“Path Dependence in Economic Development”

Meeting of Historians of Economic Thought from Europe and Latin America
November 20-22, 2013, Medellín, Colombia

The conference is part of the activities of the European Society for the History of Economic Thought (ESHET) taking place outside Europe, and the third in Latin America.

Local organizers: Juan Felipe Mejia and Gustavo Canavire, EAFIT University

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CALL FOR PAPERS

Economic development is not a process by which eventually certain levels and standards will be reached, independently of the paths taken. Differences in initial conditions, cultures, institutional frameworks and external influences, even if only transitory, lead to persistent discrepancies in the development of different regions and nations. It is thus a commonplace to state that development is path-dependent because “history matters”. The aim of this conference is to explore to which extent path dependence can explain the variety of development processes within Latin America and other parts of the world. The task is to demonstrate how current economic performance in specific areas, industries or other socio-economic structures has been influenced by previous conditions and events. This can be done in single case studies, comparative analysis, or investigations of cross-border interaction. A special focus is set on the role of economic thought, both in affecting contemporaneous discourses and in retrospective theorizing.

Possible topics are:

- regional and national patterns of industrialization and growth
- contingent events and positive feedbacks in the economy/economies of the area
- distinctive national traditions in economic thought and economic policy
- varieties of paths to innovations and structural change
- institutional frameworks and social conventions
- cross-border influences.

We welcome papers on these topics, but also on other aspects of the history of economic thought in different periods.

1) For proposals of papers submit abstracts of max. 400 words, for proposals of sessions max. 1,000 words in English and / or Spanish. Please use Arial font, 12 pt., 1.5 spacing on A4 or Letter.

2) Papers should be written and presentations made in English or Spanish.

3) The deadline for abstracts and workshop proposals is July 1, 2013. Full versions of accepted papers should be submitted by October 30, 2013 for inclusion into the programme. Proposals and papers should be sent to: cief@eafit.edu.co

4) Financial support (scholarships): A limited number of accepted papers of scholars under 40 years of age will be eligible for travel funding (up to a maximum amount). Papers must be written in English in order to be considered. Full versions of the papers should be submitted by September 30, 2013.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Mario García (Universidad Nacional), Jimena Hurtado (Universidad de Los Andes), Mauricio Ramírez (EAFIT), Annalisa Rosselli (Università di Roma “Tor Vergata”), Alexander Tobón (Universidad de Antioquia), Hans-Michael Trautwein (Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg), Luis Guillermo Vélez (EAFIT)