

WEALTH & WELFARE

Reconceptualising British Economy and Society: 1832 and 1942

Dr. Aashish Velkar

Course Convenor

Senior Lecturer in Economic History | [Profile](#)

Teaching Hours

11 weekly seminars in Semester 1

Assessments

Presentation (40%)

Essay (60%)

Want to know more?

Log-in for an informal chat with Dr Velkar on Tuesday, 13 June 2023 at 11am (<https://zoom.us/j/3620260875>)

‘Merchants and traders, consumers and workers, engineers and entrepreneurs, scientists and technocrats, politicians and bureaucrats...argued, debated, fought, negotiated, bargained, lobbied and competed with each other to secure their own interests and goals, be they economic, political, social or personal’

(Velkar, *Markets and Measurements*, 2012)



Chartist Meeting, Kennington Common, 1848. (Restored photograph)

Are you...

- ✓ interested in deepening your understanding of British economy and society between c1830 and 1940?
- ✓ curious about historical approaches to studying British economic life and cultures?
- ✓ never studied economic history but want to know more about relationships between people and institutions?
- ✓ preparing for a career in law, business, management, advertising/communications, politics/administration, charities, or just want to be self-employed?

...then this is the course for you!



Indicative Seminar Topics

- Empire and politics of consumption
- Work, labour, and living standards
- Money, Finance, and Corporate Cultures
- The Moral Economy
- Regulating businesses and corporate fraud
- How did historical markets operate?
- Colonialism, slavery, and forced labour

Indicative Readings

Click on links to explore

- Higgins, D. M., & Aashish Velkar. “Spinning a Yarn”: Institutions, Law, and Standards c.1880–1914’. (2017)
- Velkar, Aashish. ‘Making Inferences from Index Numbers (1860–1914)’ (2021)
- Taylor, James, ‘Privacy, publicity, and reputation: How the press regulated the market in nineteenth-century England’, (2013).
- Huzzey, Richard, ‘Free Trade, Free Labour, And Slave Sugar in Victorian Britain’, (2010).
- Rappaport, Erika. ‘Sacred and Useful Pleasures: The Temperance Tea Party and the Creation of a Sober Consumer Culture in Early Industrial Britain’ (2013)
- Loftus, Donna, ‘Capital and Community: Limited Liability and Attempts to Democratize the Market in Mid-Nineteenth-Century England’, (2002)
- Johnson, Paul. Making the market: Victorian origins of corporate capitalism, (2010)

What you will learn

KNOWLEDGE

Explore different aspects of the British political economy between c1830 and 1940.

ANALYSIS

Differentiate between the various economic, social, political, and intellectual changes during this period.

SYNTHESIS

Deepen understanding of relationships between people and institutions in a historical society.

APPLICATION

Critique primary and secondary sources using methods of historical, economic, or social analysis.

Skills you will develop

- ➡ Use source material in a critical, reflective, and scholarly manner.
- ➡ Locate, retrieve, assimilate, and interpret relevant information and theory from sources.
- ➡ Formulate ideas, arguments, and narratives using disparate or fragmentary evidence.
- ➡ Engage with familiar & unfamiliar modes of knowledge and communication.

Indicative Dissertation Topics

Dissertations on following topics welcomed:

- ❖ Consumerism and Liberalism in Modern Britain
- ❖ Historical markets and economic institutions
- ❖ Globalisation and Modern Britain
- ❖ The economic life and cultures in Britain or British Empire (esp. India)

Titles of some dissertations supervised in previous years

- ❖ International competition and Anti-German Sentiment in Britain
- ❖ Colonial Propaganda and British Imperial Power
- ❖ Social and Economic Impact of Colonialism in India
- ❖ Tea Caddies and Tobacco Pipes: Restructuring British Material Culture
- ❖ Joseph Chamberlain and the Politics of Free Trade
- ❖ Cultural Hegemony of Free Trade (1815-1914)
- ❖ Moral Economy of Slavery
- ❖ State Intervention in British Businesses

...and many more!