CALL FOR PAPERS

Appalachian Spring: 11th Annual Conference in World History and Economics

This conference is an interdisciplinary meeting aimed at bringing together scholars from Appalachian State University (Boone, NC) with scholars from other universities in North Carolina, the surrounding states, and abroad. We have already hosted ten of these meetings in the past, which have been very successful. Our past keynote speakers have included Philip Hoffman, John Wallis, Jeremy Black, Peter Lindert, and Deirdre McCloskey. This year’s speaker will be Dr. James Robinson, a University Professor in the Harris School of Public Policy (University of Chicago). He is a world-renowned scholar of economics and political science, economic history, and institutional development. We will also feature several panels with scholarly papers, divided among different topical themes, including an undergraduate and a graduate panel. This year’s theme will be Institutions and Development. The paper or panel proposals do not have to be directly tied to the conference theme, although papers fitting with the theme will be given special consideration. In addition we will feature a roundtable on central banks and development and another on the development of Cuba and Latin America.

The conference will take place on April 16-17, 2016 (with an additional talk by Dr. Robinson on April 15, and a reception open to everyone in the evening), on the Appalachian State University campus, Boone, in the beautiful North Carolina mountains. Those interested in participating should let the organizers know by February 10, 2016. A one-page abstract describing the scholar’s proposal should be submitted to the organizers by that date. A full paper will be expected by the organizers by March 10, 2016. There is only a modest registration fee (regular: $80; (graduate and undergraduate) students: $30; ASU faculty and students: free). The organizers cannot provide funding for accommodations or travel expenses. We offer meals to the participants during the meeting at reduced cost in addition to the registration fee.

Organizers (contacts for paper proposals and practical matters):
• Jari Eloranta, Professor (Appalachian State University, Department of History): phone: 1-828-262-6006, email: jari.a.eloranta@gmail.com
• Jeremy Land, Ph.D. student (Georgia State University, Department of History): phone: 1-704-689-2055, email: land25.jeremy@gmail.com
Dr. James Robinson

James Robinson is a leading specialist in the development economics and economic history, theory and development of institutions, political economy, comparative politics, and especially Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa. He has written and coauthored numerous books and articles, including the widely acclaimed *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy* (with Daron Acemoglu). Recent articles include “Institutions, Human Capital and Development,” in the *Annual Reviews of Economics*; “Chiefs: Economic Development and Elite Control of Civil Society in Sierra Leone,” in the *Journal of Political Economy*.

*Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty* (2012), his collaboration with Acemoglu won the 2013 Eccles Prize awarded by the Columbia Business School. Listed by the UK-based Prospect magazine as one of the “World Thinkers 2013,” Robinson was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2012. He was a Florence Gould Foundation Fellow at the Paris School of Economics in 2010; a 2007 Walter Channing Cabot Fellow awarded by Harvard University’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences; a Carnegie Scholar in 2002; and a Susan Louis Dyer Peace Fellow at the Hoover Institution from 1999 to 2000.