

GPACS Colloquium Series

Presents

Mark Dincecco

Assistant Professor, Political Science, University of Michigan

“From Warfare to Wealth: The Military Origins of Urban Prosperity in Europe”

The economic rise of Europe over the past millennium represents a major human breakthrough. To explain this phenomenon, this book highlights a counterintuitive yet central feature of Europe’s historical landscape: warfare. Historical warfare inflicted numerous costs on rural populations. Security was a traditional function of the city. To mitigate the rural costs of conflict, rural populations migrated to urban centers. Over time, the city’s historical role as a safe harbor translated into local economic development through several channels, including urban political freedoms and human capital accumulation. To make this argument, the book performs a wide-ranging analysis of a novel quantitative database that spans one thousand years, from the fall of the Carolingian Empire to today. The book’s study of urban Europe’s historical path from warfare to wealth provides a new way to think about the process of long-run economic and political development.

Thursday, May 4, 2017

12:30 – 1:45pm

SST 777

(light lunch served)