



School of Business and Economics  
Institute of Economic History  
Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Wolf

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**Seminar 701063 - Summer 2011**

**The Pre-industrial Experience:**

**Malthusian Stagnation or Growth through Innovation?**

Tuesday 10-12 pm at SPA1, 21a

Topic List

**A) Theory**

1. The Malthusian model
2. The Smithian model and Boserup's model
3. Unified Growth Theory: From preindustrial stagnation to modern economic growth?
4. Defining "subsistence" income

**B) Measurement**

1. National income estimates for the preindustrial world
2. The 'price of provisions' and real wages as an indicator of income
3. Reconstructing demographic data
4. Testing the Malthusian model

**C) Debate**

1. Fertility strategies and economic growth: Survival of the richest?
2. How can we explain current world income inequality?
3. Are developing countries caught in a Malthusian trap?

**D) Preindustrial Europe and the road to modern economic growth**

1. Europe after the collapse of the Roman Empire
2. Government and institutions
3. Technological progress
4. Money and finance
5. Market integration
6. The industrial revolution and modern economic growth: what changed?

**Paul Sharp**

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