



Call for papers

Economic History, Comparative Economics and Policy-making in Transition

Conference in memory of Oleh Havrylyshyn

Location: SSEES, UCL, London, UK

Dates: 20-21 June 2022

Our colleague and friend Oleh Havrylyshyn passed away in September 2020. To honour his memory, the Association for Comparative Economic Studies (ACES) and the Centre for Comparative Economics at SSEES UCL, with the support of Natalia Havrylyshyn, are organising a conference focusing on some of his core areas of interest. The conference will be held on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st of June 2022 and will comprise of paper presentations, invited and selected from submissions to this call. **It will also include a special tribute keynote, chaired by Marko Skreb, and delivered by Sergei Guriev on the political economy of reforms.**

With this conference, we want to pay tribute to Oleh's contribution to the profession, as a scholar and a great supporter of academic debate and younger scholars. We thus call for scholarly presentations focusing on three themes that were of particular importance in Oleh's work and career.

We intend the event to be in-person in London (conditional on Covid restrictions) and will cover travel and hotel costs for the selected presenters (within the limit of our budget). Speakers will also be invited to submit their contributions **to a special issue in *Comparative Economic Studies*** (more on this further down).

1. Policy making in transition

Oleh was passionate about promoting policies that were both economically desirable and politically feasible. This was reflected in his role as policy-maker in Ukraine in the 1990s, but also when he was working for the IMF, and later on as a scholar as he reflected on the transition paths taken over the post-communist region of Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia (see his books, Havrylyshyn, 2006 and Havrylyshyn, 2020). His approach to advocating policy change was embedded in solid empirical evidence, but also mindful of people's will, and, more broadly, the political economy of

reforms. **With this mind, contributions under this theme should reflect on policy making for the XXIst century: recognising the effectiveness of possible policy interventions, as well as their feasibility, in a context of identity politics, when policy makers might have multiple objectives to accommodate the diverse aspirations of their constituents and recognising trade-offs.**

2. Comparative Economics

Oleh, while an expert on the post-communist experience of transition towards markets and democracy, understood policy change, not as deriving from immutable laws promoting economic efficiency, but as feasible changes towards improved welfare or wellbeing. As a result, he was very keen on promoting truly comparative analyses. Indeed, he recognised the importance of context, in particular institutions and historical legacies, learning from a multiplicity of disciplines, such as politics, history, but also sociology or anthropology, to build a full picture of what works and in which context. This approach was strongly emphasised in the Palgrave *Handbook of Comparative Economics* he recently coedited (Douarin and Havrylyshyn, 2021). **Contributions on this theme should thus be explicitly comparative, discussing the comparative method and what can be learned from it, or illustrating its application and the lessons that can be derived from it.**

3. Economic History

Oleh had also increasingly shown interest in applying a comparative and institutional approach to understanding long-term persistence of historical legacies or the reasons behind specific historical performance. His book on Ragusa, co-authored with Nora Srzentić, for example, explored the degree to which institutional quality could explain the economic success of medieval Dubrovnik, in the shadow of powerful Venezia, but as an independent state of growing economic importance and with good welfare outcomes for the local population (Havrylyshyn and Srzentić, 2014). **Accordingly, we seek submissions illustrating the relevance of using an institutional or system lens to understand either historical outcomes or long-term persistence. These contributions should be explicitly from economic history or historical political economy, and include some empirical investigation.**

Submission:

Please submit an expression of interest, by emailing by **February 28th 2022** to ssees-events@ucl.ac.uk a 2-page document including:

- Title of the contribution,
- the name and affiliation of all authors
- a contact email address for the proposed presenter
- an abstract summarising the focus of your contribution, explicitly stating the theme it falls under (Policy-making, Comparative Economics or Economic History).
- An itemised budget for your travel and hotel

Your email should also state whether you want your paper to be considered for publication in Comparative Economic Studies. Finally, please include “**Havrylyshyn Conference**” as the subject line of your email.

Opportunity for publication:

A Special issue in the academic journal **Comparative Economic Studies** will be published following the event. It will be edited by Josef Brada, Elodie Douarin and Paul Wachtel, and cover the same themes as the conference. The special issue will include papers presented at the conference, but contributions from individuals not participating in the conference will also be considered. Publication will of course be subject to the standard reviewing process of the journal. Full papers will need to be submitted by July 18th, 2022 via the journal submission platform, specifying it is for our special issue (“SI Oleh”).

COVID-considerations:

We intend to have the event in-person in London, but will adjust to the public health situation and any travel restrictions in place at the time of the event. Thus, it could be online, in-person or in hybrid mode, depending on feasibility.

Key dates:

Abstract submission/expression of interest: 28th February 2022

Notification of acceptance: 28th of March 2022

Submission of full papers: 30th of May 2022

Conference to be held on 20th and 21st of June 2022.

Selected papers to be submitted to special issue by: 18th July 2022

Special issue to be published in September 2023.

Scientific Committee:

Daniel Berkowitz
Josef Brada
Nauro Campos
Elodie Douarin
Sergei Guriev
Marko Skreb
Paul Wachtel

Organising committee:

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