

15th Annual Workshop on Growth, History and Development

Theme: Social Mobility – Why It Matters, What Drives It, and Whether We Can Change It

<https://www.conferencemanager.dk/15thannualworkshopongrowthhistoryanddevelopment/conference>

Date: 13-14 March 2026

Venue: DIAS Auditorium, Danish Institute for Advanced Study, University of Southern Denmark, Odense. Map:

<https://clients.mapsindoors.com/sdu/573f26e4bc1f571b08094312/details/bfd83e7364b443248a5f4d2c>

Friday 13th March 2026

08:45-09:00 *Welcome and coffee*

09:00-10:00 **Keynote: Professor Rasmus Landersø, Rockwool Foundation**
Intergenerational Mobility in Denmark: Societal Change and Family Decisions

10:00-10:10 *Short break*

10:10-11:10 **Keynote: Professor Gregory Clark, University of Southern Denmark**
Evidence of social causation in an English Lineage, 1600-2025

11:10-11:20 *Short break*

11:20-12:15 Roundtable discussion

Slow Mobility, Fast Policy? What History and Microdata Tell Us About the Limits of Equality of Opportunity

Chair: Professor Paul Sharp, University of Southern Denmark

Professor Gregory Clark, University of Southern Denmark

Professor Rasmus Landersø, Rockwool Foundation

12:15-13:30 *Lunch*

13:30-15:00 **Session 1**

1. Bas Machielsen, Utrecht University
Borders of Belief: Protestantism and Social Mobility
2. Julian Costas-Fernandez, University of Surrey
The Long-Run Persistence of Social Networks
3. Christian Nielsen, University of Southern Denmark
Elite Persistence in a Social Welfare State: Denmark, 1700-2026

15:00-15:30 *Coffee*

15:30-17:00 **Session 2**

1. Brian Marein, Wake Forest University
Do past wealth gaps explain modern inequality? Evidence from immigration to the United States
2. Simone Frisoni, Universidad Carlos III
Social mobility and industrialization in Milan, 1880-1910: exploring the modernization thesis
3. Martin Hørlyk Kristensen, University of Southern Denmark
What's in a Name? Dynasties, Selection, and Talent Allocation Among Classical Composers

18:30- *Dinner, Madklubben, Jernbanegade 4, 5000 Odense C*

Saturday 14th March 2026

09:00-09:10 *Arrival and coffee*

09:10-10:40 **Session 3**

1. Raman Dzimakou, Charles University, CERGE-EI
Historical Sources of Human Capital Formation in Germany: Empirical Evidence from Prussian Education Reforms in the Early 19th Century
2. Vladimir Shchukin, CERGE-EI, Charles University
Political Economy of Industrialization
3. Christian Vedel, University of Southern Denmark
CHAOS: Converting Historical Accounts into Occupational Scores

10:40-11:10 *Coffee*

11:10-12:40 **Session 4**

1. Max Marczinek, University of Oxford
Labour Scarcity and Productivity: Insights from the Last Nordic Plague
2. Monir Bounadi, IIES, Stockholm University
Coffeehouses and the Rise of Science
3. Yan Hu, Copenhagen Business School
Minority Bureaucrats' Networks and Career Progression: Evidence from the Chinese Maritime

N.B. Regular sessions – 30 minutes per paper including questions. The last presenter in each session chairs that session.

Workshop organizers: Paul Sharp (pauls@sam.sdu.dk), Rasmus Emil Nyholm (rasmusen@sdu.dk)

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