

Governing the Global Economy in the Long Twentieth Century

Conference Schedule

New Seminar Room, St John's College, Oxford

DAY 1 (7 April)

9:00am - 9:30am

Coffee

9:30am - 9:40am

Introductory Remarks

9:45am - 11:00am

Panel 1: The Era of Global Development

Raphaël Orange-Leroy, Adapting the Paradigm: Developing Countries and UNCTAD in the First Reform of the IMF (1964–1969)

Ricardo Noronha, The UN Committee for Development Planning and the Future of the World Economy (1966–1989)

Alessandro Favilli, Policy Dialogue, Structural Adjustment and the Reframing of Development: The Lomé Convention (1975–1989)

Discussant: **Tehila Sasson**

11:00am - 11:30am

Coffee

11:30am - 12:45pm

Panel 2: The Problem of Economic Interdependence

Caitlin Carenen, Global Economic Governance in the Long 20th Century: A Perspective from the Icelandic versus UK "Cod Wars"

Uziel González-Aliaga, The Early Steps of Postwar Globalisation in Latin America: Economic Multilateralism in Argentina and Chile (1947–1962)

Szinan Radi, Competing for the Middle East: Money, Energy, and Inequality between Hungary and Iraq, 1960s–1980s

Discussant: **Aled Davies**

12:45pm - 2:00pm

Lunch/Coffee, St Giles' House

2:00pm - 3:15pm

Panel 3: Technocracy and Expertise

Disha Karnad Jani, Eight-Hour Workday in the Belgian Congo: The ILO's 1930 Forced Labour Convention and the Problem of Economic Governance

Guilherme Sampaio, Splitting the Economic from the Political: How the IMF and the Bank Became Independent United Nations Agencies (1946–1948)

Clémentine Martinez-Perez, Cost Containment in Healthcare: The ILO's Struggle for Socialised Standards Amidst 1970s Recession

Discussant: **Robert Yee**

3:15pm - 3:45pm	Coffee
3:45pm - 5:00pm	<p>Panel 4: Debating the American Century</p> <p>Benjamin Gladstone, Keeping the Door Open: The United States and the Middle Eastern Mandates</p> <p>Hannah Tyler, The Greatest Game: How American Agricultural Economists Shaped German and Global Agricultural Governance after 1945</p> <p>Max Harris, Plan X: The Promise and Demise of the U.S. Proposal for International Monetary Reform, 1972–1974</p> <p>Discussant: Daniel Rowe</p>
7:00pm	Dinner (by invitation only)
DAY 2 (8 April)	
9:00am - 9:20am	Coffee
9:20am - 9:30am	Day 2 Remarks
9:30am - 10:45am	<p>Panel 5: Trade and Industry</p> <p>Anthony Howe, Second Chance: Free Trade and Global Governance: The Emergence of the GATT, 1945–1950</p> <p>Tristan Oestermann, The Postcolonial Quinine Cartel: Decolonization, Free Market Economy, and the European Pharmaceutical Industry, 1950s to 1970</p> <p>Jim Tomlinson, Global Deindustrialization and its Significance</p> <p>Discussant: Matt Myers</p>
10:45am – 11:15am	Coffee
11:15am – 12:30pm	<p>Round Table</p> <p>Patricia Clavin</p> <p>Martin Daunton</p>
12:30pm	Lunch, St John’s SCR

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Organisers: Patricia Clavin, Aled Davies and Robert Yee

St John's College, University of Oxford

7 and 8 April 2025

Since the financial crisis of 2007/08, international rivalries, nationalist movements, a global pandemic, and the existential threat of climate change have destabilised the global economic order. From an historical perspective, such strains have many precedents in the tumultuous twentieth century. We seek to bring together scholars for a two-day conference at the University of Oxford to explore the history of global economic governance. We are particularly keen to discuss how national governments, international organisations, businesses, financial institutions and workers all responded to shocks and instability, and how these responses shaped the global economic order.

Many recent historical works have explored the history of political economy, capitalism and global governance from multiple perspectives. There has been important historical research into the effects of wars and conflicts on the global economic order; the birth of global economic development initiatives; the ideological foundations of neoliberalism; and the hegemony of economic growth. Together, these works raise an array of important questions: What economic, political and social factors underpinned the evolution of national and global economic governance in the twentieth century? How have conflicts and crises generated competing ideas and agendas for governing the global economy? And to what extent can these works inform our perspective on present-day challenges of climate change, global poverty, public health, deindustrialisation and global economic stability?

The focus of this conference will be on examining the ways in which the world economy has been contested, debated, governed and restructured during moments of crisis and change, as well as how challenging conditions determined relations between states, businesses, individuals and civil society. Our conference will aim to bridge past and present by offering fresh insights into the forces that have shaped our current global economy, and by considering possible future trajectories of the international economy.

Our conference welcomes a broad range of topics that are historical in perspective, including but not limited to those concerned with: global trade and monetary order; the economics of empire and decolonisation; international economic organisations and international economic relations; the governing of global food and commodities; global labour practices and markets; global banking and finance; multinational business enterprises; and international tax and regulation.



This conference is sponsored by Past & Present, the History & Political Economy Project, the Economic History Society, the Conference for European Studies at Temple University, the Rothermere American Institute, the Oxford Martin School 'Changing Global Orders' project, St John's College and Wadham College.