

M17	DO MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS MATTER IN THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD (1500-1800)?
Organisers:	Peter Clark (Helsinki University) Bill Rowe (Johns Hopkins, Baltimore)
Period:	Early Modern
Date:	Friday, 31 August 2012
Time:	09:00-12:30
Room:	116

Description

The objective of this main session proposal would be to generate comparative global debate on a major urban theme, to bring together researchers on the European, East Asian and Middle Eastern city. As is well known, one of the early comparative writers on urban society Max Weber (in *The City*) argued for the distinctive importance of communal civic institutions for the cohesion, identity and economic development of Western cities which he contrasted to the lack of institutional autonomy and relative weakness of Oriental cities. Recent research has started to question some of these assumptions suggesting that East Asian and Middle Eastern cities in the early modern period supported a range of non-civic agencies which played an important part in their administration. No less important, it is evident that these same cities up to the Great Divergence often enjoyed more sustained and successful growth than their European counterparts. Researchers are also starting to undertake new work on European urban governance in the early modern era, moving away from an earlier focus on guilds and stressing the significance of the informal institutional sector. But little of the new research has had a comparative focus.

We would welcome papers by Europeanists and non Europeanists that would contribute to the debate over the importance or otherwise of municipal institutions in this period from a general perspective or in relation to the key issues such as social welfare, public safety, the environment, entertainment and financing mechanisms. Comparative papers would be particularly valued, but regional studies would also be of interest. Potential paper-givers. We would hope to attract several members of the OUP Global Cities network (eg Wim Blockmanns, Bruno Blondé, Jim McClain) but the majority of places would be open to European and non-European colleagues interested in the subject.

Scientific Programme

- 1590 INTRODUCTION, COMMENTATOR**
William T. Rowe (Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA)
- 1589 DO MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS MATTER? THE CASE OF EARLY MODERN ANTWERP AND AMSTERDAM IN A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE**
Michael Limberger; M. Hart (Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium)
- 1588 WHOSE AUTONOMY? POWER RELATIONS IN AND OUTSIDE THE PRE-INDUSTRIAL EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES**
Wim Blockmans (Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands)
- 1587 CITIZENSHIP IN PRE-MODERN EURASIA: A COMPARISON BETWEEN CHINA, THE NEAR EAST AND EUROPE**
Maarten Prak (Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands)
- 1416 BRAWLING, QUARRELING, AND INSULTING: THE CIVIC PROCESSING OF DISPUTES IN SIXTEENTH-CENTURY SAXONY**
John Jordan (University of Oxford, U.K.)
- 1096 L'IMPACT DES WAQFS SUR L'ÉVOLUTION URBAINE DES VILLES OTTOMANES ET LEUR RÔLE COMME DES INSTITUTIONS PUBLIQUES "XIVE-XVIE SIÈCLES" (EXEMPLE: EDIRNE)**
Filiz Atay (Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Istanbul, Turkey)
- 882 LES APPORTS DE LA LONGUE DURÉE POUR L'ÉTUDE DU RENOUVELLEMENT DES OLIGARCHIES MUNICIPALES: LA LOIS DE BRUXELLES DE CHARLES QUINT À 1795**
Philippe Guignet (Lille 3, Villeneuve d'Ascq, France)