

WEast 2026 Belgrade Workshop 26-27 August 2026

Long-Run Economic Growth and Development in East, Central, and South-East Europe

This workshop explores the historical drivers of long-run economic growth and development in East, Central, and South-East Europe. The region's diverse historical experiences – including imperial rule, state formation, industrialisation, socialist planning, and post-socialist transition – provide rich opportunities to study how economies develop over time.

We invite contributions examining the economic, social, political, institutional, and cultural factors shaping development in the region from a long-run perspective. We welcome submissions employing a variety of approaches and methodologies from different disciplines, including economic and business history, economics, and political science.

In line with WEast's mission, the workshop fosters collaboration and knowledge exchange between economic historians and economists working in and on East, Central, and South-East Europe.

PhD candidates and early career researchers are particularly encouraged to apply. The workshop offers a supportive and constructive environment for presenting work in progress, receiving feedback from experienced scholars, and engaging with an international network of researchers.

Workshop

The workshop will take place at the Institute of Economic Sciences in Belgrade on **26-27 August 2026**. Professor **Jared Rubin (Chapman University)** will deliver the keynote lecture. The workshop will feature a limited number of presentations in order to encourage in-depth discussion and constructive feedback among participants.

The organisers will cover the costs of the venue, along with refreshments (coffee and tea breaks) and meals, including lunch and dinner during the workshop. There is no participation fee. Participants are expected to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses. Stipends may be available to help support the participation of junior researchers.

Submission

Researchers are invited to submit either a **full paper** or an **extended abstract**, along with a **CV**, by **15 May 2026** to weast2026belgrade@gmail.com. Submissions of full papers will be given preference. Authors will be notified of the outcome by the **end of May 2026**.

Organisers

Emilija Cvetković, Institute of Economic Sciences Belgrade
Dimitrije Matić, Institute for Recent History of Serbia
Stefan Nikolić, Loughborough University and WEast

This workshop is organised by the European Historical Economics Society, the Institute of Economic Sciences, the Institute for Recent History of Serbia, and WEast.