

Call for Sessions

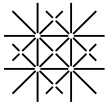
History of Insurance in Global Perspective

International Conference
University of Basel, Switzerland
20–22 July 2022

Conference theme

This international conference investigates insurance as a crucial element of the globalization of finance and of capitalism in general. Since the early modern period, geographical diffusion of insurance is closely linked to processes of globalization and de-globalization. The conference presents a broad picture of the multi-dimensional history of international insurance. This covers different periods, regions and branches of insurance: from late-medieval and early modern maritime insurance over the diffusion of life and non-life insurance in the Western hemisphere during the 19th century to the rise of non-Western markets and corporations in colonial and post-colonial contexts. This global lens invites the combination of the wide global perspective with local, micro-historical perspectives.

Relevant topics include, for example, the diffusion of marine insurance in 19th century East Asia, as part of the merchant communities, of fire and life insurance in the settler communities of post-independence states of Latin America, or of car insurance in 20th century post-colonial Africa. Sessions and papers are invited to take either a comparative view, contrasting different geographical contexts, or a generalizing, international perspective, investigating for example the internationalization and globalization of insurance or international networks and organizations related to insurance (congresses, societies, cartels etc.). They can investigate the business context, including competing forms of risk prevention and financial precaution in non-Western regions, the rise of local, non-Western insurance industries, and the interaction between local and international companies in insurance. The conference theme also includes the areas of consumption, such as the social and ethnic



patterns of insurance markets, and the changing perceptions of risk in different geographic and cultural contexts.

The conference will be held as a three-day event, on 20–22 July 2022, at the University of Basel, Switzerland. Scholars are particularly invited to cross traditional academic boundaries by offering insights on geographical entanglements or trans-epochal developments. The conference follows an interdisciplinary format, bringing together scholars from various disciplines interested in the history of insurance in global perspectives, notably from Business History, International Business Studies, Global History, Consumer History, the History of Law, and Historical Sociology.

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Session Proposal Deadline: 31 May 2021

We invite scholars interested in participating to submit proposals for sessions with three to four presentations. Session proposals should include an abstract of the session theme (1500 characters) as well as names of contributors and working titles of the presentations (as far as known) included in the session. Session proposals should be submitted electronically by 31st of May, 2021 over the conference website history-of-insurance.unibas.ch (available early April 2021). Session chairs will be informed about the selection of their proposal by the end of June 2021.

Call for Individual Papers: There will be another call for individual papers later in 2021.

Session chairs should be aware that the final decision about the conference program and the grouping of papers in sessions will be made by the conference organizers and the advisory board (Sabine Go, Amsterdam; Niels-Viggo Haueter, Zurich; Philipp Hellwege, Augsburg; W. Jean J. Kwon, New York; Lan Liang Zhao, Shanghai; Martin Lengwiler, Basel; Grietjie Verhoef, Johannesburg), after consultation with the chairs.

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