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Abstracts

Margareth Lanzinger and Janine Maegraith, Competition for Wealth in Sixteenth Century Southern Tirol

This contribution assumes that in early modern European societies a large part of wealth was transferred through inheritance *and* marriage. Therefore it is necessary to analyse law and practice of inheritance systems and marital property regimes in view of their entanglement. Access, disposition and rights of use concerning real estate, money and moveable wealth resulted mostly from gender-specific logics. The situation of widows and their provision differed clearly depending on legal contexts. The initial hypothesis is that this situation was especially fragile if sons were the preferred principal heirs and separation of property prevailed – as was the case in the analysed areas of southern Tirol. Particularly prominent were the competing claims of the widow on the one hand and of the children and the husband's relations on the other. It is the aim of this paper to shed light on the impact of different axes of competition based on a broadly conceived concept of wealth.

Kim Siebenhüner, Calico Craze? Gendered Consumption of Printed Cottons in the Eighteenth Century. From England to the Old Confederacy

The history of printed cottons has become a widely noticed topic at the interface between global history, history of material culture and history of commodities. In this history, the role of Switzerland has largely been neglected, although this region became one of the most important places of production of printed cottons in Europe. This paper approaches the history of these textiles both from a comparative perspective and from a perspective of gender. The paper shows that, unlike in England, the production of printed cottons was not perceived as a threat but as an advantage to the domestic economy. It illustrates that, while female consumption of these textiles was not morally questioned, cottons were not used to create a male cosmopolitan look either, as was the case in the Anglo-Saxon world.

Maria Rosaria De Rosa, The Many Faces of Trust. Personal Relationships and Credit Intermediaries in Naples by 1900

By reconstructing and analysing the bankruptcy of an important credit institute in Naples at the beginning of the twentieth century, this article reveals the fragile and contradictory distinctions between different forms of credit within a community. Source documents show that banks often adopted procedures based on personal relationships when granting credits or obtaining repayments from their clients. The bankruptcy of Banca Popolare Cooperativa is an excellent example of these practices and draws our attention to another aspect: at the end of

the nineteenth and at the beginning of the twentieth century, credit institutes constituted only a part of the money market in big cities. This was not only due to the inaccessible warranties required by banks but also to the different forms of building trust which were seen as a fundamental aspect of economic relations in this period. Numerous notary offices and small pawnbrokers were present on the credit market illustrating the complexity of money circulation during these years. The paper pays particular attention to the role of women in this credit system. Despite their limited scope of action due to their legal status, women had equal access to the extended exchange of warranties. This shows that a history of credit policies has to take familial circumstances into consideration and thus requires a gender perspective in order to understand the economic transformation of a city in the modern age.

Felix Krämer, Debts Difference. Intersectional Entanglement of Gender and Economy in Contemporary US History

Since the recent financial crisis in 2007/2008, indebtedness again has come into the focus of historical research. This article explores the impact of an intersectional gender perspective on debt historiography. By employing the term *Schuldendifferenz* (*debts difference*) the author points out the diverse conditions that debts impose on different people in contemporary US American society. After integrating this concept into the theoretical framework of the research field, the paper focuses on two topics: the federal nutrition program for impoverished mothers implemented in the 1970s and the media coverage of the 1980s on so-called deadbeat dads, that is fathers who were in arrears on child support obligations. These inequalities and differences are examined from an intersectional perspective focusing on gender, race and class.