

WEAST WORKSHOP · BELGRADE 2026

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

DATES	VENUE	KEYNOTE
26–27 August 2026	Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade Room S3 (third floor)	Prof. Jared Rubin — Chapman University

Day 1 WEDNESDAY · 26 AUGUST 2026

09:00 – 09:30 REGISTRATION & OPENING

09:30 – 11:00 SESSION 1

Mobility and Development

Long-Run Economic Development and Ancient Migration Routes in South-Eastern Europe, 8000 BCE – 1500 CE (New Evidence from aDNA Data)

Joerg Baten and Melissa Erdogan · University of Tübingen

Railway Expansion and Structural Change in the Russian Empire: Evidence from the Historical Occupational Structure of the Present-Day Mazovian Voivodeship

Marcin Kamecki · University of Warsaw

Railways and Economic Development in a Small Agrarian Economy: Bulgaria, 1880–1910

Ivan Dichovski · London School of Economics

11:00 – 11:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:30 – 13:00 SESSION 2

Productivity and Industrialization

How Far Behind? Productivity of Austrian Cotton Spinning in the European Context, 1841–1859

Tomas Cvrcek · University College London, SSEES

Gods of Productivity: Management's Cultural Diversity and Firm Performance in Yugoslav Textiles before WWII

David Chilosí · King's College London

Food Consumption in the Early Years of Soviet Industrialization

Polina Aleksandrova · Higher School of Economics, Moscow

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH

14:00 – 15:00

KEYNOTE LECTURE

How Rulers Rule: Political Legitimacy and the Making of the Modern World

Professor Jared Rubin · Chapman University

15:00 – 15:30

COFFEE BREAK

15:30 – 17:00

SESSION 3

Unification and Revolution

Borders, Market Access and Growth: Economic Consequences of Yugoslav Unification

Stefan Nikolić · Loughborough University

From Capital to Kapital? Urban Wealth Inequality and Unrest in the Late Russian Empire

Valeria Peshko · University of Helsinki

Removing Ethnic Barriers: The 1917 Russian Revolution as a Catalyst for Scientific Talent

Viktor Malein · Higher School of Economics, Moscow

19:30 – 22:00

CONFERENCE DINNER

Restoran Grmeč · Makedonska 32, Belgrade

Day 2 THURSDAY · 27 AUGUST 2026

09:30 – 11:00

SESSION 4

Production and Income

Premodern Equality, Fiscal Capacity and Economic Stagnation: Income and its Distribution in the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, c. 1790

Marcin Wroński · Warsaw School of Economics

Sectoral Composition of a Serf Economy: Provincial GDP Estimates for European Russia on the Eve of Emancipation

Anna Arkhina · Bocconi University

Recalculating Interwar GDP in East Central Europe: The Cases of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia

Matthias Morys · University of York

11:00 – 11:30

COFFEE BREAK

11:30 – 13:00

SESSION 5

Socialism and Development

Did Socialism Work? Economic Development under Labour-Managed Socialism in Yugoslavia

Magnus Neubert · Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg

The Jockey, Horse and Racetrack Revisited: Why Did CESEE's Command Economies Collapse?

Mario Holzner · The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies

Industrialization, Inequality, and the Alternative Kuznets Hypothesis: Evidence from Socialist Yugoslavia

Nikola Damljanović · University of Belgrade

13:00 – 14:00

LUNCH

14:00 – 15:30

SESSION 6

Political Economy and Trade

Between Civilisation and Constitution: Greek Parliamentary Debates on Gold Standard Adoption, 1875–1885

Aristeidis Grivokostopoulos · London School of Economics

Making Friends? Diplomacy and Trade in Cold War Poland

Marco Cokić · London School of Economics

Beneath the Surface: Tracing the Historical Roots of Russia's Resource Dependence (1880–2022)

Aleksandra Parshina · Public University of Navarre

15:30 – 16:00

COFFEE BREAK & CLOSING REMARKS
