

From Pawn to Plastic
A global history of consumer credit
eabh financial history conference
in co-operation with Mediobanca

12 June 2026

Mediobanca, Via Filodrammatici 3, Milan, Italy

11 June 2026

19.30 Conference Dinner

Dress Code: Smart Business

12 June 2026

Moderators

Carmen Hofmann (*eabh*)

Andreas Kakridis (Bank of Greece)

08:30 Coffee

09:00 Welcome speech

tbc (Mediobanca)

09:15 Opening

Hugo Bänziger, Chairperson (*eabh*)

09:30 Keynote

Chiara Frigerio (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore) - invited

10:00 Early credit and lending to the poor

Mauro Carboni & Massimo Fornasari (University of Bologna)

Lending to the working poor in early modern Italy: Lessons from the past

Carlos A. Brando (Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá)

Piety in crisis: Banking to the poor during the Great Depression: The Municipal Pawn Bank of Bogotá

Q&A/Discussion

10:45 Coffee

11:15 The rise of consumer credit markets

Mario Robiony (Mediobanca & University of Udine)

Inventing consumer credit: Compass and the transformation of instalment sales in Postwar Italy

Tomás Nougués (UNSAM/ CONICET)

Social policy and the long expansion of consumer credit in Argentina

Q&A/Discussion

12:00 Technologies of consumer credit

Klara Järgerstedt (University of Gothenburg)

The Bankomat: A parenthesis between paper, plastic and silicon

Matteo Risi (Politecnico di Milano)

BNPL in Italy: Market trends, consumer insights, and regulatory shifts

Q&A/Discussion

12:45 Lunch

13:45 Keynote

Sean Vanatta (University of Glasgow)

Plastic capitalism: US credit cards in global perspective

14:15 Institutions and regulation of consumer credit

Marion Lacoume (BNP Paribas)

Consumer credit: From punch cards to computers (1950s -1970s)

João Rafael Cunha (University of St Andrews)

The financial regulatory cycle and the long history of consumer credit regulation

Q&A/Discussion

15:00 Coffee

15:30 Round table & closing

16:30 End of conference day

If not otherwise specified, all events take place at Mediobanca, Via Filodrammatici 3, Milan