Pacific Migration Journal, Vol. 23, Issue 4, 2014, pp. 421-450.
- Varma, Roli: Transnational Migration and Entrepreneurialism: Indians in the U.S. Technology Sector, in: Perspectives on Global Development and Technology 10 (2011), pp. 270-287.

Course Requirements

Participation in the seminar requires the willingness to actively participate (see below).

Grading & Evaluation

In the seminars, the academic achievement for obtaining the credits will be evaluated according to at least one of the following means of active participation:

- oral presentation/paper (10-15 min.): individually or groups of max. 2 students on each topic (i.e. discussion text) of each seminar
- oral comment / feedback on the student presentation, introducing the general presentation (1 student for each presentation)
- monitoring the plenary discussion (1 student per seminar)
- authoring a seminar journal (max. 2 students per seminar)

Required Textbooks

In case preregistration for the course is required, course participants will receive the texts for the seminar in advance.

Recommended Materials & Resources

Handouts and other documentation will be distributed during the course.

Students should bring material to take notes (paper/notebooks).

Additional Information (e.g. Homework policy, Office hours)

For the seminars, students are required to read texts they receive either in advance or in the first session (in case previous course registration is not required). During the first session, the tasks for the seminars (see above under: Grading & Evaluation) shall be assigned. If students wish to present their ongoing academic research tying in with the course program, they shall contact the instructor in advance.