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# **The State of the Art of Economic History: The Uneasy Relation with Economics**

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# The state of the art of economic history: the uneasy relation with economics

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**ABSTRACT:** This paper assesses the state of the art of economic history, focusing on recent changes that have recently characterized the field. We rely on a new database of almost 2,700 articles published from 2001 to 2018 in the top-five economic history journals and in 13 leading economics journals. We argue that economic history still remains a distinct field. The share of economic history articles in economics journals increased very little and only few authors published in both economics and economic history journals. Publishing in top-five economic journals yields more citations than in top-field journals, but this is not necessarily true for other prestigious economic journals. Finally, we speculate on the future. Will economic history lose its soul and become a sub-field of development studies? Will persistence studies become a separate field? Or, perhaps, a new synthesis will emerge, with scholars dealing with traditional and new research questions with a wide range of tools?

JEL classification: A12, N01

Keywords: bibliometric analysis, citations, economic history, economics journals

## 1. Introduction

In a recent article in one of the top scientific journals (*Science*), Nunn (2020) has called for a far-reaching change in the nature of economic history, which can be interpreted as the final step of a century-long evolution of the discipline. It had been born, in the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as a frontier field between economics and history, dealing with economic issues with the historians' research tools. The nature of the field was first changed by the so called Cliometrics Revolution of the 1960s (Andreano 1970, Lyons, Cain and Williamson 2007, Greasley and Oxley 2010, Diebolt and Hauptert 2021). The "new" economic historians, as they were called in the early days, addressed the main issues of traditional economic history, most notably the efficiency of slavery and the causes of American economic growth in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the analytical tools of economics and provided novel and provocative results, which attracted a lot of interests among economists. As we will detail in the next Section, this interest waned in the 1980s but has returned in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: 'in recent decades, there has been a rapidly growing body of research *within economics* [our italics] that takes a historical perspective when attempting to understand contemporary issues related to global poverty and comparative development' (Nunn 2020: 1441). The "tipping point" (Michalopoulos and Papaioannou 2017) was the publication of the highly successful article on the colonial roots of underdevelopment by Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson (2001), which measured the impact of past colonial institutions on GDP per capita in 1995.<sup>1</sup> These "persistence studies" (Cioni, Federico and Vasta 2021) have been published almost exclusively in economic journals which have allegedly also increased the number of "cliometric" articles. Some authors have hailed these changes as an "integration of economic history into economics" (Abramitzky 2015, Diebolt and Hauptert 2019a, Margo 2018).

This paper aims at addressing some essential questions and thus at giving an overview of the state of the art of economic history in a key moment of its more than centenary history. How deep this integration is? How many articles on economic history, "persistence" and "cliometrics" are being published in economics journals? How do they differ from articles in top field journals? Are they more successful in terms of citations?

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<sup>1</sup> According to Linnemer and Visser (2017: Table 3), Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson (2001) is the 8<sup>th</sup> most cited article from the top five economics journals in the period 1991-2015 and the only one in the top ten that was published in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. For further details on its impact in economic history see Section 6.

The paper relies on a comprehensive database of almost 2,700 articles on economic history issues published, from 2001 to 2018, in 18 journals, the top five economic history journals, and 13 leading economics journals. Three results stand out. First, our view of the “integration of economic history” into economics is not so upbeat: only few economics journals publish regularly articles on historical issues and the share may seem on the rise only if compared to the very low level of the gloomy period of the 1980s and early 1990s. Arguably, economic history has not yet returned to the status that it had enjoyed before the mathematization of economics (Debreu 1991). Secondly, we show that there is a big gap in citations between top five economics journals and top field journals, but the gap with other top economic journals is smaller and disappears if one considers only a comparably sized sample of most successful articles in economic history journals. Last but not least, “persistence studies” get more citations than “traditional” articles in economics journals, but this result mainly depends on their (still) small number and on the exceptional impact of three highly cited articles.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. We start with a short outline of the evolution of recent changes and of the literature on the ‘integration’ (Section 2) and we continue with a detailed description of our database (Section 3). In the following two sections, we focus on the issue of the “integration” of economic history into economics by looking at the share of economic history articles in top economics journals (Section 4), and at the differences between economics and economic history journals in the type of articles, affiliations of authors and pattern of citations (Section 5). In sections 6 and 7, we measure the success of different articles, as proxied by the number of citations they have received. Section 8 concludes.

## **2. The evolution of economic history**

In the 1960s and 1970s the “new” economic history became the dominant approach in the United States and Canada, against a strong opposition by “traditional” economic historians (Diebolt and Hauptert 2019a). Since the 1980s, the Cliometric approach diffused all over the England and since the 1990s it spread widely in Continental Europe and made some inroads also in the rest of the world (Cioni, Federico and Vasta 2020). Furthermore, it has extended its reach well beyond in space across the whole world and back in time to Middle Ages. Yet, after the initial enthusiasm, its appeal among American economists has faded fast, in spite of the valiant attempts by some great names (Parker

1986) and of the Nobel prize assigned to Douglass North and Robert Fogel in 1993. Possibly the American economists of the 1980s and 1990s were not as excited by European or world economic history as by the original core cliometrics issues on American history (Diebolt and Hauptert 2021). They have increasingly come to regard economic history a highly specialized subject, which could easily be dropped from the economists' training: consequently, about a half of PhD programs have no economic history course and only very few include them in core requirements (Diebolt and Hauptert 2019b).

More recently, economists have been changing their minds and economic history seems to be back in fashion. Predictably, the "persistence studies" have attracted most attention, as the approach resonates with the prevailing interest of economists on the present. They are interested in history because it "casts its long shadows over the present" (Michalopoulos and Papaioannou 2017) not, as economic historians, in history for its own sake (Abramitzky 2015, Jaremski 2020). The "persistence studies" have also attracted few controversies. Austin (2008) has strongly criticized the "compression of history", while others have criticized the data handling by Acemoglu and his associates (Albouy 2012, Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson 2012) and the reliability of the results suggesting that are spuriously improved by (not controlled for) spatial autocorrelation (Kelly 2020). Furthermore, Voth (2021) points out that only a minority of studies ('apples-with-apples') focuses on the persistence of a specific feature (e.g. a cultural belief). Most works ('apples-with-oranges') relate past events and current outcomes which are inherently different, often relying only on statistical inference, rather than on some theory about the causal mechanism.

However, the revival of interest has extended also to other lines of historical research. First, the range of issues economists are interested has drastically widened towards social developments, politics and so on, and the movement has also affected the historical work (Cioni, Federico and Vasta 2021).<sup>2</sup> As a consequence, also the "traditional" Cliometric works has benefitted of this revival of interest. Several survey articles have stressed the relevance of history in understanding economic change (Nunn 2009, Spolaore and Wacziarg 2013, Ashraf and Galor 2018, Cantoni and Yuchtman 2021) and two recent books have offered up to date views of the field from a different perspective.

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<sup>2</sup> In recent times, also historians have shown a renewed interest in economic issues, under the generic label of 'history of capitalism'. We do not cover this literature, which harks back to the pre-cliometric tradition. For a survey of some recent books, see Hilt (2017).

The *Handbook of Cliometrics* (Diebolt and Hauptert 2019c) surveys the results of the economic history literature, while the *Handbook of Historical economics* (Bisin and Federico 2021a) focuses on the opportunities and challenges of the interaction between economic history and economics.

The alleged increase in the number of economic history articles in economic journals is just one side of the “integration”. Margo (2018) shows that economic history journals are following, with a lag, the lead of economics journals in the use of advanced econometric techniques and that senior economic historians of the most recent cohorts have published many more articles in the top five economic journals in the early stages of their careers than their predecessors in the 1960s-1970s, who published articles mostly in economic history journals and books. Abramitzky (2015) and Margo (2018) stress how recent changes in the labor market for economists fostered the “integration”. They measure the integration with the number of articles in economics journals and with the use of econometric methods. Abramitzky (2015) shows how newly minted PhD students in economic history from top economics departments have the same chances of recruitment as their colleagues in economics. However, Diebolt and Hauptert (2021) suggest that the strong reduction in positions devoted to economic historians push them to market themselves as specialists of other fields, although they continue to work on economic history.

### 3. Data

Our “core” database includes all articles published in the top five economic history journals (henceforth the T-ec.hist), in the top five economics journals (henceforth T5) and in three other major generalist economic journals (henceforth T3gen) from 2001 to 2018. As universally agreed (Heckman and Moktan 2020) the T5 are the *American Economic Review* (AER), *Econometrica* (ECMA), the *Journal of Political Economy* (JPE), the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (QJE), and the *Review of Economic Studies* (RESTUD)<sup>3</sup>. The T-ec.hist have been defined in Cioni, Federico and Vasta (2020) and they are the following: the *Economic History Review* (EHR), the *Journal of Economic History* (JEH), *Explorations in Economic History* (EEH), the *European Review of Economic History* (EREH) and *Cliometrica* (CLIO). We have selected the T3gen – *Economic Journal* (EJ), the *Journal of Economic Literature* (JEL), and the *Review of Economics and Statistics* (RESTAT) – according to three criteria: *i*) they must be, as the AER defines itself, ‘general-interest economics journal’ – i.e. they accept articles on all issues in economics

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<sup>3</sup> For an analysis of recent trends in the top five economics journals, see Wei (2019).

rather than on a specific set of topics;<sup>4</sup> *ii*) they started publications before 2001; *iii*) they are highly ranked – i.e. they are classified on average above the 15<sup>th</sup> position in a set of ten recent rankings of economics journals, based on Bornmann, Butz and Wohlrabe (2018) (see Appendix: Table A1).<sup>5</sup> These criteria exclude some highly reputed general-interest journals such as the *American Economic Journal* (established in 2009) and the *Journal of European Economic Association* (established in 2003) and all field journals, however high they are in rankings (for instance *Journal of Finance* and *Journal of Econometrics*).<sup>6</sup> For the robustness checks only, we have also included five additional highly-reputed economics journals: the *Journal of Economic Theory* (*JET*), the *Journal of Monetary Economics* (*JME*), the *Journal of Public Economics* (*JPUB*), the *Journal of Development Economics* (*JDE*), and the *Journal of Economic Growth* (*JEG*). The first three are the highest ranked field journals in the classification by Kalaitzidakis, Mamuneas and Stengos (2011: Table 1), while the *JDE* and *JEG* (defined in the following as “history-friendly”) show the most interest in economic history issues among the leading economics journals.<sup>7</sup>

We have selected the articles on economic history issues in economics journals by looking at their abstracts and/or content and, when available, at the JEL codes (N category—Economic History) of the American Economic Association (AEA).<sup>8</sup> Our initial selection has been comprehensive as possible, including all articles that explore any type of relation between events, institutions and behaviours (and their changes) in the past and their economic outcomes in either the past or the present. However, following a standard practice in the literature (Abramitzky 2015, Hamermesh 2018, Heckman and Moktan 2020), we have omitted from the sample the non-research articles (short

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<sup>4</sup> For instance, the *EJ*, as claimed in its website, provides ‘a platform for high-quality, imaginative economic research, earning a worldwide reputation for excellence as a general interest journal, publishing papers in all fields of economics for a broad international readership’.

<sup>5</sup> We have selected the seven most recent rankings quoted by Bornmann, Butz and Wohlrabe (2018) and we add the rankings by Heckman and Moktan (2020) and the ‘Aggregate ranking all years’ from REPEC (accessed September 2020). The average ranking is 8.2<sup>th</sup> for the *JEL* (with positions ranging from 1<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>), 9.7<sup>th</sup> for *RESTAT* (from 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>) and 14.5<sup>th</sup> for *EJ* (from 7<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>nd</sup>).

<sup>6</sup> We exclude the *Journal of Economic Perspective* but not the *JEL* because they target a different readership, as stated in the *AER* website. The former ‘attempts to fill a gap between the general interest press and most other academic economics journals’, while the latter ‘is designed to help economists keep abreast of and synthesize the vast flow of literature’. Moreover, the *Journal of Economic Perspective*, unlike the *JEL*, is upon invitation only.

<sup>7</sup> These two journals publish many economic history articles and were at the top of the rankings for economics journals in terms of number of citations made and received by economic history journals in 2017, according to *Journal Citation Reports* (*JCR*) after *AER*, *JEL*, *QJE* and *JPE*.

<sup>8</sup> We do not rely exclusively on JEL codes (N – Economic history) because they are missing in some journals and the classification is not always consistent. Indeed, the code for economic history might miss some articles and include papers that are not primarily in economic history (Abramitzky 2015: 1242).

notes, comments, replays, rejoinders, rebuttals, and essays in bibliography) in the T-ec.hist and the whole of *AER's* annual issue of *Papers and Proceedings*.<sup>9</sup> These articles are usually very short and have few references and thus their inclusion would bias the citation analysis.

We have further classified articles in economics journals as H (“traditional” economic history) or PS (“persistence studies”) according to the dependent variable of their main regression. We classified as PS all articles that deal with present outcomes and explain them as the consequences of specific past events, from prehistory to at least a century before the outcome. The archetypal PS is the article by Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson (2001), we will give additional examples in Section 7. In contrast, a representative H article is the work by Squicciarini and Voigtländer (2015), which estimates the contribution to economic growth, proxied by city growth, of upper tail human capital (as measured by subscriptions to the *Encyclopédie* in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century) via the diffusion of modern technologies in 19<sup>th</sup> century France.

With these criteria, the database includes a total of 2,695 articles, but in the main analysis (core database) we focus on 2,518 of them, the 2,153 articles in the T-ec.hist and on the 365 “core” economic history articles (i.e., H and PS) in the T8 economics journals (the T5 plus the T3gen). We use the 177 articles from the five economics journals (supplementary database) for some specific analysis (see Table 1 for full details).

As a second step, we have classified all articles in the database according to their topic, historical period, geographical area and econometric techniques by looking at the title, abstract and, whenever necessary, text.

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<sup>9</sup> The special status of the *Papers and Proceedings* is further shown by the decision of the AEA to split them as a standalone journal since 2018.



Table 1. Number of articles in the database (2001-2018)

**Core database**

| Journal          | H            | PS        | Total        |
|------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| <i>EHR</i>       | 617          |           | 617          |
| <i>JEH</i>       | 577          |           | 577          |
| <i>EEH</i>       | 491          |           | 491          |
| <i>CLIO</i>      | 161          |           | 161          |
| <i>EREH</i>      | 307          |           | 307          |
| <b>T-ec.hist</b> | <b>2,153</b> |           | <b>2,153</b> |
| <i>AER</i>       | 87           | 9         | 96           |
| <i>ECMA</i>      | 5            | 4         | 9            |
| <i>JPE</i>       | 27           | -         | 27           |
| <i>QJE</i>       | 53           | 8         | 61           |
| <i>RESTUD</i>    | 5            | -         | 5            |
| <b>T5</b>        | <b>177</b>   | <b>21</b> | <b>198</b>   |
| <i>EJ</i>        | 68           | 9         | 77           |
| <i>JEL</i>       | 15           | 1         | 16           |
| <i>RESTAT</i>    | 65           | 9         | 74           |
| <b>T3gen</b>     | <b>148</b>   | <b>19</b> | <b>167</b>   |
| <b>T8</b>        | <b>325</b>   | <b>40</b> | <b>365</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>2,478</b> | <b>40</b> | <b>2,518</b> |

**Supplementary database**

| Journal                 | H          | PS        | Total      |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| <i>JDE</i>              | 54         | 8         | 62         |
| <i>JEG</i>              | 28         | 11        | 39         |
| <b>History-friendly</b> | <b>82</b>  | <b>19</b> | <b>101</b> |
| <i>JET</i>              | 2          | -         | 2          |
| <i>JME</i>              | 46         | 1         | 47         |
| <i>JPUB</i>             | 27         | -         | 27         |
| <b>Top field</b>        | <b>75</b>  | <b>1</b>  | <b>76</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>157</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>177</b> |

|   |              |           |              |
|---|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| <b>Total Core and Supplementary databases</b> | <b>2,635</b> | <b>60</b> | <b>2,695</b> |
|---|--------------|-----------|--------------|

Source: our own elaborations.

i) Elsewhere (Cioni, Federico and Vasta 2020), we have suggested a classification into 17 topics (see Appendix: Table A2), which in this paper are further aggregated for estimation purposes into five main categories: “methodology” (inclusive of articles on the history of economic thought), “institutions”, “macro approach” (dealing with growth, economic policies, and trade), “micro

approach” (finance, firms and innovation) and “personal conditions and behaviour” (inequality, human capital, population and demography).

ii) We follow the standard division between “classical and medieval history” (before 1492) and “early modern history” (1492-1815), but, given their large number, we split the articles on “modern history” (1815-present) into the “long 19<sup>th</sup> century” (1815-1914) and the “20<sup>th</sup> century” (1915-present).<sup>10</sup> We label as “long-run” articles covering at least two hundred years and straddling at least two periods, and as “no period” articles on methodology and on the history of economic thought, which do not refer to a specific period in time.

iii) We distinguish articles by geographical area of interest between single-country (United Kingdom, United States, and so on) and cross-country, with a residual “no area” category for articles on methodology and the history of economic thought.

iv) We classify the econometric techniques as “basic” (coefficient of correlation, OLS regressions and so on) or “advanced” (differences-in-differences, instrumental variables, panel regressions, propensity score matching, vector-autoregression or VAR, and vector error correction model or VECM).

For each article, we retrieved information on the author(s), including name, gender and institutional affiliation at the time of publication as stated in the article, as well as on the number of citations received as reported in the *Scopus* database between 13 and 18 May 2019. We preferred *Scopus* to *JCR* because it offers wider coverage of journals and a simpler method for retrieving data.<sup>11</sup> The T-ec.hist had received 29,679 citations, while the “core” economic history articles in the T8 had amassed 33,762 citations (24,596 for the T5 and 9,166 for the T3gen). Finally, we retrieved all the references contained in the bibliography of each article of the “core” database (the T-ec.hist and the T8), for a total of 146,950 references—that is, 60.0 references per article.

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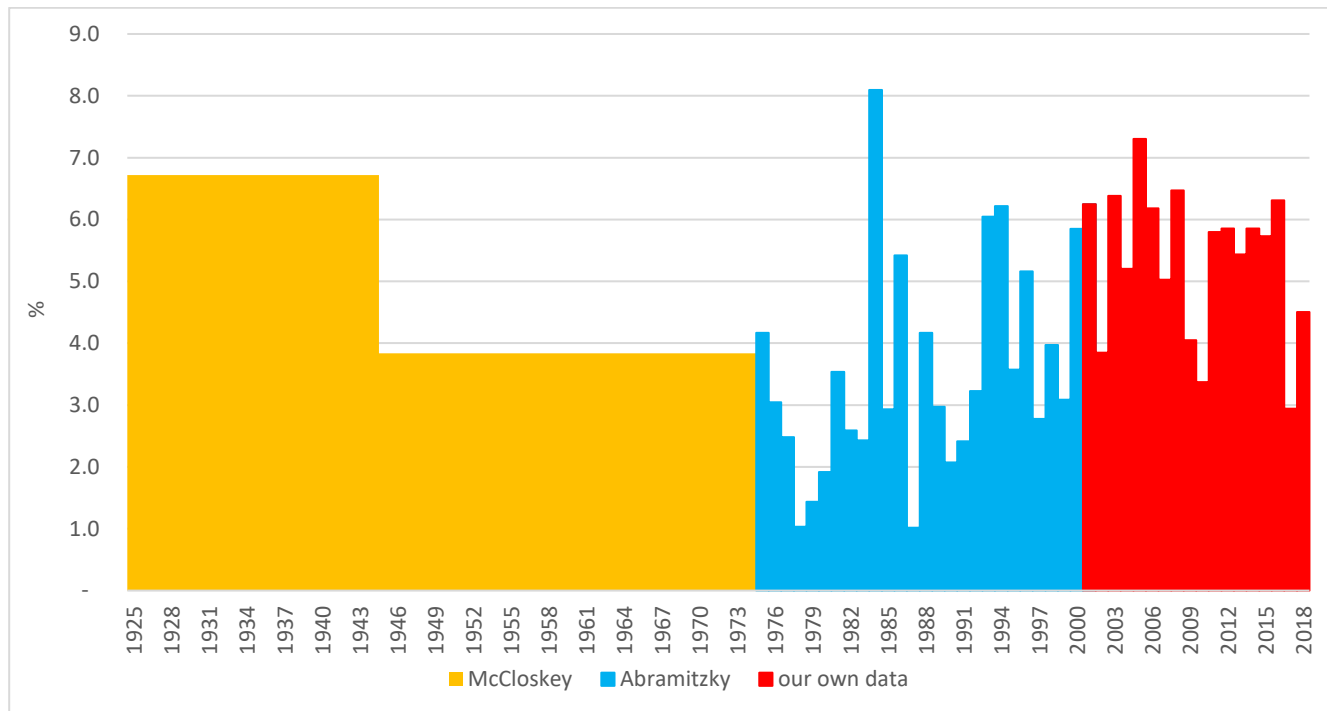
<sup>10</sup> We allocate articles dealing with two or more periods but covering less than 200 years, to the period which covers the higher number of years.

<sup>11</sup> Anauati, Galiani and Galvez (2016) in a paper on the life cycle of articles in the top five economics journals use *Google Scholar* rather than *Scopus* as source, but the number of citations are strongly correlated.

#### 4. Economic history articles in economics journals: a first look at the data

As a starting point, Figure 1 plots the share of economic history articles in the three most established economics journals, the *AER* (established in 1911), the *JPE* (1892) and the *QJE* (1886). The averages for 1925-1944 and 1945-1974 are taken from McCloskey (1976), while the data for 1975 to 2000 have been collected by Abramitzky (2015).<sup>12</sup>

Figure 1. Share of economic history articles in three top economic journals (*AER*, *JPE* and *QJE*), 1925-2018



Source: for economic history articles: McCloskey (1976), Abramitzky (2015) and our own data; for universe: 1970-2000, Card and DellaVigna (2013, Appendix); 2001-2018, our own data (see Table A3 in the Appendix).

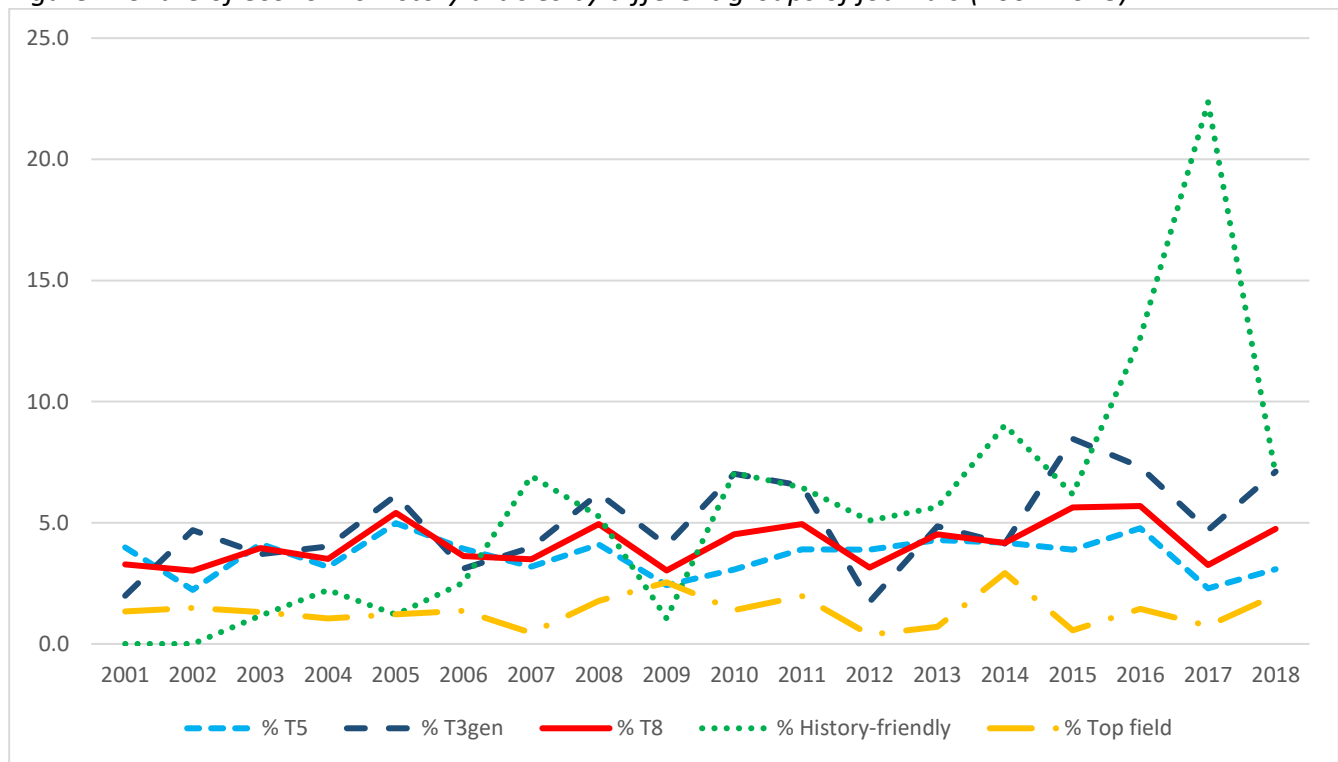
Overall, the data downplay the extent of the recent integration of economic history into economics. To be sure, the share of economic history articles is significantly higher after 2001 than in the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (5.2% versus 3.4%), and the increase is even larger for all of the T5 (from 2.1% in 1975-2000 to 3.6% in 2001-2018).<sup>13</sup> On the other hand, the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup>

<sup>12</sup> We omit *ECMA* and *RESTUD* because McCloskey (1976) does not consider them, as both started publication in 1933. Our choice is not likely to cause us to lose much relevant information, as these two journals have published few articles in economic history after 2000. We thank Ran Abramitzky for sharing his full database with us.

<sup>13</sup> This trend is confirmed by the analysis of Card and DellaVigna (2013: Table A5) based on the JEL codes in the *Econlit* database.

century was a difficult age for economic history in economics journals. Their share in these three journals had been much higher before 1945 (6.7%), and still marginally higher in 1945-1974 (3.8%) than in 1975-2000.<sup>14</sup> This rise is confirmed by change in the number of articles (see Table A3 in the Appendix). The Abramitzky database features only 96 economic history articles in the T5 from 1975 to 1989 (1.9% of the total), and 25 of them (i.e., one quarter) were published only in two years, 1984 and 1986. In some years of the 1970s and 1980s, the T5 published five or fewer economic history articles per year out of about 350 per year. The situation improved in the 1990s, with a total of 66 economic history articles in the T5, corresponding to 2.5% of all articles. Most of the rise in the share is concentrated in a fairly short period of time from the early 1990s to its peak in the mid-2000s. This view is confirmed by looking at all journals in our database since 2001 (see Figure 2 and Table A4 in the Appendix).

Figure 2. Share of economic history articles by different groups of journals (2001-2018)

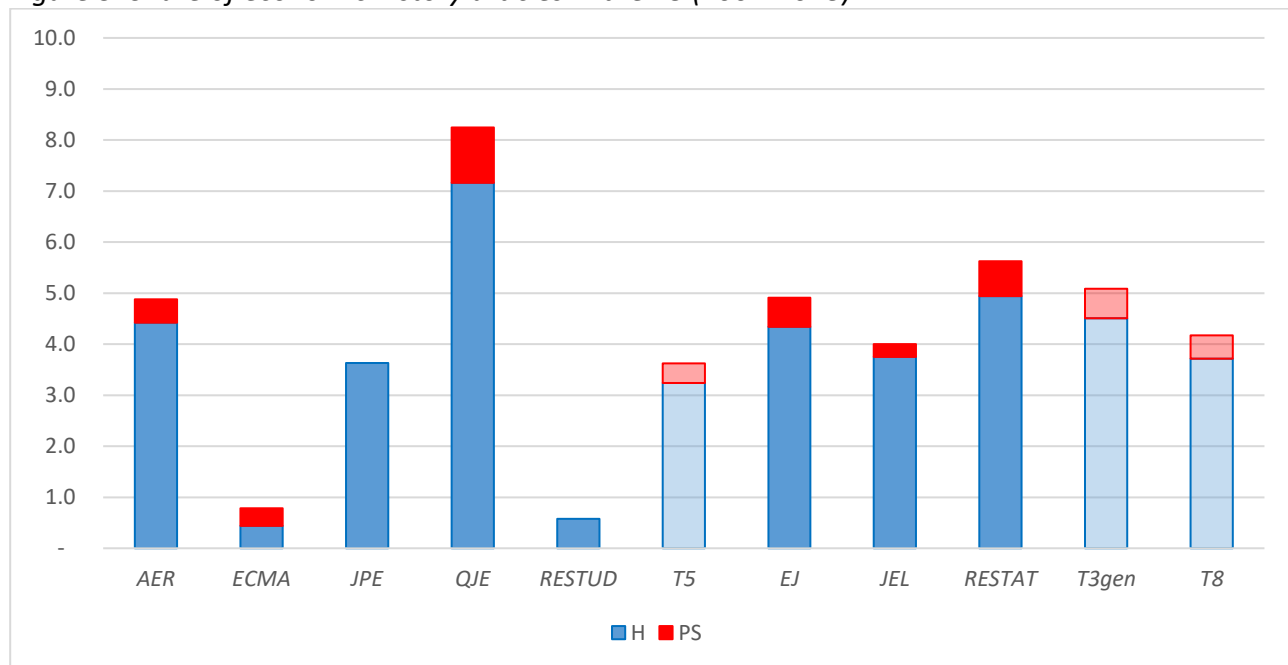


Source: our own elaborations (see Table A4 in the Appendix).

<sup>14</sup> In line with our estimates, the data by Angrist et al (2020: Table 2) show that economic history articles account for 2.9% of all articles published from 1970 to 2015 in a database of about 140,000 articles published in 50 leading economics journals.

Two points stand out. First, there are long-term differences between the groups of journals in the average share, but not necessarily in the number of articles. The share was 5.8% for the “history-friendly” (5.6 articles per year), 5.0% for the T3gen (9.3 per year) 3.6% for the T5 (11) and only 1.4% (4.2) for the field journals. Second, in contrast to the alleged integration of economic history into economics, the share of economic history articles in the T8 has fluctuated quite widely at approximately 4%, without any clear upward trend. It has risen impressively only in the “history-friendly” journals, from 0.8% in 2001-2004 to 12.0% in 2015-2018. In those three years, readers of the “history-friendly” journals were exposed to as many economic history articles as those of the T5 and only to slightly fewer than T3gen. Figure 3 adds two important pieces of information.

Figure 3. Share of economic history articles in the T8 (2001-2018)



Source: our own elaborations.

First, there are substantial differences among the T8. The *QJE* stands out: its share of economic history articles is the highest of all journals, but the *JEG*, which is clearly an exception in the field.<sup>15</sup> The second highest-ranked journal among the T8 is *RESTAT*, as one would surmise that history should offer much evidence for empirical exercises. On the other side of the distribution, two journals (*ECMA* and *RESTUD*), published less than one economic history article for every one hundred articles.

<sup>15</sup> The *JEG* has published 39 economic history articles out of 225 (17.3%), while the other “history-friendly” journal, the *JDE*, has published 62 articles out of 1,504 (4.1%).

Second, until 2018, PS (the red parts of the bars in the Figure 3) were a niche approach in the T8, accounting for about one-ninth of all “core” articles (i.e., for 0.5% of the total) and exceeding 1% of the total only in the *QJE*. About four-fifths of all PS in our database were published after 2010, and yet, in those years, they accounted for approximately one-seventh of all history articles and 0.7% of all articles in the T8. The diffusion of PS studies appears much faster in the two “history-friendly” journals: the number jumped from two articles (one in each journal) in 2001-2009 to eight and ten articles, respectively, in 2010-2018. This rise helps to explain the difference between the T3gen and the “history-friendly” journals in Figure 2. As with any radically new approach, PS probably require time to develop, and indeed, the field is still growing quite quickly. The recent survey by Michalopoulos and Papaioannu (2020) quotes several working papers and unpublished articles which adopt this new approach.

## **5. Economic history: a deeply divided field**

We explore the divide within economic history by looking at three dimensions. First, we measure differences in four key features (topic, period, geographical area of interest and use of econometric techniques) between articles in the T-ec.hist and in the T8, further distinguishing between the T5 and the T3gen. Then, we explore the publication strategies and affiliation of the authors and finally we analyse the pattern of cross-citations — i.e., the number of citations to the T-ec.hist in the T8 and vice-versa.

5.1 The differences between articles in economics and economic history journals are substantial in all four features we take into account: topic (see Table A5a in the Appendix), historical period of interest (see Table A5b in the Appendix), geographical area (see Table A5c in the Appendix) and use of econometrics (see Table A5d in the Appendix). Just for an example, let’s consider topics. The category “institutions” accounts for most articles in both economics and economic history journals, but its share is about a half higher in the former than in the latter (20.0% vs 13.1%). Institutions is a very diversified category, which in economics journals include quite a few articles on political science issues, such as the roots of electoral success of the Nazi party (Adena et al 2015, Satyanath, Voigtländer and Voth 2017). However, differences are wide also in more narrowly defined categories: in the T8, 10.4% of articles deals with population and demography issues, and 6.6% on standard of

living, while the proportions are almost reversed in T-ec.hist journals (respectively 4.9% and 11.8%).<sup>16</sup> On the other hand, the differences are less clear cut for other topics, such as labour or innovation.

We estimate more precisely these differences by running a set of multinomial logistic regressions, following Hamermesh (2013). The dependent variable is the number of articles for each category and the reference category is the T-ec.hist: a significant coefficient signals a difference with either T5 or T3gen. A positive (negative) sign implies that the group of articles as defined in the top row is more (less) frequent than the baseline outcome – i.e. “institutions” for topics (Table 2a), the “long 19<sup>th</sup> century (1815-1914)” for historical periods (Table 2b), the “United Kingdom” for geographical areas (Table 2c), and “no econometrics” for the techniques (Table 2d).

The exercise confirms that differences between T-ec.hist and T8 are quite wide but adds that there are relevant differences also between T5 and T3gen. Almost three quarters of all coefficients (20 out of 28) are significant, and most of them are significant at 1%. Table 2a shows that the differences in topics are limited to the T5 – indeed articles on “institutions” account only for 13.1% of total in the T3gen. The T8 publish more articles on “long run” and on the “20<sup>th</sup> century” than T-ec.hist (Table 2b). The high share of articles on the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the T8 is likely due to the availability of better data which are often needed to use advanced techniques (Table 2d). Good data can explain to some extent the high share of articles on the United States, jointly with the affiliation of authors and possibly with the geographical location of journals (Table 2c). However, also coefficients for other areas are positive and some of them, especially for the T5, are high and highly significant. This reflects the somewhat skewed distribution by area of articles in the reference category, the T-ec.hist: about a quarter of them deal with the United Kingdom (almost half of the total for the *EHR*), especially during the Industrial Revolution.

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<sup>16</sup> The largest differences appear in marginal categories with very few articles such as history of economic thought (13 articles in the T8 – i.e. 3.6% - vs 10 – 0.5% - in T-ec.hist) and firm (1 vs. 38 articles).

*Table 2a Multinomial logit estimates: topics (2001-2018)*

| Variables    | Methodology          | Institutions | Macro approach       | Micro approach       | Personal conditions and behaviour |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| T5           | -1.738*<br>(1.027)   |              | -1.053***<br>(0.250) | -0.838***<br>(0.214) | -0.431**<br>(0.201)               |
| T3gen        | 1.616***<br>(0.385)  |              | -0.205<br>(0.284)    | -0.559**<br>(0.281)  | 0.196<br>(0.253)                  |
| Constant     | -2.112***<br>(0.182) |              | 0.535***<br>(0.0751) | 0.920***<br>(0.0706) | 0.843***<br>(0.0714)              |
| Observations | 2,518                | 2,518        | 2,518                | 2,518                | 2,518                             |

*Table 2b. Multinomial logit estimates: historical periods (2001-2018)*

| Variables    | Classical and medieval (before 1492) | Early Modern History (1492-1815) | Long 19 <sup>th</sup> century (1815-1914) | 20 <sup>th</sup> century (1915-present) | Long-run              |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------|
| T5           | 0.0371<br>(0.486)                    | -0.194<br>(0.295)                |   | 1.187***<br>(0.191)                     | 1.529***<br>(0.267)   |
| T3gen        | -0.0278<br>(0.539)                   | -0.672*<br>(0.379)               |   | 0.990***<br>(0.211)                     | 1.918***<br>(0.260)   |
| Constant     | -2.141***<br>(0.107)                 | -0.686***<br>(0.0598)            |   | -0.228***<br>(0.0520)                   | -1.947***<br>(0.0980) |
| Observations | 2,489                                | 2,489                            | 2,489                                     | 2,489                                   | 2,489                 |

*Table 2c. Multinomial logit estimates: geographical areas (2001-2018)*

| Variables    | Cross-country         | Continental Europe   | UK    | USA                 | Rest of the world     |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| T5           | 2.448***<br>(0.443)   | 1.497***<br>(0.448)  |       | 2.827***<br>(0.427) | 1.926***<br>(0.461)   |
| T3gen        | 1.655***<br>(0.280)   | 0.121<br>(0.315)     |       | 0.918***<br>(0.291) | 0.247<br>(0.364)      |
| Constant     | -0.502***<br>(0.0737) | 0.208***<br>(0.0609) |       | -0.119*<br>(0.0660) | -0.499***<br>(0.0736) |
| Observations | 2,468                 | 2,468                | 2,468 | 2,468               | 2,468                 |

*Table 2d. Multinomial logit estimates: econometric techniques (2001-2018)*

| Variables    | No econometrics | Econometric tools    | Advanced econometrics |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| T5           |                 | 1.047***<br>(0.292)  | 3.041***<br>(0.297)   |
| T3gen        |                 | 0.373<br>(0.239)     | 2.132***<br>(0.251)   |
| Constant     |                 | 0.780***<br>(0.0488) | -1.105***<br>(0.0810) |
| Observations | 2,518           | 2,518                | 2,518                 |

Source: our own elaborations.

Note: robust standard errors in parentheses, \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1. Journal base category (omitted): T-ec.hist.



5.2. The database features a total of 2,153 authors, who have made 2,518 “contributions”, with an average of 1.17 each.<sup>17</sup> At the time of publication, these authors were working in 595 universities and 115 other organizations (such as the World Bank, the Federal Reserve Board of Governors or the Federal Reserve Bank of New York). Almost all these institutions were located in Europe and North America, but there is a striking difference between the balanced distribution of affiliations in economic history journals and the strong concentration in the United States in economics ones, especially in the T5 (Table 3).

*Table 3. Share of contributions by area of affiliation (2001-2018)*

| Area                         | T-ec.hist | T5   | T3gen | T8   |
|------------------------------|-----------|------|-------|------|
| Continental Europe           | 31.5      | 12.7 | 21.6  | 16.8 |
| UK                           | 23.7      | 4.7  | 15.0  | 9.4  |
| USA                          | 32.0      | 78.8 | 53.1  | 67.0 |
| Others Anglo-Saxon countries | 7.1       | 1.9  | 6.0   | 3.8  |
| Rest of the world            | 5.7       | 1.9  | 4.3   | 3.0  |
| Total                        | 100       | 100  | 100   | 100  |

Source: our own elaborations.

Two thirds of authors of economic history articles in the T8 and four fifths in the T5 were affiliated to American universities. In all likelihood, this concentration reflects the well-known ‘tyranny’ of the T5 (Heckman and Moktan 2020). Publishing in economic history journals, as in all field ones, and even in the other major generalist journals (the T3gen) may not be enough to get tenure or promotion in top American universities (Margo 2018). This fact may, jointly with the home bias of authors (Cioni, Federico and Vasta 2020), can explain the high share of articles on the United States, including cross-country articles, in the T8 (55.1% vs. 25.8% in the T-ec.hist).

Unsurprisingly, the difference in location between economic history and economics is even greater if one considers the list of top ten institutions (Table 4). Eight European universities (five British and three Continental) feature in the top ten for the T-ec.hist, one only in the top ten for the T8 and none for the T5. The highest-ranked Continental European university in the T8 (and also in the T5), Universitat Pompeu Fabra, is only 13<sup>th</sup> overall. Furthermore, the London School of Economics, the top ranked institution in the T-ec.hist and the only non-American institution in the T8, is a *sui generis*

<sup>17</sup> We assign to each author (and thus to his or her institution and, ultimately, to his or her country) the inverse of the number of authors of the article (0.5 if there are two authors, 0.33 if there are three and so on). We distinguish the fractionally weighted articles from the unweighted ones by using the word “contribution” instead of “article”.

case. Almost all authors of articles in the T-ec.hist are affiliated with the Department of Economic History, while over three-quarters of all articles in the T8 were written by members of other departments (mostly Economics). One only non-academic organization, the World Bank, appears in the Table 4 at the 10<sup>th</sup> position of the ranking for the T3gen, but it drops to the 32<sup>nd</sup> position in the T8.

This difference in affiliations is arguably part of a more general cleavage between authors publishing in economics journals (“economists”) and in economic history ones (“economic historians”), which we document in Figure 4. We count the number of authors distinguishing the type of article (H or PS) and two sets of journals – the whole database on the left (Figure 4a) and a reduced one, featuring only the T5 and the T-ec.hist, on the right (Figure 4b).

More than nine economic historians out of ten (the 92%) have published only in the T-ec.hist and almost seven economists out of ten (69.1%) have published exclusively in the T8. There are only 142 “hybrid” authors (6.6% of the total of 2,153) who have published one article in both the T-ec.hist and the T8 and only 37 “high flyers” (1.7% of the total), who have authored (or co-authored) at least two articles in both groups of journals. On the other hand, the 142 “hybrid” authors were substantially more productive than both “pure” economic historian and “pure” economists.<sup>18</sup> Overall, “hybrid” authors account for more than one sixth (17.2%) of all contributions to the T-ec.hist and for exactly one third (33.7%) of all contributions to the T8.<sup>19</sup> Figure 4a also shows that the authors of PS, or “persistence economists”, are a distinctive “tribe” even within economists. More than half of them (37 out of 65) have published only PS, almost always with a co-author, and no other economic history articles (of course, they have been active in other fields of economics), while only five scholars have contributed to all three categories (PS, H and articles in the T-ec.hist). The number of “hybrid” authors is, by definition, smaller if one takes into account only the T5 (Figure 4b). Only 74 people (3.4% of the total in the database) have published in both a T5 journal and a T-ec.hist journal, and only 17 (0.8%) of them are “high-flyers”. However, “hybrid” scholars account for 26.8% of authors in the T5 (74 out of 276) and for 31.7% in the T3gen (90 out of 284).

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<sup>18</sup> Each “hybrid” author has published 0.9 contributions in the T8, with a median of 0.5, while the 369 pure “economists” have published 0.6 contributions each, with the same median as the “hybrid” authors. Moreover, the “hybrid” authors have published 2.6 contributions each in T-ec.hist, with a median of 1.8, versus 1.1 contributions each and a median of 0.8 for the 1,642 pure “economic historians”.

<sup>19</sup> By definition, the impact of the 37 “high-flyers” is proportionally larger: they account for 6.5% of contributions to the T-ec.hist journals and 15.3% to the T8.

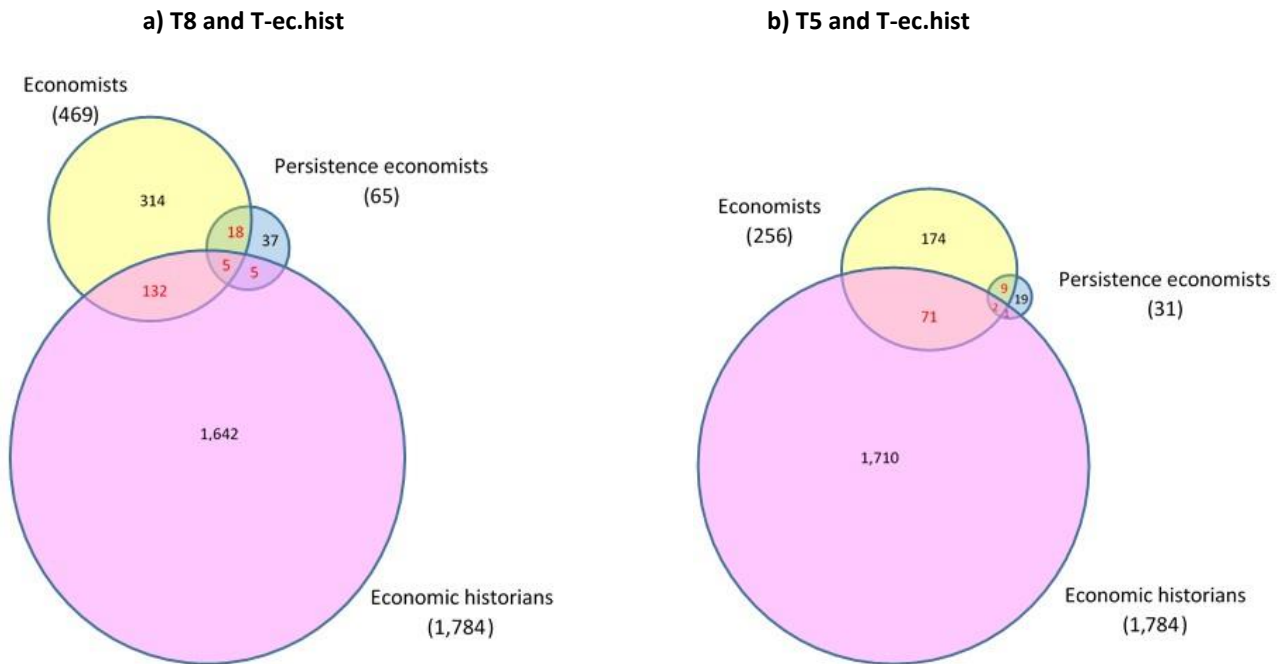
Table 4. Top 10 institutional affiliations by number of contributions (2001-2018)

| T-ec.hist |  |      | T5 |                                       |      | T3gen |  |              | T8 |  |      |
|-----------|--|------|----|---------------------------------------|------|-------|--|--------------|----|--|------|
| #         | Institutions                                     | %    | #  | Institutions                          | %    | #     | Institutions                                     | %            | #  | Institutions                                     | %    |
| 1         | London School of Economics and Political Science | 3.18 | 1  | Harvard University                    | 8.50 | 1     | Harvard University                               | 4.69         | 1  | Harvard University                               | 6.76 |
| 2         | University of Oxford                             | 3.10 | 2  | University of Chicago                 | 5.51 | 2     | London School of Economics and Political Science | 3.69         | 2  | University of Chicago                            | 3.88 |
| 3         | University of Cambridge                          | 2.66 | 3  | Massachusetts Institute of Technology | 5.30 | 3     | University of California Davis                   | 2.40         | 3  | Massachusetts Institute of Technology            | 3.31 |
| 4         | Utrecht University                               | 2.02 | 4  | University of California Berkeley     | 3.70 | 4     | Dartmouth College                                | 2.15         | 4  | University of California Berkeley                | 2.88 |
| 5         | Universidad Carlos III de Madrid                 | 1.99 | 5  | Stanford University                   | 3.45 | 5     | University of Michigan Ann Arbor                 | 2.10         | 5  | University of Michigan Ann Arbor                 | 2.73 |
| 6         | University of Warwick                            | 1.73 | 6  | University of California Los Angeles  | 3.41 | 6     | University of Chicago                            | 1.95         | 6  | University of California Los Angeles             | 2.67 |
| 7         | Harvard University                               | 1.65 | 7  | University of Michigan Ann Arbor      | 3.26 | 7     | University of California Berkeley                | 1.90         | 7  | London School of Economics and Political Science | 2.47 |
| 8         | University of California Davis                   | 1.26 | 8  | Brown University                      | 2.65 | 8     | University of California Los Angeles             | 1.80         | 8  | Stanford University                              | 2.28 |
| 9         | Lund University                                  | 1.19 | 9  | New York University                   | 2.48 | 9     | University of Munich                             | 1.65         | 9  | Columbia University                              | 2.01 |
| 10        | Queen's University Belfast                       | 1.16 | 10 | Columbia University                   | 2.44 | 10    | University of Oxford<br>World Bank               | 1.60<br>1.60 | 10 | Yale University                                  | 1.87 |

Sources: our own elaborations.

It is well known that economics is a male-dominated field (Hamermesh 2013), and economic history is not an exception. Overall, in our database, women account for 19.2% of all authors, 17.1% of all “pure” economists, 20% of all “pure” economic historians and 14.8% of “hybrid” ones. The share of women is somewhat higher (23.7%) amongst the pure “persistence economists”: PS is a new field that is attracting young scholars, among which women are more represented.

Figure 4. The three tribes: size and relationships (2001-2018)



Source: our own elaborations. Notes: circle size points out the number of scholars in each group; pink circle refers to scholar publishing in economic history journals; yellow and blue circles refer to scholar publishing in economics journals (respectively “economists”, those publishing H articles and “persistent economists” those publishing PS ones).

5.3. We explore the interaction between economics and economic history journals with four measures of the share of direct and cross citations — defined respectively as citations to a journal in the same group (a T-ec-hist citing another T-ec-hist) and as citations to the other group. Table 5 reports results separately for T-ec-hist (Table 5a) and T8 (Table 5b).

The first two rows measure the interest of economic historians and economists to engage in the scholarly debate in both communities. We proxy it with the share of articles which quote at least once (rows *i*) or at least three times (rows *ii*) articles published in T-ec.hist and in T8. First, economists are more interested in the work of their colleagues than economic historians. Almost all 365 articles in

the T8 quote other articles in the T8 (98.3% quote at least one article and 92.8% quote three or more), while the same shares for the 2,153 T-ec.hist articles are decidedly lower (89.1% and 64.5%). In contrast, economists are much less interested than economic historians in the scholarly debate in the other community. Three quarters (76.9%) of articles in T-ec.hist quote at least one article in the T8, and almost half (46.8%) quote at least three articles, while only half (53.5%) of articles in the T8 quote at least one article in the T-ec.hist, and less than one third (31.5%) quote at least three articles.

*Table 5. Citation patterns by groups of journals*

|                     |  | T-ec.hist | T8   |
|---------------------|--|-----------|------|
| <b>a) T-ec.hist</b> |  |           |      |
| <i>i</i>            | % Articles citing at least one article in                | 89.1      | 76.9 |
| <i>ii</i>           | % Articles citing at least three article in              | 64.5      | 46.8 |
| <i>iii</i>          | % References to articles in the journals in the database | 60.5      | 39.5 |
| <i>iv</i>           | % References on total references                         | 8.8       | 5.7  |
| <b>b) T8</b>        |  |           |      |
| <i>i</i>            | % Articles citing at least one article in                | 53.5      | 98.3 |
| <i>ii</i>           | % Articles citing at least three article in              | 31.5      | 92.8 |
| <i>iii</i>          | % References to articles in the journals in the database | 18.7      | 81.3 |
| <i>iv</i>           | % References on total references                         | 3.9       | 16.8 |

Source: our own elaborations on data on references retrieved from Scopus between 13-18 May 2019.

The two other rows (*iii* and *iv*) of Table 5 measure the overall impact of economic history articles. They have the same numerator, the number of references to articles in T-ec.hist or T8, but a different denominator. In the rows *iii*) the denominators are the number of citations to the articles of the journals in the “core” database, thus adding up, by definition, to 100%, while the denominators of rows *iv*) are the total number of citations, including those to other journals, books, original sources etc. The difference between economic history and economics journals is again stark. The T8 quote other T8 a lot (81.3% of citations to journals in the database and 16.8% of all citations) and quote the T-ec.hist journals rather infrequently (the remaining 18.7% of references in the database and only 3.9% of all references). The T-ec.hist quote the T8 more frequently (39.5% citations), although these account for a mere 5.7% of all citations mainly because economic history journals quote many other materials (books, sources, etc.).<sup>20</sup> In a nutshell, our data suggest that economists pay less attention to economic historians than they receive.

<sup>20</sup> On average, each article in T8 cites 2.4 articles published in T-ec.hist and 10.4 in T8 (median values: 1 and 9), while an article in T-ec.hist cites 5.2 and 3.4 articles published respectively in T-ec.hist and in T8 (median values: 4 and 2).

## 6. The success in citations

The citation count became the standard gauge for measuring the impact of research in scientific fields long time ago, and it is now commonly accepted in the social sciences and economics as well (Card and DellaVigna 2013, Hamermesh 2018). We measure success with the number of citations per year since publication because older papers have had more opportunities to be cited, *ceteris paribus*. (Table 6).

Table 6. Average and median citations per year (2001-2018)

| Journal          | H          |            | PS          |             | Total       |            |
|------------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
|                  | Average    | Median     | Average     | Median      | Average     | Median     |
| <i>EHR</i>       | 1.6        | 1.1        |             |             | 1.6         | 1.1        |
| <i>JEH</i>       | 1.6        | 1.2        |             |             | 1.6         | 1.2        |
| <i>EEH</i>       | 1.3        | 0.9        |             |             | 1.3         | 0.9        |
| <i>CLIO</i>      | 1.0        | 0.7        |             |             | 1.0         | 0.7        |
| <i>EREH</i>      | 1.3        | 0.9        |             |             | 1.3         | 0.9        |
| <b>T-ec.hist</b> | <b>1.4</b> | <b>1.0</b> |             |             | <b>1.4</b>  | <b>1.0</b> |
| <i>AER</i>       | 7.4        | 4.8        | 37.8        | 10.7        | 10.3        | 5.3        |
| <i>ECMA</i>      | 4.1        | 4.0        | 14.4        | 13.7        | 8.6         | 4.8        |
| <i>JPE</i>       | 6.2        | 4.4        |             |             | 6.2         | 4.4        |
| <i>QJE</i>       | 13.1       | 8.2        | 27.0        | 19.0        | 14.9        | 10.1       |
| <i>RESTUD</i>    | 12.2       | 7.6        |             |             | 12.2        | 7.6        |
| <b>T5</b>        | <b>8.9</b> | <b>5.2</b> | <b>29.2</b> | <b>15.7</b> | <b>11.1</b> | <b>5.9</b> |
| <i>EJ</i>        | 4.1        | 2.6        | 4.5         | 2.6         | 4.1         | 2.6        |
| <i>JEL</i>       | 10.6       | 4.4        | 97.8        | 97.8        | 16.1        | 4.8        |
| <i>RESTAT</i>    | 4.8        | 2.8        | 6.3         | 4.0         | 5.0         | 3.0        |
| <b>T3gen</b>     | <b>5.1</b> | <b>3.0</b> | <b>10.3</b> | <b>4.0</b>  | <b>5.6</b>  | <b>3.1</b> |
| <b>T8</b>        | <b>7.2</b> | <b>3.9</b> | <b>20.2</b> | <b>8.3</b>  | <b>8.6</b>  | <b>4.2</b> |

Source: our own elaborations on data on references retrieved from Scopus between 13-18 May 2019.

Table 6 highlights two points. First, as expected, articles in field journals (here the T-ec.hist) are cited substantially less than articles in top economics journals (Heckman and Moktan 2020).<sup>21</sup> The differences with the T5 are, as expected, quite large, but they remain substantial also with the T3gen.<sup>22</sup> They range from a minimum of 2.6 times between the *EJ* and the *JEH* to a maximum of 15.6 times for the *JEL* vs *CLIO*. Second, PS are more successful than H and this cannot be mechanically related to the outlet, as the T5 have published roughly as many PS as H (respectively 52% and 54%). On the other hand, the success might depend not only on the journal (T-ec.hist or T8) and/or on the

<sup>21</sup> For the list of the top 10 cited articles for the T5 and T-ec.hist, see Appendix: Table A6.

<sup>22</sup> The gap is also evident but smaller for the articles in the two “history-friendly” journals, the *JDE* and the *JEG* have received 4.8 and 3.0 citations per year, respectively.

methodological approach (H vs PS) but also on the topic, period and geographical area (cf. Section 5), or on other characteristics of the article (e.g., the number and the affiliation of the authors). We address this issue with a set of regressions, using the number of citations per year as the dependent variable (Table 7).<sup>23</sup>

*Table 7. Negative binomial estimations of the success in economic history – main sample*

| Variables               | (1)                  | (2)                  | (3)                  | (4)                  | (5)                  | (6)                  | (7)                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| T8 (=1)                 | 1.566***<br>(0.0936) |                      |                      | 1.194***<br>(0.0682) |                      |                      |                      |
| T5                      |                      | 1.809***<br>(0.116)  |                      |                      | 1.365***<br>(0.0882) |                      | 1.320***<br>(0.0905) |
| T3gen                   |                      | 1.173***<br>(0.143)  |                      |                      | 0.964***<br>(0.104)  |                      | 0.969***<br>(0.108)  |
| PS (=1)                 |                      |                      | 2.393***<br>(0.269)  |                      |                      | 1.515***<br>(0.182)  | 0.145<br>(0.298)     |
| H (=1)                  |                      |                      | 1.393***<br>(0.0785) |                      |                      | 1.169***<br>(0.0698) |                      |
| PS * T5                 |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      | 0.327<br>(0.391)     |
| Other control variables | NO                   | NO                   | NO                   | YES                  | YES                  | YES                  | YES                  |
| Constant                | 0.634***<br>(0.0202) | 0.634***<br>(0.0202) | 0.634***<br>(0.0202) | 87.14***<br>(9.567)  | 84.90***<br>(9.012)  | 86.59***<br>(9.145)  | 83.86***<br>(8.520)  |
| Observations            | 2,469                | 2,469                | 2,469                | 2,416                | 2,416                | 2,416                | 2,416                |

Source: our own elaborations.

Note: **Dependent variable: citations per year** (values rounded up to the nearest higher integer). Group base category (omitted): T-ec.hist. The controls are relative to articles' and authors' characteristics. For articles: *topic* (five categories, with base "institutions"); *historical period* (four periods, with base category "long 19<sup>th</sup> century (1815-1914)"); *geographic area* (three specific dummies: *cross-country* for articles dealing with more than one country, *USA* for articles which deal exclusively or comparatively with the United States, and *UK* for articles which deal exclusively or comparatively with the United Kingdom); *year of publication*, *length* in number of pages. For authors: *gender* (with base category male); *coauthor* (indicating if article was written by more than one author); affiliation of the authors (two dummies, *American* when at least one author is affiliated to an American institution, *Top\_institution* when at least one author belongs to the top 10 institutions in economics ranked by Quacquarelli-Symonds ([www.qs.com](http://www.qs.com)) in 2019); *hybrid* indicating if an author published in both economics and economic history journals (base category no hybrid, and *hybrid\_1* if an author has authored one article in both T8 and T-ec.hist journals, and *hybrid\_2* for "high flyers" author, the scholars who have authored at least two articles in both the T-ec.hist and the T8. See Table A.7 in the Appendix. Robust standard errors in parentheses: \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1.

In the simplest specification (column 1), we measure the premium from publishing articles of economic history in any of the T8 relative to publishing in a field journal (T-ec.hist). Then, we distinguish between groups of economics journals (column 2) or between types of articles (column 3).

<sup>23</sup> All values are rounded up to the nearest higher integer to run a negative binomial model. As a robustness check, we also carried out a similar set of Poisson regressions, obtaining fully consistent results in terms of the size and significance of the coefficients.

Columns 4 to 6 reproduce the specifications of the first three columns, adding an extensive set of controls (see note to Table 7 for a detailed list). Finally, in column 7, we contrast the relative importance of publication outlet and type of article as causes of citational success.<sup>24</sup>

The baseline specifications show, as expected, that articles in the T8 receive more citations per year than those in the T-ec.hist (column 1), articles in T5 more than in T3gen (column 2) and PS more than H articles (column 3). After introducing our set of controls, all variables remain highly significant, but the coefficients are lower, especially for the PS. The gaps with the T-ec.hist, as measured by marginal effects, are very large: 5.8 more citations per year for an article in a T5, 3.2 for one in the T3gen, 4.8 for a H article, and up to 9.4 for a PS. Column 7 shows that the journal matters more than article type: the coefficients for the T5 and T3gen remain almost the same, while the dummy for PS and the interaction term with T5 are both positive but not significant.

The controls to our baseline regression add some important insights about the causes of success (see Appendix: Table A7). In the whole sample, the techniques used are not significant. Articles on the “micro approach” receive fewer citations than those on “institutions” or on any other issue. Likewise, articles on the “long 19<sup>th</sup> century (1815-1914)”, the reference category, are quoted less than any other period, except the pre-1492 ones, which is a small category with only 107 articles (4.2% of the total). The cross-country articles attract many more citations than all articles on a single country, including the United States. As expected, the year of publication is negative and significant: more recent articles are less likely to be cited, even after normalization. As in Card and DellaVigna (2013) and Laband (2013), we find that longer articles are cited more, likely because they offer more content.

We control for a wide range of characteristics of the authors and only few affect the success of their work. “Hybrid” authors and “high flyers” (“hybrid\_2” in Table A7 in the Appendix) do not receive significantly more citations than others, possibly because publishing in the T-ec.hist reduces their total tally. Consistent with the results of Hamermesh (2018), the gender of the author does not matter: the dummies for both articles by all-women teams and articles by mixed-gender teams are not significant. The affiliation with a generic American institution does not matter, while the dummy for top

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<sup>24</sup> Including dummies for both H and PS would have caused multi-collinearity. Thus, we prefer to focus on PS, as they have collected more citations than H articles have.



universities in economics is positive (1.1 additional citations per year on average, as seen in columns 4-7) and highly significant.<sup>25</sup> Last, but not least, as expected (Card and DellaVigna 2013, Hamermesh 2018), co-authorship increases the number of citations by 10.5%.<sup>26</sup>

In the Appendix, we report the results of an extensive set of robustness checks. We first test the sensitivity to changes in the set of journals, by: i) adding the two “history-friendly” journals (Table A8 in the Appendix); ii) focusing on the top ten journals as ranked by Kalaitzidakis, Mamuneas and Stengos (2011: Table 1)<sup>27</sup> (Table A9 in the Appendix); iii) considering all the 13 economics journals of our database (Table A10 in the Appendix). The dummies for T5 and T3gen are almost identical and those for other groups of economic journals (the “history-friendly” and the three top field) confirm that publishing in economics journals pays relative to T-ec.hist, although less than publishing in the T5. Furthermore, we test the robustness of results to our choice of articles by iv) running regressions for two comparable lists of economic history articles in the T5 from 2001 to 2014: our database and Abramitzky (2015), who selected articles by looking at the JEL codes rather than at the title and content of the articles (Table A11 in the Appendix). The results are almost identical.

One might argue that our approach is slightly unfair towards articles in the T-ec.hist. Indeed, we are comparing a very small number of economics journals, which also attract readers with articles on other issues, with approximately one-sixth of all international economic history journals, which are generally read only by field scholars.<sup>28</sup> Indeed, the gap between the number of citation per year between T8 and the T-ec.hist shrinks if we consider only the most quoted articles in the latter. The average and median (5.1 and 4.2, respectively) of the top decile articles in T-ec.hist are similar to the statistics for the T3gen, although still far below those of the T5. The top decile of the T.ec-hist would

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<sup>25</sup> The top universities in economics, as ranked by Quacquarelli-Symonds in 2019, are: Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Stanford University, University of California Berkeley (UCB), University of Chicago, the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), Princeton University, Yale University, University of Oxford and University of Cambridge. Note that seven of these universities are included also in the top ten by number of contributions in the T8 (Table 4).

<sup>26</sup> The optimal number of authors from the point of view of citational success seems to be three. The average number of citations per year over the whole database rises from 1.9 for single-authored articles to 2.7 for articles with two authors and to 4.1 for articles with three authors but then declines slightly to 2.9 for articles with four or more authors.

<sup>27</sup> In this ranking, the journals placed 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> (T5bis in our robustness check) includes *EJ* and *RESTAT* and three top field journals (*JET*, *JME* and *JPUB*).

<sup>28</sup> Scimago ([www.scimagojr.com](http://www.scimagojr.com)) features 621 journals in the category of economics and econometrics. In contrast, we have identified 23 journals as economic history journals, out of which 6 deal with business history (Cioni, Federico and Vasta 2020).

sit at the middle of the distribution of all articles published in the T8. We test this insight by re-running the regression for the top-decile of articles in T-ec.hist (Table 8 and full controls in Table A12 in the Appendix). The dummies for journal group (columns 1 and 2) and type of article (column 3) remain positive and significant, but the coefficient is no longer significant for the T3gen. After adding the controls (columns 4-6), the citation premium for publishing halves for the T5 (from 5.8 citations per year to 2.4) and becomes negative, but not significant, for the T3gen. As for the type of article, the citation premium halves for the PS (from 9.4 to 5.1) and becomes really minimal for H articles (from 4.8 to 0.8). Finally, the results in column 7 confirm that only articles of any type in the T5 receive more citations than publications in the top decile of the T-ec.hist. Reassuringly, the change in sample hardly affects the coefficients of the controls. Even more reassuringly, the results are identical if, instead of the top decile, we take into account the top 365 articles by number of citations per year (the same number of articles in the T8) in the T-ec.hist (Table A13 in the Appendix).

*Table 8. Negative binomial estimations of the success in economic history – top decile in the T-ec.hist*

| Variables               | (1)                  | (2)                  | (3)                  | (4)                 | (5)                  | (6)                 | (7)                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| T8 (=1)                 | 0.477***<br>(0.0989) |                      |                      | 0.119<br>(0.0790)   |                      |                     |                      |
| T5                      |                      | 0.720***<br>(0.120)  |                      |                     | 0.308***<br>(0.0991) |                     | 0.266***<br>(0.0987) |
| T3gen                   |                      | 0.0840<br>(0.147)    |                      |                     | -0.0856<br>(0.101)   |                     | -0.0740<br>(0.102)   |
| PS (=1)                 |                      |                      | 1.304***<br>(0.271)  |                     |                      | 0.540***<br>(0.187) | 0.229<br>(0.289)     |
| H (=1)                  |                      |                      | 0.304***<br>(0.0847) |                     |                      | 0.102<br>(0.0788)   |                      |
| PS * T5                 |                      |                      |                      |                     |                      |                     | 0.344<br>(0.372)     |
| Other control variables | NO                   | NO                   | NO                   | YES                 | YES                  | YES                 | YES                  |
| Constant                | 1.724***<br>(0.0376) | 1.724***<br>(0.0376) | 1.724***<br>(0.0376) | 107.2***<br>(20.20) | 99.73***<br>(18.94)  | 107.1***<br>(19.30) | 98.27***<br>(17.91)  |
| Observations            | 574                  | 574                  | 574                  | 553                 | 553                  | 553                 | 553                  |

Source: our own elaborations.

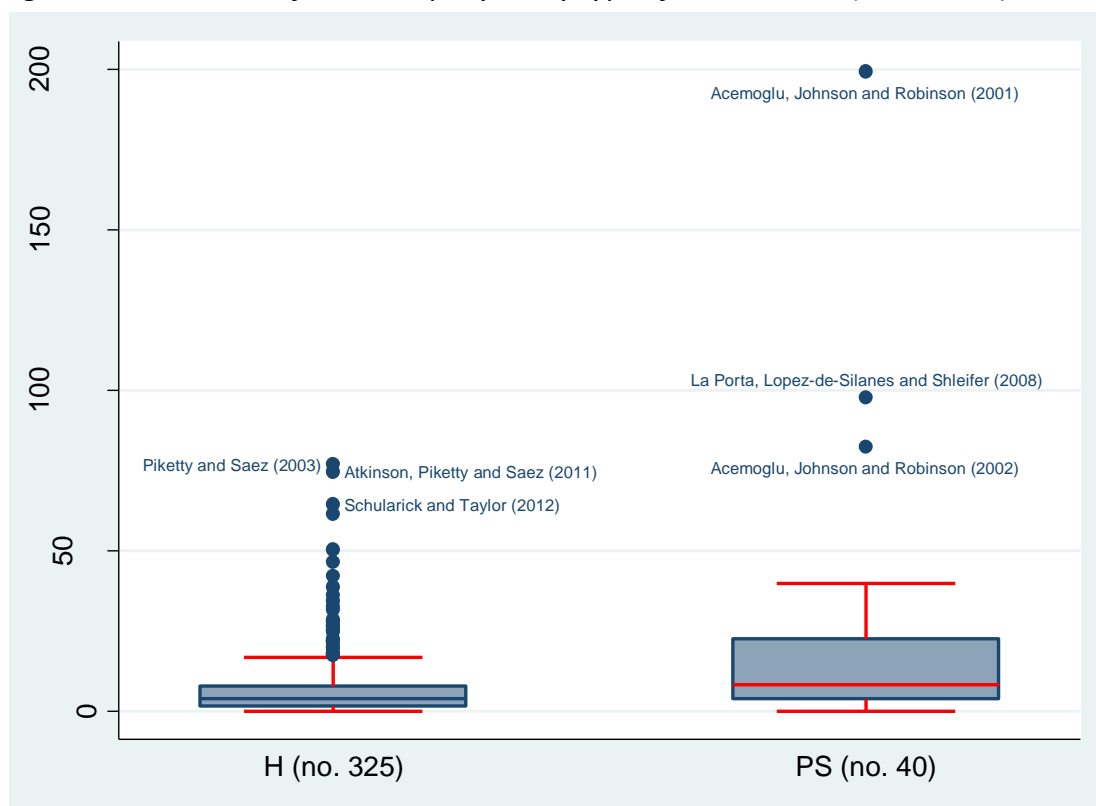
Note: see note to Table 7 and Table A.12 in the Appendix. Robust standard errors in parentheses. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1.

## 7. The success of persistence studies

The results of the previous Section about the PS are somewhat contradictory. The raw data for the “core” sample (Table 6) suggest that they are far more successful than the “traditional” H articles (let alone the articles in the T-ec-hist), but in the full specification (Table 7, column 7), the dummy for PS and its interaction with the T5, although positive, are not significant. We explore this issue in two different ways.

First, we look at the distribution of economic history articles ranked by citation per year (Figure 5 and Table A14 in the Appendix).<sup>29</sup>

Figure 5. *Distribution of citations per year by type of articles in T8 (2001-2018)*



Source: our own elaborations.

The difference between PS and H concentrates in the top part of the distribution. Out of 40 PS, 19 feature in the top quartile, and 12 in the top decile (36 articles), including the three most

<sup>29</sup> In principle, the ranking by total citations and ranking by citations per year may differ, as very successful recent articles have had less time to accumulate citations. However, the difference hardly matters in our case: the ten most quoted articles accounted for 33.3% of the citations in the T8 and 5.7% in T-ec.hist.

successful articles in the whole database, the seminal article by Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson on colonial roots of underdevelopment (2001), the survey by La Porta, Lopez-de-Silanes and Shleifer (2008) on the economic consequences of legal origins, and the article by Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson on the reversal of fortune (2002). These articles have received respectively 3,688, 1,443 and 1,125 citations, or 199.4, 97.8 and 82.5 per year, and account for almost two thirds (65.4%) of all citations to PS.<sup>30</sup> The other nine PS articles in the top decile have been less successful than H articles: they have got on average 28.6 citations per year (median 27.5), versus a mean of 36.9 citations (median 31.7) for the H articles. The fourth ranked PS, the article by Nunn and Wantchekon (2011) on the effects of the slave trade on trust, is eleventh in the overall ranking, and two other famous works, by Alesina, Giuliano and Nunn (2013) on the origins of gender roles in agriculture, and by Ashraf and Galor (2013) on the negative effects of (high and low) human genetic diversity on levels of development, are fourteenth and fifteenth. Indeed, H articles occupy the positions from the fourth to the tenth in the ranking (cf. Table A6 in the Appendix). Five out of seven deal with issues in income distribution: the article by Piketty and Saez (2003) on income inequality in the US in the 20<sup>th</sup> century is fourth with 77.1 citations per year and the survey by Atkinson, Piketty and Saez (2011) on top incomes in the world in the last 110 years is fifth with 74.7. Income distribution attracts a lot of attention: the 18 H articles on the issue have been cited more than the average of all PS (23.0 citations per year vs 20.2). In the other deciles, from the second to the tenth, the PS are not more successful than the H. Their average number of citations is slightly higher (6.2 per year vs 4.8) but the median is decidedly lower (3.7 vs 5.3).

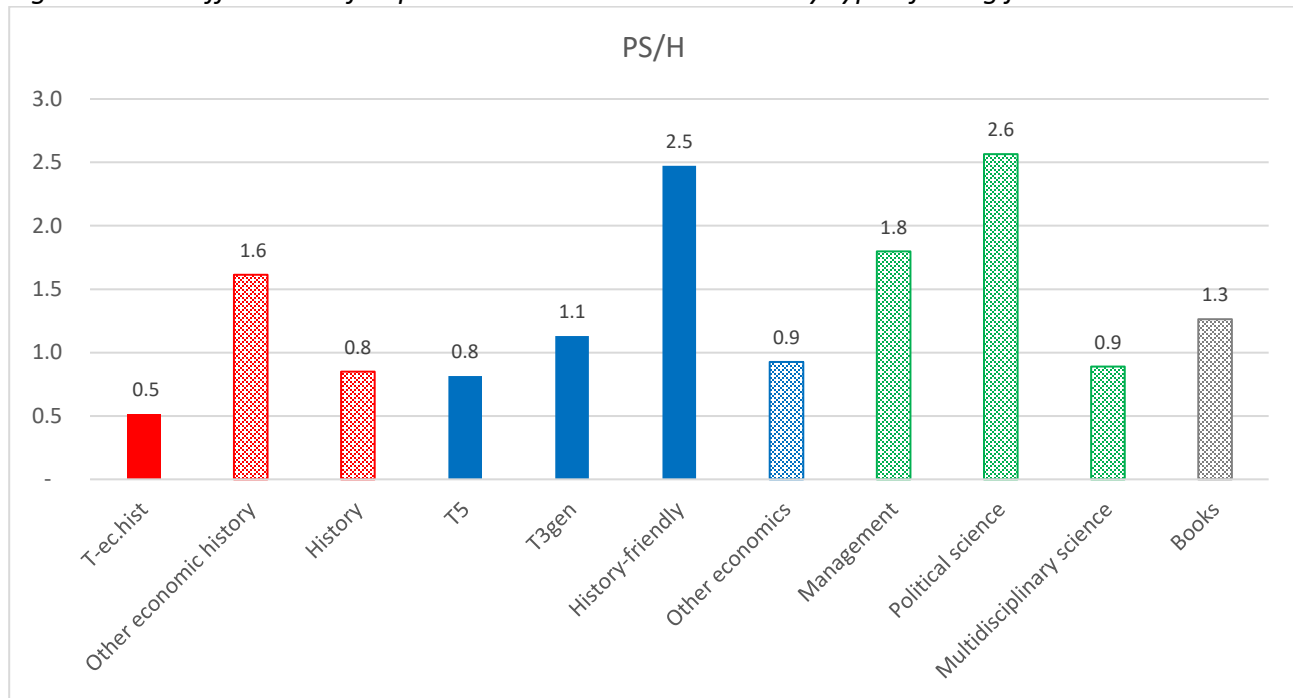
Our second approach focuses on the source of citations. A recent paper by Angrist et al (2020) shows how economic articles, and especially on microeconomics, are attracting an increasing number of citations from “extramural” disciplines, especially from political science, sociology and “business” (i.e. management and finance). We cannot compare our results as Angrist et al (2020) since they do not consider cross-citations between different sub-fields within economics and include economic history articles in a “miscellaneous” category with experimental economics, law and economics and so on. However, one could surmise that the focus on present-day outcomes in PS would attract more

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<sup>30</sup> The article by Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson (2001) has been cited so many times also because many authors have used their data on settlers’ mortality as instrument.

citations from economics and from other fields, while H are more likely to be quoted by other economic history articles. We test this hypothesis by classifying citations received by economic history articles in 16 categories of sources – thirteen groups of journals plus books, working papers and other sources (in this case *The Economist*).<sup>31</sup> We adjust for the different number of PS and H articles by normalizing with the total number of citations received, and we measure the relative impact of PS and H for each source as the ratio between the two shares. The higher the ratio for a category is, the more PS attract attention from sources belonging to this category. In Figure 6, we plot the ratio between the two shares for the groups of journals analysed in this paper (solid bars) and for other selected sources (for full data, see Table A15 in the Appendix).

Figure 6. The differences of impact between PS and H article by type of citing journals



Source: our own elaborations on data on references retrieved from Scopus in 13-18 May 2019.

Note: The groups of journals in our database are reported with solid histograms, while other groups not included in our database are in dotted histograms. For details, see note 31 in the text and Table A15 in the Appendix.

<sup>31</sup> As of 13-18 May 2019, the 365 articles in economics journals (325 H and 40 PS) have received a total of 35,092 citations (25,124 the H articles and 9,968 the PS) from more than 5,500 sources, books included. In the analysis, we focus on the 1,641 sources which has quoted at least three times an article in the database – for a total of 30,288 citations (21,567 to H and 8,728 to PS). The thirteen journals’ groups are: T-ec.hist, T5, T3gen, “history-friendly”, “other economic history”, “other economics journals” (including the three top field), “political science”, “finance”, “management”, “other social science”, which includes also interdisciplinary journals, “history”, “multidisciplinary science” journals (*Nature*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS)* and *Science*) and a residual category “other journals”, which includes mostly scientific journals. We allocate each journal to a group according to its main subject category in Scimago and to the “aims and scope” reported in its website.

The PS have been cited relatively more by the “history-friendly” journals, the “political science”, the “management” and the “other economic history” journals. The high share of citations to PS from *JDE* (second in the ranking for citation to PS) and *JEG* (fourth) is not really surprising, given the number of PS published in these journals.<sup>32</sup> The ratio for “political science” journals is high but the underlying number of citations is very small – so that the highest ranked journal, the *American Political Science Review*, is at the 21<sup>st</sup> position for PS and at the 98<sup>th</sup> for the H articles. The high ratio for “management” reflects the success of the article by La Porta, Lopez-de-Silanes and Shleifer (2008) on the legal origins for the former. Likewise, the ratio for “other economic history” journals is so high because *Economic History of Developing Regions* features at the seventh position among all sources of citations to PS, in all likelihood because so many PS deal with Africa. Both H and PS are cited by general-purpose books – most notably the *Handbook of Economic Growth*, which has a chapter on historical developments (Nunn 2014). On the other side, as expected, the PS get fewer citation from “history” journals, which overall pay little attention to economics journal, and from the T-ec.hist. The *JEH* is ranked second, *EEH* third and *EHR* ninth among sources cited H articles, while *JEH* appears in the rank for PS only in the thirteenth position. In short, so far, the PS have not shown, except for “political science”, much capacity of attracting interest outside economics, and show distinctly less capacity to interest historians. The early PS, and especially the three top ones, have been and are still quoted a lot also because of their methodological novelty.

However, the rise of persistence studies new approach has not gone unchallenged: Austin (2008) has strongly criticized the “compression of history” and Kelly (2020) has suggested that results are spuriously improved by (not controlled for) spatial autocorrelation. Voth (2021) points out that only a minority of studies (‘apples-with-apples’) focuses on the persistence of a specific feature (e.g. a cultural belief). Most works (‘apples-with-oranges’) relate past events and current outcomes which are inherently different, often relying only on statistical inference, rather than on some theory about the causal mechanism.

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<sup>32</sup> The first source of citations to PS is the *Journal of Comparative Economics*, which focuses on institution and their change and the third is *World Development*, which is specialized in multidisciplinary studies in development. The first T5 is the *AER*, ranked sixth, while the first T3gen is *EJ*, ranked fifth.

Notwithstanding, if the number of PS published in top economics journals continues to grow, as likely, it is possible that they will be quoted for their contributions to specific (economic, rather than historical) debates and thus their citation statistics would converge towards the mean of the H.

## **8. Conclusions**

In recent times, economic history is changing its nature, widening its purview towards non strictly economic issues and looking for the historical roots of current outcomes. These trends fit well with the intellectual curiosity and the institutional incentives of economists. First, they are interested in the present rather than in the past as economic historians. Second, American institutions are very strongly pushing their faculty, including economic historians, to publish in top economics journals rather than in top field journals as a condition for their academic careers. These trends have been hailed as an “integration of economic history into economics”.

This paper has systematically investigated this claim through a quantitative analysis based on economic history articles published both in the top five field journals and in 13 prominent general-interest economic journals, including the T5. The results downplay the extent of the integration. There is no doubt that economists are more interested in economic history now than in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, but the impact of economic history in economics journals is still fairly modest compared to the role it enjoyed in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and it has not been growing in recent years. Furthermore, the revival has affected very few members of the world-wide community of economic historians (almost ten thousand people, according to estimates by Baten and Mushallik (2012)) and has not much affected even the (consistent) minority who publish in the top field journals. We have documented the division of authors in our database into three distinct groups, or “tribes”: “economic historians”, “economists”, and “persistence economists”. There are a substantial, but still limited, number of “hybrid” scholars, who publish in both economics and economic history journals. These three “tribes” differ substantially in terms of their research questions, style of work, pattern of citations and, above all, affiliation. The “economists” and “persistence economists” are mainly affiliated with American universities, while two-thirds of the “economic historians” are based in Europe.

Publishing in leading economics journals brings, *ceteris paribus*, more citations than publishing in field journals. On the other hand, it is well known that the competition to publish in those journals is fierce. Is the citational success of an economic history article in economic journals worth the effort? Our econometric analysis suggests a nuanced answer. It is surely worth publishing any article in economic history in the T5 economics journals. The “tyranny” of the T5 (Heckman and Moktan 2020) is, however, a common feature in all fields in economics, not just in economic history. Publishing in other major economics journal yields a smaller additional citation bonus relative to the top economic history journals, that disappears if the comparison is limited to the top decile of the distribution by citations per year of articles in economic history journals. In a nutshell, for truly good work in “traditional” economic history, the publication outlet matters only if the article is in the T5. The persistence studies are intrinsically different, as they imply an unprecedented methodological shift.

The field is still evolving quickly and thus it is too early to assess the whole impact of these new trends. Dippell and Leonard (2021) argue that the growing focus on econometric testing of neat hypotheses (quasi-natural experiments) and the declining attention to the historical context are endangering the disciplinary status of economic history, with negative effects on the quality of the work. Will this cause economic history to lose its soul and become a sub-field of development studies? Will persistence studies become a separate field? Or, perhaps, will a new synthesis (a ‘merger’ not an acquisition’ (Bisin and Federico 2021b)) develop, with scholars dealing with traditional and new research questions with a wide range of tools?



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## Appendix

Table A1. Journals' ranking

| #                                | Halkos and Tzeremes (2011: Table 2) | Kalaitzidakis, Mamuneas and Stengos (2011: Table 1) | Hudson (2013: Appendix B)   | Laband (2013: Table 5) | Stern (2013: Table 1)          | Chang, Maasoumi and McAleer (2016: Table 4) | Lo and Bao (2016: Table 1)  | Bornmann, Butz and Wohlrabe (2018: Table A1) | Heckman and Moktan (2020: Table O-A31) | RePEc Aggregate Rankings for Journals (accessed 5 September 2020) |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
| 1                                | <b>JPE</b>                          | <b>AER</b>  | <b>AER</b>                  | <b>AER</b>             | <b>JEL</b>                     | <b>AER</b>                                  | <b>QJE</b>                  | <b>QJE</b>                                   | <b>QJE</b>                             | <b>ECMA</b>   |
| 2                                | <b>ECMA</b>                         | <b>QJE</b>  | <b>JET</b>                  | <b>QJE</b>             | <b>QJE</b>                     | <b>JEL</b>                                  | <b>JPE</b>                  | <b>JEL</b>                                   | <b>JEL</b>                             | <b>AER</b>  |
| 3                                | <b>QJE</b>                          | <b>ECMA</b>   | <b>QJE</b>                  | <b>JPE</b>             | <b>JEP</b>                     | <b>QJE</b>                                  | <b>ECMA</b>                 | <b>ECMA</b>                                  | <b>AER</b>                             | <b>QJE</b>  |
| 4                                | <b>JEL</b>                          | <b>JPE</b>  | <b>JPE</b>                  | <b>ECMA</b>            | <b>JPE</b>                     | <b>ECMA</b>                                 | <b>RESTUD</b>               | <b>JPE</b>                                   | <b>JEP</b>                             | <b>JEL</b>  |
| 5                                | <b>AER</b>                          | <b>RESTUD</b>                                       | <b>ECMA</b>                 | <b>JIE</b>             | <b>ECMA</b>                    | <b>JPE</b>                                  | <b>AER</b>                  | <b>AER</b>                                   | <b>JPE</b>                             | <b>JPE</b>  |
| 6                                | <b>RESTUD</b>                       | <b>JME</b>  | <b>RESTUD</b>               | <b>JME</b>             | <b>JEGEO</b>                   | <b>RESTUD</b>                               | <b>JEP</b>                  | <b>RESTUD</b>                                | <b>ECMA</b>                            | <b>JEG</b>  |
| 7                                | <b>JOE</b>                          | <b>RESTAT</b>                                       | <b>GEB</b>                  | <b>EJ</b>              | <b>JAE</b>                     | <b>JOE</b>                                  | <b>IER</b>                  | <b>JEP</b>                                   | <b>RESTAT</b>                          | <b>RESTUD</b>   |
| 8                                | <b>BROOK</b>                        | <b>JET</b>  | <b>RESTAT</b>               | <b>JAE</b>             | <b>AER</b>                     | <b>OXREP</b>                                | <b>JLEO</b>                 | <b>JME</b>                                   | <b>RESTUD</b>                          | <b>JEP</b>  |
| 9                                | <b>EJ</b>                           | <b>JPUB</b>   | <b>ECONT</b>                | <b>RESTUD</b>          | <b>JEG</b>                     | <b>JEP</b>                                  | <b>RESTAT</b>               | <b>EJ</b>                                    | <b>JEG</b>                             | <b>JME</b>  |
| 10                               | <b>JME</b>                          | <b>EJ</b>   | <b>ET</b>                   | <b>RESTAT</b>          | <b>RESTUD</b>                  | <b>RESTAT</b>                               | <b>RAND</b>                 | <b>JOE</b>                                   | <b>JLE</b>                             | <b>AEJM</b>   |
| Position of T8 not in the top 10 | <b>RESTAT (12)</b>                  | <b>JEL (13)</b>                                     | <b>EJ (11)<br/>JEL (12)</b> | <b>JEL (14)</b>        | <b>RESTAT (12)<br/>EJ (27)</b> | <b>EJ (18)</b>                              | <b>EJ (22)<br/>JEL (28)</b> | <b>RESTAT (11)</b>                           | <b>EJ (14)</b>                         | <b>RESTAT (11)<br/>EJ (18)</b>                                    |

Note: Our selected journals in bold. Definition of journal abbreviations: *AEJM* - American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, *AER* - American Economic Review, *BROOK* - Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, *ECMA* – Econometrica, *ECONT* - Econometric Theory, *EJ* - Economic Journal, *ET* - Economic Theory, *GEB* - Games and Economic Behavior, *IER* - International Economic Review, *JAE* - Journal of Accounting and Economics, *JEG* - Journal Economic Growth, *JEGEO* - Journal of Economic Geography, *JEL* - Journal of Economic Literature, *JEP* - Journal of Economic Perspectives, *JET* - Journal of Economic Theory, *JIE* - Journal of International Economics, *JLE* - Journal Labour Economics, *JLEO* - Journal of Law Economics & Organization, *JME* - Journal of Monetary Economics, *JOE* - Journal of Econometrics, *JPE* - Journal of Political Economy, *JPUB* - Journal of Public Economics, *OXREP* - Oxford Review of Economic Policy, *QJE* - Quarterly Journal of Economics, *RAND* - RAND Journal of Economics, *RESTAT* - Review of Economics and Statistics, *RESTUD* - Review of Economic Studies.

Source: our own elaborations.

Table A2. Article classification by topics

| Category/Topic                           | Description  |
|--|--|
| <b>Methodology</b>                       |  |
| EH                                       | Economic History as discipline   |
| HET                                      | History of Economic Thought  |
| <b>Institutions</b>                      |  |
| Institutions                             | Institutions, regulation, role of culture and religion, empires and imperial expansion. Electoral issues and general politics, war   |
| <b>Macro approach</b>                    |  |
| Growth                                   | Growth, national accounts and economic fluctuations. General economic history (also industrialization process) of a specific geographical area (continent, country and region) |
| Macroeconomic and monetary policies      | Monetary and fiscal policy, central banking  |
| Trade                                    | Trade and trade policies. Market integration (commodities)   |
| <b>Micro approach</b>                    |  |
| Agriculture                              | Agriculture (including forestry and fishing), land policy, natural resources, energy and environmental history   |
| Finance                                  | Banking and financial systems, private investment and capital markets (domestic and international, including integration) and credit regulation                                |
| Firm                                     | Business history on specific companies in industry and banking, entrepreneurship   |
| Industry                                 | Manufacturing, mining and construction. Industrial policy  |
| Innovation                               | Innovation and technology  |
| Services                                 | Insurance, transportation (roads, railways and canals) including construction. Retailing   |
| <b>Personal conditions and behaviour</b> |  |
| Human capital                            | Human capital and education  |
| Income distribution                      | Inequality and wealth distribution   |
| Labour                                   | Labour force (including gender issue), slavery (including trade), industrial relations and trade unions, welfare state (including pensions)                                    |
| Population and demography                | Demographic behaviour (birth, marriage and mortality), famines and their demographic effects, migrations, urbanization and city growth   |
| Standard of living                       | Wages, consumption, biological standard of living (heights, wellness and health)   |

Source: our own elaborations.

*Table A3. Number of economic history articles in the in three top economic journals (AER, JPE and QJE), 1975-2018*

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Economic history articles</b> | <b>Total articles</b> | <b>%</b> |
|-------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| 1975        | 8                                | 192                   | 4.2      |
| 1976        | 7                                | 230                   | 3.0      |
| 1977        | 6                                | 242                   | 2.5      |
| 1978        | 2                                | 194                   | 1.0      |
| 1979        | 3                                | 209                   | 1.4      |
| 1980        | 5                                | 261                   | 1.9      |
| 1981        | 7                                | 198                   | 3.5      |
| 1982        | 5                                | 193                   | 2.6      |
| 1983        | 5                                | 206                   | 2.4      |
| 1984        | 14                               | 173                   | 8.1      |
| 1985        | 7                                | 239                   | 2.9      |
| 1986        | 11                               | 203                   | 5.4      |
| 1987        | 2                                | 197                   | 1.0      |
| 1988        | 8                                | 192                   | 4.2      |
| 1989        | 6                                | 202                   | 3.0      |
| 1990        | 4                                | 193                   | 2.1      |
| 1991        | 5                                | 207                   | 2.4      |
| 1992        | 6                                | 186                   | 3.2      |
| 1993        | 11                               | 182                   | 6.0      |
| 1994        | 11                               | 177                   | 6.2      |
| 1995        | 6                                | 168                   | 3.6      |
| 1996        | 8                                | 155                   | 5.2      |
| 1997        | 4                                | 144                   | 2.8      |
| 1998        | 6                                | 151                   | 4.0      |
| 1999        | 5                                | 162                   | 3.1      |
| 2000        | 10                               | 171                   | 5.8      |
| 2001        | 11                               | 176                   | 6.3      |
| 2002        | 7                                | 182                   | 3.8      |
| 2003        | 12                               | 188                   | 6.4      |
| 2004        | 9                                | 173                   | 5.2      |
| 2005        | 13                               | 178                   | 7.3      |
| 2006        | 11                               | 178                   | 6.2      |
| 2007        | 9                                | 179                   | 5.0      |
| 2008        | 11                               | 170                   | 6.5      |
| 2009        | 7                                | 173                   | 4.0      |
| 2010        | 6                                | 178                   | 3.4      |
| 2011        | 12                               | 207                   | 5.8      |
| 2012        | 12                               | 205                   | 5.9      |
| 2013        | 10                               | 184                   | 5.4      |
| 2014        | 13                               | 222                   | 5.9      |
| 2015        | 11                               | 192                   | 5.7      |
| 2016        | 13                               | 206                   | 6.3      |
| 2017        | 7                                | 238                   | 2.9      |
| 2018        | 10                               | 222                   | 4.5      |

Source: for economic history articles, 1975-2000: Abramitzky (2015), 2001-2018: our own data; for universe of articles, 1975-2000: Card and DellaVigna (2013, Appendix), 2001-2018: our own data.



*Table A4. Number of economic history articles by different groups of journals (2001-2018)*

| Years | Economic history articles |       |    |                  |           | Total articles |       |     |                  |           |
|-------|---------------------------|-------|----|------------------|-----------|----------------|-------|-----|------------------|-----------|
|       | T5                        | T3gen | T8 | History-friendly | Top field | T5             | T3gen | T8  | History-friendly | Top field |
| 2001  | 11                        | 3     | 14 | 0                | 3         | 276            | 151   | 427 | 84               | 224       |
| 2002  | 7                         | 7     | 14 | 0                | 4         | 314            | 149   | 463 | 78               | 268       |
| 2003  | 12                        | 7     | 19 | 1                | 4         | 291            | 189   | 480 | 86               | 305       |
| 2004  | 9                         | 7     | 16 | 2                | 3         | 283            | 174   | 457 | 90               | 285       |
| 2005  | 14                        | 10    | 24 | 1                | 3         | 281            | 163   | 444 | 83               | 246       |
| 2006  | 11                        | 5     | 16 | 2                | 4         | 280            | 161   | 441 | 79               | 292       |
| 2007  | 9                         | 7     | 16 | 7                | 2         | 282            | 176   | 458 | 101              | 434       |
| 2008  | 11                        | 11    | 22 | 4                | 6         | 268            | 177   | 445 | 76               | 338       |
| 2009  | 7                         | 7     | 14 | 1                | 8         | 289            | 172   | 461 | 95               | 315       |
| 2010  | 9                         | 12    | 21 | 6                | 4         | 293            | 171   | 464 | 85               | 288       |
| 2011  | 12                        | 13    | 25 | 6                | 6         | 307            | 199   | 506 | 93               | 303       |
| 2012  | 13                        | 3     | 16 | 6                | 1         | 334            | 173   | 507 | 118              | 264       |
| 2013  | 13                        | 10    | 23 | 7                | 2         | 303            | 206   | 509 | 124              | 285       |
| 2014  | 14                        | 7     | 21 | 12               | 11        | 335            | 169   | 504 | 133              | 376       |
| 2015  | 12                        | 16    | 28 | 5                | 2         | 308            | 189   | 497 | 81               | 352       |
| 2016  | 15                        | 13    | 28 | 12               | 4         | 314            | 178   | 492 | 95               | 277       |
| 2017  | 8                         | 11    | 19 | 19               | 2         | 350            | 234   | 584 | 85               | 269       |
| 2018  | 11                        | 18    | 29 | 10               | 7         | 357            | 253   | 610 | 143              | 348       |

Source: our own elaborations.

Table A5. Distribution of articles by different features (2001-2018)

a) Topics

| Category                          | Topic                               | T-ec.hist |       | T8  |      |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------|-----|------|
|                                   |                                     | No.       | %     | No. | %    |
| Methodology                       | EH                                  | 24        | 1.1   | 2   | 0.5  |
|                                   | HET                                 | 10        | 0.5   | 13  | 3.6  |
| Institutions                      | Institutions                        | 281       | 13.1  | 73  | 20.0 |
| Macro approach                    | Growth                              | 216       | 10.0  | 24  | 6.6  |
|                                   | Macroeconomic and monetary policies | 121       | 5.6   | 14  | 3.8  |
|                                   | Trade                               | 143       | 6.6   | 21  | 5.8  |
| Micro approach                    | Agriculture                         | 110       | 5.1   | 15  | 4.1  |
|                                   | Finance                             | 276       | 12.8  | 33  | 9.0  |
|                                   | Firm                                | 38        | 1.8   | 1   | 0.3  |
|                                   | Industry                            | 130       | 6.0   | 10  | 2.7  |
|                                   | Innovation                          | 80        | 3.7   | 11  | 3.0  |
|                                   | Services                            | 71        | 3.3   | 13  | 3.6  |
| Personal conditions and behaviour | Human capital                       | 81        | 3.8   | 26  | 7.1  |
|                                   | Income distribution                 | 72        | 3.3   | 18  | 4.9  |
|                                   | Labour                              | 141       | 6.5   | 29  | 7.9  |
|                                   | Population and demography           | 106       | 4.9   | 38  | 10.4 |
|                                   | Standard of living                  | 253       | 11.8  | 24  | 6.6  |
| Total                             |                                     | 2,153     | 100.0 | 365 | 100  |

b) Historical periods

| Period                                    | T-ec.hist |       | T8  |       |
|---|-----------|-------|-----|-------|
|   | No.       | %     | No. | %     |
| Classical and medieval (before 1492)      | 98        | 4.6   | 9   | 2.5   |
| Early Modern History (1492-1815)          | 420       | 19.5  | 26  | 7.1   |
| Long 19 <sup>th</sup> century (1815-1914) | 834       | 38.7  | 76  | 20.8  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> century (1915-present)   | 664       | 30.8  | 182 | 49.9  |
| Long-run                                  | 119       | 5.5   | 61  | 16.7  |
| No period                                 | 18        | 0.8   | 11  | 3.0   |
| Total                                     | 2,153     | 100.0 | 365 | 100.0 |

c) Geographical areas

| Area               | T-ec.hist |       | T8  |       |
|--------------------|-----------|-------|-----|-------|
|                    | No.       | %     | No. | %     |
| Cross-country      | 284       | 13.2  | 99  | 27.1  |
| Continental Europe | 613       | 28.5  | 58  | 15.9  |
| UK                 | 489       | 22.7  | 24  | 6.6   |
| USA                | 439       | 20.4  | 130 | 35.6  |
| Others             | 293       | 13.6  | 39  | 10.7  |
| No area            | 35        | 1.6   | 15  | 4.1   |
| Total              | 2,153     | 100.0 | 365 | 100.0 |

c) Econometric techniques

| Econometric techniques | T-ec.hist |       | T8  |       |
|------------------------|-----------|-------|-----|-------|
|                        | No.       | %     | No. | %     |
| Advanced econometrics  | 203       | 9.4   | 164 | 44.9  |
| Econometric tools      | 1,337     | 62.1  | 163 | 44.7  |
| No econometrics        | 613       | 28.5  | 38  | 10.4  |
| Total                  | 2,153     | 100.0 | 365 | 100.0 |

Source: our own elaborations.

Table A6. Top 10 cited articles in T8 e T-ec.hist, 2001-2018

| #                | Authors / year  | Title   | Journal       | Type | Citations per year |
|------------------|---|---|---------------|------|--------------------|
| <b>T-ec.hist</b> |   |   |               |      |                    |
| 1                | Bolt and Van Zanden (2014)                            | The Maddison Project: Collaborative Research On Historical National Accounts  | <i>EHR</i>    |      | 29.1               |
| 2                | Allen (2001)  | The great divergence in European wages and prices from the Middle Ages to the First World War                                     | <i>EEH</i>    |      | 22.9               |
| 3                | Steckel (2009)  | Heights and human welfare: Recent developments and new directions   | <i>EEH</i>    |      | 19.6               |
| 4                | Allen, Bassino, Ma, Moll-Murata and Van Zanden (2011) | Wages, Prices, And Living Standards In China, 1738–1925: In Comparison With Europe, Japan, And India                              | <i>EHR</i>    |      | 17.9               |
| 5                | De Moor and Van Zanden (2010)                         | Girl Power: The European Marriage Pattern And Labour Markets In The North Sea Region In The late Medieval And Early Modern Period | <i>EHR</i>    |      | 15.1               |
| 6                | Broadberry and Gupta (2006)                           | The Early Modern Great Divergence: Wages, Prices And Economic Development In Europe And Asia                                      | <i>EHR</i>    |      | 13.0               |
| 7                | David (2007)  | Path dependence: a foundational concept for historical social science   | <i>CLIO</i>   |      | 12.0               |
| 8                | Galor (2012)  | The demographic transition: causes and consequences   | <i>CLIO</i>   |      | 10.9               |
| 9                | Ogilvie (2007)  | 'Whatever is, is right'? Economic Institutions In Pre-Industrial Europe   | <i>EHR</i>    |      | 10.3               |
| 10               | Alvarez-Nogal and Prados de la Escosura (2013)        | The Rise And Fall of Spain (1270-1850)  | <i>EHR</i>    |      | 9.8                |
| <b>T8</b>        |   |   |               |      |                    |
| 1                | Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson (2001)                 | The colonial origins of comparative development: An empirical investigation   | <i>AER</i>    | PS   | 199.4              |
| 2                | La Porta, Lopez-de-Silanes and Shleifer (2008)        | The economic consequences of legal origins  | <i>JEL</i>    | PS   | 97.8               |
| 3                | Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson (2002)                 | Reversal of fortune: Geography and institutions in the making of the modern world income distribution                             | <i>QJE</i>    | PS   | 82.5               |
| 4                | Piketty and Saez (2003)                               | Income inequality in the United States, 1913-1998   | <i>QJE</i>    | H    | 77.1               |
| 5                | Atkinson, Piketty and Saez (2011)                     | Top incomes in the long run of history  | <i>JEL</i>    | H    | 74.7               |
| 6                | Schularick and Taylor (2012)                          | Credit booms gone bust: Monetary policy, leverage cycles, and financial crises, 1870-2008   | <i>AER</i>    | H    | 64.7               |
| 7                | Autor, Katz and Kearney (2008)                        | Trends in U.S. wage inequality: Revising the revisionists   | <i>RESTAT</i> | H    | 61.4               |
| 8                | Reinhart and Rogoff (2004)                            | The modern history of exchange rate arrangements: A reinterpretation  | <i>QJE</i>    | H    | 50.5               |
| 9                | Goldin (2014)   | A grand gender convergence: Its last chapter  | <i>AER</i>    | H    | 46.5               |
| 10               | Saez and Zucman (2016)                                | Wealth in equality in the United States since 1913: Evidence from capitalized income tax data                                     | <i>QJE</i>    | H    | 42.3               |

Source: our own elaborations on data on references retrieved from Scopus in 13-18 May 2019.

Table A7. Negative binomial estimations of the success in economic history – baseline estimate

| Variables  | (4)                     | (5)                     | (6)                     | (7)                     |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| T8 (=1)  | 1.194***<br>(0.0682)    |                         |                         |                         |
| <i>Groups (T-ec.hist as base category)</i>   |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| T5   |                         | 1.365***<br>(0.0882)    |                         | 1.320***<br>(0.0905)    |
| T3gen  |                         | 0.964***<br>(0.104)     |                         | 0.969***<br>(0.108)     |
| PS (=1)  |                         |                         | 1.515***<br>(0.182)     | 0.145<br>(0.298)        |
| H (=1)   |                         |                         | 1.169***<br>(0.0698)    |                         |
| PS * T5  |                         |                         |                         | 0.327<br>(0.391)        |
| <b>Articles' characteristics</b>   |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| <i>Topic (Institutions as base category)</i>   |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| Methodology  | -0.499<br>(0.337)       | -0.429<br>(0.310)       | -0.464<br>(0.325)       | -0.404<br>(0.303)       |
| Macro approach   | -0.0316<br>(0.0725)     | -0.0186<br>(0.0715)     | -0.00699<br>(0.0669)    | 0.00343<br>(0.0664)     |
| Micro approach   | -0.137**<br>(0.0591)    | -0.133**<br>(0.0578)    | -0.122**<br>(0.0551)    | -0.120**<br>(0.0542)    |
| Personal conditions and behaviour  | 0.0517<br>(0.0628)      | 0.0590<br>(0.0620)      | 0.0706<br>(0.0582)      | 0.0767<br>(0.0577)      |
| <i>Historical period (Long 19<sup>th</sup> century (1815-1914) as base category)</i> |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| Classical and medieval (before 1492)   | 0.0972<br>(0.0855)      | 0.0872<br>(0.0843)      | 0.0982<br>(0.0846)      | 0.0892<br>(0.0834)      |
| Early Modern History (1492-1815)   | 0.214***<br>(0.0448)    | 0.208***<br>(0.0450)    | 0.214***<br>(0.0446)    | 0.209***<br>(0.0448)    |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> century (1915-present)  | 0.138***<br>(0.0398)    | 0.133***<br>(0.0396)    | 0.145***<br>(0.0391)    | 0.141***<br>(0.0388)    |
| Long-run   | 0.576***<br>(0.0834)    | 0.588***<br>(0.0811)    | 0.497***<br>(0.0792)    | 0.510***<br>(0.0770)    |
| Cross-country (=1)   | 0.235***<br>(0.0466)    | 0.248***<br>(0.0465)    | 0.219***<br>(0.0462)    | 0.229***<br>(0.0466)    |
| USA (=1)   | -0.0172<br>(0.0546)     | -0.0251<br>(0.0536)     | -0.00158<br>(0.0546)    | -0.00837<br>(0.0538)    |
| UK (=1)  | -0.0530<br>(0.0364)     | -0.0423<br>(0.0360)     | -0.0481<br>(0.0364)     | -0.0392<br>(0.0360)     |
| Econometrics (=1)  | 0.00866<br>(0.0384)     | 0.0126<br>(0.0378)      | 0.00351<br>(0.0383)     | 0.00697<br>(0.0378)     |
| Advanced econometrics (=1)   | -0.0460<br>(0.0710)     | -0.0541<br>(0.0704)     | -0.0684<br>(0.0687)     | -0.0731<br>(0.0683)     |
| Year   | -0.0434***<br>(0.00476) | -0.0423***<br>(0.00448) | -0.0432***<br>(0.00455) | -0.0418***<br>(0.00424) |
| Length   | 0.0194***<br>(0.00208)  | 0.0169***<br>(0.00235)  | 0.0191***<br>(0.00211)  | 0.0167***<br>(0.00235)  |

(continued)

(Table A7. continued)

| <b>Authors' characteristics</b>            |                      |                       |                      |                      |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Gender (Male as base category)</i>      |                      |                       |                      |                      |
| Gender_F                                   | 0.0135<br>(0.0673)   | 0.00414<br>(0.0636)   | 0.0146<br>(0.0680)   | 0.00618<br>(0.0647)  |
| Gender_MIX                                 | 0.0320<br>(0.0628)   | 0.0321<br>(0.0658)    | 0.0350<br>(0.0630)   | 0.0334<br>(0.0658)   |
| Coauthor (=1)                              | 0.100**<br>(0.0430)  | 0.100**<br>(0.0423)   | 0.0948**<br>(0.0425) | 0.0942**<br>(0.0419) |
| Top_institution (=1)                       | 0.363***<br>(0.0509) | 0.357***<br>(0.0513)  | 0.359***<br>(0.0506) | 0.354***<br>(0.0510) |
| American (=1)                              | 0.00646<br>(0.0522)  | -0.000554<br>(0.0500) | -0.0111<br>(0.0525)  | -0.0201<br>(0.0505)  |
| <i>Hybrid (no hybrid as base category)</i> |                      |                       |                      |                      |
| hybrid_1                                   | 0.0720<br>(0.0631)   | 0.0813<br>(0.0620)    | 0.0860<br>(0.0625)   | 0.0953<br>(0.0616)   |
| hybrid_2                                   | 0.0522<br>(0.0659)   | 0.0464<br>(0.0629)    | 0.0736<br>(0.0644)   | 0.0717<br>(0.0613)   |
| Constant                                   | 87.14***<br>(9.567)  | 84.90***<br>(9.012)   | 86.59***<br>(9.145)  | 83.86***<br>(8.520)  |
| Observations                               | 2,416                | 2,416                 | 2,416                | 2,416                |

Source: our own elaborations.

Note: Robust standard errors in parentheses. \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*  $p < 0.1$ . Interaction PS\*T3gen omitted because of collinearity.

Table A8. Negative binomial estimations of the success in economic history – including “history-friendly”

| Variables  | (1)                  | (2)                 | (3)                  | (4)                     | (5)                     | (6)                     | (7)                     |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| T10 (=1)   | 1.451***<br>(0.0906) |                     |                      | 1.109***<br>(0.0686)    |                         |                         |                         |
| <i>Groups (T-ec.hist as base category)</i>   |                      |                     |                      |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| T5   |                      | 1.809***<br>(0.116) |                      |                         | 1.372***<br>(0.0864)    |                         | 1.318***<br>(0.0886)    |
| T3gen  |                      | 1.173***<br>(0.143) |                      |                         | 0.948***<br>(0.102)     |                         | 0.946***<br>(0.106)     |
| History-friendly   |                      | 0.869***<br>(0.290) |                      |                         | 0.724***<br>(0.222)     |                         | 0.892***<br>(0.240)     |
| PS (=1)  |                      |                     | 2.065***<br>(0.265)  |                         |                         | 1.241***<br>(0.169)     | -0.900***<br>(0.301)    |
| H (=1)   |                      |                     | 1.319***<br>(0.0824) |                         |                         | 1.099***<br>(0.0713)    |                         |
| PS * T5  |                      |                     |                      |                         |                         |                         | 1.389***<br>(0.363)     |
| PS * T3gen   |                      |                     |                      |                         |                         |                         | 1.080**<br>(0.425)      |
| <b>Articles' characteristics</b>   |                      |                     |                      |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| <i>Topic (Institutions as base category)</i>   |                      |                     |                      |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| Methodology  |                      |                     |                      | -0.438<br>(0.330)       | -0.388<br>(0.311)       | -0.423<br>(0.325)       | -0.378<br>(0.304)       |
| Macro approach   |                      |                     |                      | -0.0165<br>(0.0718)     | -0.00447<br>(0.0690)    | -0.00498<br>(0.0668)    | 0.00434<br>(0.0642)     |
| Micro approach   |                      |                     |                      | -0.130**<br>(0.0598)    | -0.124**<br>(0.0571)    | -0.123**<br>(0.0564)    | -0.117**<br>(0.0530)    |
| Personal conditions and behaviour  |                      |                     |                      | 0.0974<br>(0.0680)      | 0.117*<br>(0.0654)      | 0.106*<br>(0.0632)      | 0.125**<br>(0.0597)     |
| <i>Historical period (Long 19<sup>th</sup> century (1815-1914) as base category)</i> |                      |                     |                      |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| Classical and medieval (before 1492)   |                      |                     |                      | 0.109<br>(0.0840)       | 0.0910<br>(0.0833)      | 0.109<br>(0.0837)       | 0.0943<br>(0.0824)      |
| Early Modern History (1492-1815)   |                      |                     |                      | 0.201***<br>(0.0446)    | 0.192***<br>(0.0444)    | 0.201***<br>(0.0445)    | 0.193***<br>(0.0443)    |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> century (1915-present)  |                      |                     |                      | 0.166***<br>(0.0408)    | 0.159***<br>(0.0415)    | 0.170***<br>(0.0400)    | 0.163***<br>(0.0401)    |
| Long-run   |                      |                     |                      | 0.466***<br>(0.0863)    | 0.463***<br>(0.0813)    | 0.428***<br>(0.0811)    | 0.441***<br>(0.0773)    |
| Cross-country (=1)   |                      |                     |                      | 0.262***<br>(0.0514)    | 0.293***<br>(0.0492)    | 0.256***<br>(0.0520)    | 0.277***<br>(0.0489)    |
| USA (=1)   |                      |                     |                      | -0.0340<br>(0.0595)     | -0.0755<br>(0.0540)     | -0.0291<br>(0.0602)     | -0.0477<br>(0.0532)     |
| UK (=1)  |                      |                     |                      | -0.0488<br>(0.0366)     | -0.0460<br>(0.0360)     | -0.0464<br>(0.0368)     | -0.0444<br>(0.0360)     |
| Econometrics (=1)  |                      |                     |                      | 0.0179<br>(0.0401)      | 0.0258<br>(0.0397)      | 0.0154<br>(0.0401)      | 0.0226<br>(0.0395)      |
| Advanced econometrics (=1)   |                      |                     |                      | -0.0926<br>(0.0770)     | -0.0938<br>(0.0808)     | -0.102<br>(0.0742)      | -0.113<br>(0.0768)      |
| Year   |                      |                     |                      | -0.0459***<br>(0.00508) | -0.0426***<br>(0.00446) | -0.0458***<br>(0.00496) | -0.0418***<br>(0.00420) |
| Length   |                      |                     |                      | 0.0186***<br>(0.00245)  | 0.0146***<br>(0.00242)  | 0.0184***<br>(0.00245)  | 0.0149***<br>(0.00234)  |

(continued)

(Table A8 continued)

| Variables                                  | (1)                  | (2)                  | (3)                  | (4)                  | (5)                  | (6)                  | (7)                  |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Authors' characteristics</b>            |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| <i>Gender (Male as base category)</i>      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| Gender_F                                   |                      |                      |                      | -0.0296<br>(0.0701)  | -0.0444<br>(0.0645)  | -0.0293<br>(0.0704)  | -0.0385<br>(0.0650)  |
| Gender_MIX                                 |                      |                      |                      | -0.0131<br>(0.0656)  | -0.0234<br>(0.0672)  | -0.0121<br>(0.0657)  | -0.0224<br>(0.0667)  |
| Coauthor (=1)                              |                      |                      |                      | 0.117***<br>(0.0443) | 0.124***<br>(0.0433) | 0.116***<br>(0.0442) | 0.112***<br>(0.0422) |
| Top_institution (=1)                       |                      |                      |                      | 0.429***<br>(0.0581) | 0.416***<br>(0.0627) | 0.427***<br>(0.0581) | 0.404***<br>(0.0597) |
| American (=1)                              |                      |                      |                      | 0.0360<br>(0.0541)   | 0.0332<br>(0.0527)   | 0.0300<br>(0.0549)   | 0.00591<br>(0.0518)  |
| <i>Hybrid (no hybrid as base category)</i> |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| hybrid_1                                   |                      |                      |                      | 0.0579<br>(0.0637)   | 0.0577<br>(0.0615)   | 0.0642<br>(0.0637)   | 0.0642<br>(0.0617)   |
| hybrid_2                                   |                      |                      |                      | 0.0552<br>(0.0667)   | 0.0304<br>(0.0616)   | 0.0638<br>(0.0664)   | 0.0506<br>(0.0606)   |
| Constant                                   | 0.634***<br>(0.0202) | 0.634***<br>(0.0202) | 0.634***<br>(0.0202) | 92.09***<br>(10.21)  | 85.54***<br>(8.965)  | 91.87***<br>(9.971)  | 83.95***<br>(8.442)  |
| Observations                               | 2,570                | 2,570                | 2,570                | 2,516                | 2,516                | 2,516                | 2,516                |

Source: our own elaborations.

Note: Robust standard errors in parentheses. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1. Interaction PS\*History-friendly omitted because of collinearity.

Table A9. Negative binomial estimations of the success in economic history – 10 economics journals (Kalaitzidakis, Mamuneas and Stengos 2011)

| Variables  | (1)                  | (2)                  | (3)                  | (4)                     | (5)                     | (6)                     | (7)                     |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| T10 (=1)   | 1.432***<br>(0.0871) |                      |                      | 1.128***<br>(0.0631)    |                         |                         |                         |
| <i>Groups (T-ec.hist as base category)</i>   |                      |                      |                      |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| T5   |                      | 1.809***<br>(0.116)  |                      |                         | 1.373***<br>(0.0848)    |                         | 1.319***<br>(0.0884)    |
| T5bis  |                      | 0.923***<br>(0.0900) |                      |                         | 0.865***<br>(0.0861)    |                         | 0.891***<br>(0.0882)    |
| PS (=1)  |                      |                      | 2.306***<br>(0.275)  |                         |                         | 1.402***<br>(0.187)     | -0.118<br>(0.211)       |
| H (=1)   |                      |                      | 1.274***<br>(0.0719) |                         |                         | 1.108***<br>(0.0647)    |                         |
| PS * T5  |                      |                      |                      |                         |                         |                         | 0.610**<br>(0.309)      |
| <b>Articles' characteristics</b>   |                      |                      |                      |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| <i>Topic (Institutions as base category)</i>   |                      |                      |                      |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| Methodology  |                      |                      |                      | -0.494<br>(0.326)       | -0.394<br>(0.294)       | -0.463<br>(0.316)       | -0.375<br>(0.290)       |
| Macro approach   |                      |                      |                      | -0.0743<br>(0.0733)     | -0.0422<br>(0.0703)     | -0.0533<br>(0.0676)     | -0.0177<br>(0.0654)     |
| Micro approach   |                      |                      |                      | -0.141**<br>(0.0602)    | -0.124**<br>(0.0579)    | -0.127**<br>(0.0559)    | -0.106**<br>(0.0541)    |
| Personal conditions and behaviour  |                      |                      |                      | 0.0455<br>(0.0635)      | 0.0566<br>(0.0614)      | 0.0618<br>(0.0589)      | 0.0795<br>(0.0567)      |
| <i>Historical period (Long 19<sup>th</sup> century (1815-1914) as base category)</i> |                      |                      |                      |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| Classical and medieval (before 1492)   |                      |                      |                      | 0.108<br>(0.0867)       | 0.0937<br>(0.0855)      | 0.108<br>(0.0861)       | 0.0963<br>(0.0848)      |
| Early Modern History (1492-1815)   |                      |                      |                      | 0.224***<br>(0.0446)    | 0.222***<br>(0.0449)    | 0.224***<br>(0.0444)    | 0.223***<br>(0.0447)    |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> century (1915-present)  |                      |                      |                      | 0.155***<br>(0.0393)    | 0.159***<br>(0.0385)    | 0.162***<br>(0.0386)    | 0.165***<br>(0.0378)    |
| Long-run   |                      |                      |                      | 0.597***<br>(0.0844)    | 0.600***<br>(0.0794)    | 0.530***<br>(0.0784)    | 0.539***<br>(0.0756)    |
| Cross-country (=1)   |                      |                      |                      | 0.219***<br>(0.0461)    | 0.229***<br>(0.0453)    | 0.206***<br>(0.0455)    | 0.212***<br>(0.0453)    |
| USA (=1)   |                      |                      |                      | -0.0227<br>(0.0539)     | -0.0272<br>(0.0520)     | -0.0104<br>(0.0537)     | -0.0149<br>(0.0522)     |
| UK (=1)  |                      |                      |                      | -0.0684*<br>(0.0365)    | -0.0523<br>(0.0361)     | -0.0641*<br>(0.0365)    | -0.0523<br>(0.0361)     |
| Econometrics (=1)  |                      |                      |                      | 0.0154<br>(0.0385)      | 0.0249<br>(0.0382)      | 0.0116<br>(0.0385)      | 0.0194<br>(0.0381)      |
| Advanced econometrics (=1)   |                      |                      |                      | -0.0348<br>(0.0698)     | -0.0453<br>(0.0678)     | -0.0506<br>(0.0676)     | -0.0552<br>(0.0662)     |
| Year   |                      |                      |                      | -0.0428***<br>(0.00477) | -0.0417***<br>(0.00441) | -0.0426***<br>(0.00457) | -0.0410***<br>(0.00411) |
| Length   |                      |                      |                      | 0.0202***<br>(0.00204)  | 0.0155***<br>(0.00206)  | 0.0198***<br>(0.00209)  | 0.0154***<br>(0.00208)  |

(continued)



(Table A9 continued)

| Variables                                  | (1)                  | (2)                  | (3)                  | (4)                  | (5)                  | (6)                  | (7)                  |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Authors' characteristics</b>            |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| <i>Gender (Male as base category)</i>      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| Gender_F                                   |                      |                      |                      | 0.0296<br>(0.0668)   | 0.0192<br>(0.0626)   | 0.0299<br>(0.0674)   | 0.0223<br>(0.0639)   |
| Gender_MIX                                 |                      |                      |                      | 0.0357<br>(0.0631)   | 0.0342<br>(0.0664)   | 0.0371<br>(0.0632)   | 0.0345<br>(0.0666)   |
| Coauthor (=1)                              |                      |                      |                      | 0.0790*<br>(0.0432)  | 0.0905**<br>(0.0424) | 0.0760*<br>(0.0428)  | 0.0829**<br>(0.0419) |
| Top_institution (=1)                       |                      |                      |                      | 0.361***<br>(0.0509) | 0.341***<br>(0.0512) | 0.357***<br>(0.0504) | 0.339***<br>(0.0507) |
| American (=1)                              |                      |                      |                      | -0.00849<br>(0.0519) | -0.0196<br>(0.0487)  | -0.0222<br>(0.0520)  | -0.0368<br>(0.0494)  |
| <i>Hybrid (no hybrid as base category)</i> |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| hybrid_1                                   |                      |                      |                      | 0.0737<br>(0.0629)   | 0.0703<br>(0.0593)   | 0.0829<br>(0.0623)   | 0.0823<br>(0.0590)   |
| hybrid_2                                   |                      |                      |                      | 0.124*<br>(0.0658)   | 0.0965<br>(0.0612)   | 0.139**<br>(0.0645)  | 0.124**<br>(0.0592)  |
| Constant                                   | 0.634***<br>(0.0202) | 0.634***<br>(0.0202) | 0.634***<br>(0.0202) | 85.78***<br>(9.588)  | 83.79***<br>(8.866)  | 85.49***<br>(9.196)  | 82.39***<br>(8.260)  |
| Observations                               | 2,529                | 2,529                | 2,529                | 2,477                | 2,477                | 2,477                | 2,477                |

Source: our own elaborations.

Note: T5bis is the group of journals placed 6th to 10th in the ranking by Kalaitzidakis, Mamuneas and Stengos (2011: Table 1) and it includes *EJ* and *RESTAT* and three top field journals (*JET*, *JME* and *JPUB*). Robust standard errors in parentheses.

\*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1. Interaction PS\*T5bis omitted because of collinearity.

Table A10. Negative binomial estimations of the success in economic history – 13 economics journals

| Variables  | (1)                  | (2)                 | (3)                  | (4)                     | (5)                     | (6)                     | (7)                     |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| T13 (=1)   | 1.382***<br>(0.0847) |                     |                      | 1.042***<br>(0.0617)    |                         |                         |                         |
| <i>Groups (T-ec.hist as base category)</i>   |                      |                     |                      |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| T5   |                      | 1.809***<br>(0.116) |                      |                         | 1.352***<br>(0.0849)    |                         | 1.299***<br>(0.0877)    |
| T3gen  |                      | 1.173***<br>(0.143) |                      |                         | 0.934***<br>(0.102)     |                         | 0.933***<br>(0.106)     |
| History-friendly   |                      | 0.869***<br>(0.290) |                      |                         | 0.701***<br>(0.221)     |                         | 0.866***<br>(0.238)     |
| Top field  |                      | 0.812***<br>(0.135) |                      |                         | 0.702***<br>(0.116)     |                         | 0.713***<br>(0.117)     |
| PS (=1)  |                      |                     | 2.080***<br>(0.257)  |                         |                         | 1.188***<br>(0.167)     | 0.196<br>(0.184)        |
| H (=1)   |                      |                     | 1.247***<br>(0.0764) |                         |                         | 1.033***<br>(0.0637)    |                         |
| PS * T5  |                      |                     |                      |                         |                         |                         | 0.281<br>(0.270)        |
| PS * T3gen   |                      |                     |                      |                         |                         |                         | -0.0412<br>(0.353)      |
| PS * History-friendly  |                      |                     |                      |                         |                         |                         | -1.100***<br>(0.357)    |
| <b>Articles' characteristics</b>   |                      |                     |                      |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| <i>Topic (Institutions as base category)</i>   |                      |                     |                      |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| Methodology  |                      |                     |                      | -0.433<br>(0.324)       | -0.390<br>(0.311)       | -0.416<br>(0.319)       | -0.382<br>(0.305)       |
| Macro approach   |                      |                     |                      | -0.0719<br>(0.0715)     | -0.0447<br>(0.0689)     | -0.0596<br>(0.0666)     | -0.0382<br>(0.0643)     |
| Micro approach   |                      |                     |                      | -0.145**<br>(0.0600)    | -0.132**<br>(0.0581)    | -0.137**<br>(0.0567)    | -0.126**<br>(0.0543)    |
| Personal conditions and behaviour  |                      |                     |                      | 0.0823<br>(0.0680)      | 0.101<br>(0.0652)       | 0.0918<br>(0.0635)      | 0.107*<br>(0.0597)      |
| <i>Historical period (Long 19<sup>th</sup> century (1815-1914) as base category)</i> |                      |                     |                      |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| Classical and medieval (before 1492)   |                      |                     |                      | 0.110<br>(0.0859)       | 0.0897<br>(0.0848)      | 0.111<br>(0.0856)       | 0.0927<br>(0.0840)      |
| Early Modern History (1492-1815)   |                      |                     |                      | 0.213***<br>(0.0442)    | 0.204***<br>(0.0442)    | 0.212***<br>(0.0441)    | 0.205***<br>(0.0440)    |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> century (1915-present)  |                      |                     |                      | 0.187***<br>(0.0403)    | 0.187***<br>(0.0409)    | 0.191***<br>(0.0395)    | 0.190***<br>(0.0395)    |
| Long-run   |                      |                     |                      | 0.481***<br>(0.0849)    | 0.472***<br>(0.0796)    | 0.439***<br>(0.0803)    | 0.452***<br>(0.0765)    |
| Cross-country (=1)   |                      |                     |                      | 0.264***<br>(0.0508)    | 0.290***<br>(0.0479)    | 0.257***<br>(0.0513)    | 0.276***<br>(0.0475)    |
| USA (=1)   |                      |                     |                      | -0.0509<br>(0.0584)     | -0.0858*<br>(0.0520)    | -0.0458<br>(0.0590)     | -0.0601<br>(0.0513)     |
| UK (=1)  |                      |                     |                      | -0.0599<br>(0.0367)     | -0.0567<br>(0.0361)     | -0.0572<br>(0.0369)     | -0.0552<br>(0.0361)     |
| Econometrics (=1)  |                      |                     |                      | 0.0380<br>(0.0402)      | 0.0407<br>(0.0394)      | 0.0353<br>(0.0402)      | 0.0382<br>(0.0392)      |
| Advanced econometrics (=1)   |                      |                     |                      | -0.0674<br>(0.0732)     | -0.0778<br>(0.0763)     | -0.0773<br>(0.0707)     | -0.0948<br>(0.0731)     |
| Year   |                      |                     |                      | -0.0456***<br>(0.00494) | -0.0427***<br>(0.00429) | -0.0455***<br>(0.00482) | -0.0420***<br>(0.00408) |
| Length   |                      |                     |                      | 0.0190***<br>(0.00235)  | 0.0144***<br>(0.00233)  | 0.0188***<br>(0.00236)  | 0.0147***<br>(0.00229)  |

(continued)

(Table A10 continued)

| Variables                                  | (1)                  | (2)                  | (3)                  | (4)                  | (5)                  | (6)                  | (7)                  |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Authors' characteristics</b>            |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| <i>Gender (Male as base category)</i>      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| Gender_F                                   |                      |                      |                      | -0.0243<br>(0.0701)  | -0.0418<br>(0.0639)  | -0.0241<br>(0.0704)  | -0.0362<br>(0.0644)  |
| Gender_MIX                                 |                      |                      |                      | -0.0200<br>(0.0643)  | -0.0372<br>(0.0649)  | -0.0193<br>(0.0643)  | -0.0369<br>(0.0645)  |
| Coauthor (=1)                              |                      |                      |                      | 0.116***<br>(0.0439) | 0.134***<br>(0.0427) | 0.115***<br>(0.0438) | 0.122***<br>(0.0417) |
| Top_institution (=1)                       |                      |                      |                      | 0.435***<br>(0.0582) | 0.415***<br>(0.0610) | 0.433***<br>(0.0582) | 0.403***<br>(0.0581) |
| American (=1)                              |                      |                      |                      | 0.0297<br>(0.0534)   | 0.0286<br>(0.0513)   | 0.0237<br>(0.0542)   | 0.00316<br>(0.0504)  |
| <i>Hybrid (no hybrid as base category)</i> |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| hybrid_1                                   |                      |                      |                      | 0.0508<br>(0.0630)   | 0.0371<br>(0.0605)   | 0.0571<br>(0.0629)   | 0.0427<br>(0.0608)   |
| hybrid_2                                   |                      |                      |                      | 0.0891<br>(0.0661)   | 0.0434<br>(0.0614)   | 0.0978<br>(0.0657)   | 0.0623<br>(0.0606)   |
| Constant                                   | 0.634***<br>(0.0202) | 0.634***<br>(0.0202) | 0.634***<br>(0.0202) | 91.43***<br>(9.936)  | 85.84***<br>(8.633)  | 91.20***<br>(9.696)  | 84.28***<br>(8.198)  |
| Observations                               | 2,646                | 2,646                | 2,646                | 2,592                | 2,592                | 2,592                | 2,592                |

Source: our own elaborations.

Note: Robust standard errors in parentheses. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1. Interaction PS\*Top field omitted because of collinearity.

Table A11. Negative binomial estimations of the success in economic history – different selection procedures for T5 (2001-2014)

| Variables  | Abramitzky database    |                        | Our database           |                        |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|  | (4)                    | (6)                    | (4)                    | (6)                    |
| T5 (=1)  | 1.405***<br>(0.0923)   |                        | 1.455***<br>(0.100)    |                        |
| PS (=1)  |                        | 2.052***<br>(0.306)    |                        | 1.951***<br>(0.282)    |
| H (=1)   |                        | 1.364***<br>(0.0929)   |                        | 1.411***<br>(0.102)    |
| <b>Articles' characteristics</b>   |                        |                        |                        |                        |
| <i>Topic (Institutions as base category)</i>   |                        |                        |                        |                        |
| Methodology  | -0.353<br>(0.321)      | -0.342<br>(0.319)      | -0.313<br>(0.328)      | -0.309<br>(0.325)      |
| Macro approach   | -0.0483<br>(0.0785)    | -0.00519<br>(0.0693)   | -0.0429<br>(0.0786)    | -0.0131<br>(0.0712)    |
| Micro approach   | -0.142**<br>(0.0664)   | -0.110*<br>(0.0596)    | -0.132**<br>(0.0649)   | -0.109*<br>(0.0584)    |
| Personal conditions and behaviour  | -0.0178<br>(0.0743)    | 0.0218<br>(0.0656)     | 0.0139<br>(0.0726)     | 0.0426<br>(0.0643)     |
| <i>Historical period (Long 19<sup>th</sup> century (1815-1914) as base category)</i> |                        |                        |                        |                        |
| Classical and medieval (before 1492)   | 0.0861<br>(0.0865)     | 0.0863<br>(0.0861)     | 0.0647<br>(0.0871)     | 0.0673<br>(0.0865)     |
| Early Modern History (1492-1815)   | 0.221***<br>(0.0471)   | 0.222***<br>(0.0470)   | 0.191***<br>(0.0484)   | 0.194***<br>(0.0482)   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> century (1915-present)  | 0.112**<br>(0.0449)    | 0.127***<br>(0.0430)   | 0.0909**<br>(0.0442)   | 0.108***<br>(0.0417)   |
| Long-run   | 0.665***<br>(0.106)    | 0.548***<br>(0.0936)   | 0.653***<br>(0.108)    | 0.545***<br>(0.0956)   |
| Cross-country (=1)   | 0.318***<br>(0.0525)   | 0.293***<br>(0.0513)   | 0.302***<br>(0.0539)   | 0.277***<br>(0.0529)   |
| USA (=1)   | -0.0485<br>(0.0631)    | -0.0266<br>(0.0635)    | -0.119*<br>(0.0623)    | -0.103<br>(0.0629)     |
| UK (=1)  | -0.0481<br>(0.0402)    | -0.0388<br>(0.0409)    | -0.0766**<br>(0.0385)  | -0.0748*<br>(0.0386)   |
| Econometrics (=1)  | -0.0269<br>(0.0409)    | -0.0364<br>(0.0406)    | -0.00980<br>(0.0397)   | -0.0148<br>(0.0397)    |
| Advanced econometrics (=1)   | 0.0817<br>(0.0851)     | 0.0605<br>(0.0807)     | -0.00517<br>(0.0889)   | -0.0313<br>(0.0836)    |
| Year   | -0.00479<br>(0.00685)  | -0.00404<br>(0.00629)  | -0.00961<br>(0.00684)  | -0.00935<br>(0.00641)  |
| Length   | 0.0190***<br>(0.00249) | 0.0184***<br>(0.00249) | 0.0174***<br>(0.00248) | 0.0168***<br>(0.00255) |

(continued)

(Table A11 continued)

| Variables                                  | Abramitzky database  |                      | Our database         |                      |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|  | (4)                  | (6)                  | (4)                  | (4)                  |
| <b>Authors' characteristics</b>            |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| <i>Gender (Male as base category)</i>      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| Gender_F                                   | 0.0212<br>(0.0677)   | 0.0251<br>(0.0693)   | 0.0549<br>(0.0688)   | 0.0612<br>(0.0702)   |
| Gender_MIX                                 | 0.0750<br>(0.0723)   | 0.0885<br>(0.0725)   | 0.0154<br>(0.0685)   | 0.0256<br>(0.0679)   |
| Coauthor (=1)                              | 0.0523<br>(0.0460)   | 0.0409<br>(0.0450)   | 0.0494<br>(0.0473)   | 0.0390<br>(0.0464)   |
| Top_institution (=1)                       | 0.343***<br>(0.0524) | 0.333***<br>(0.0517) | 0.318***<br>(0.0536) | 0.316***<br>(0.0536) |
| American (=1)                              | -0.0519<br>(0.0657)  | -0.0774<br>(0.0663)  | -0.0303<br>(0.0653)  | -0.0551<br>(0.0658)  |
| <i>Hybrid (no hybrid as base category)</i> |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| hybrid_1                                   | 0.158**<br>(0.0699)  | 0.174**<br>(0.0697)  | 0.168**<br>(0.0708)  | 0.183***<br>(0.0704) |
| hybrid_2                                   | 0.149**<br>(0.0700)  | 0.179***<br>(0.0688) | 0.125*<br>(0.0698)   | 0.158**<br>(0.0672)  |
| Constant                                   | 9.617<br>(13.78)     | 8.101<br>(12.64)     | 19.36<br>(13.75)     | 18.84<br>(12.88)     |
| Observations                               | 1,703                | 1,703                | 1,683                | 1,683                |

Source: our own elaborations.

Note: Robust standard errors in parentheses. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1.

Table A12. Negative binomial estimations of the success in economic history – top decile in the T-ec.hist

| Variables  | (4)                    | (5)                     | (6)                     | (7)                     |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| T8 (=1)  | 0.119<br>(0.0790)      |                         |                         |                         |
| <i>Groups (T-ec.hist as base category)</i>   |                        |                         |                         |                         |
| T5   |                        | 0.308***<br>(0.0991)    |                         | 0.266***<br>(0.0987)    |
| T3gen  |                        | -0.0856<br>(0.101)      |                         | -0.0740<br>(0.102)      |
| PS (=1)  |                        |                         | 0.540***<br>(0.187)     | 0.229<br>(0.289)        |
| H (=1)   |                        |                         | 0.102<br>(0.0788)       |                         |
| PS * T5  |                        |                         |                         | 0.344<br>(0.372)        |
| <b>Articles' characteristics</b>   |                        |                         |                         |                         |
| <i>Topic (Institutions as base category)</i>   |                        |                         |                         |                         |
| Methodology  | -0.501<br>(0.489)      | -0.386<br>(0.438)       | -0.448<br>(0.460)       | -0.352<br>(0.418)       |
| Macro approach   | -0.0958<br>(0.126)     | -0.0637<br>(0.123)      | -0.0289<br>(0.119)      | -0.00340<br>(0.117)     |
| Micro approach   | -0.207**<br>(0.105)    | -0.207**<br>(0.103)     | -0.180*<br>(0.0988)     | -0.182*<br>(0.0964)     |
| Personal conditions and behaviour  | 0.0880<br>(0.0950)     | 0.100<br>(0.0940)       | 0.116<br>(0.0895)       | 0.125<br>(0.0888)       |
| <i>Historical period (Long 19<sup>th</sup> century (1815-1914) as base category)</i> |                        |                         |                         |                         |
| Classical and medieval (before 1492)   | 0.259<br>(0.200)       | 0.225<br>(0.186)        | 0.254<br>(0.196)        | 0.227<br>(0.183)        |
| Early Modern History (1492-1815)   | 0.119<br>(0.0843)      | 0.113<br>(0.0848)       | 0.115<br>(0.0843)       | 0.110<br>(0.0844)       |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> century (1915-present)  | 0.446***<br>(0.0953)   | 0.438***<br>(0.0901)    | 0.456***<br>(0.0957)    | 0.452***<br>(0.0905)    |
| Long-run   | 0.637***<br>(0.105)    | 0.650***<br>(0.102)     | 0.490***<br>(0.0981)    | 0.506***<br>(0.0943)    |
| Cross-country (=1)   | 0.318***<br>(0.0780)   | 0.340***<br>(0.0775)    | 0.280***<br>(0.0773)    | 0.298***<br>(0.0781)    |
| USA (=1)   | 0.0786<br>(0.101)      | 0.0628<br>(0.0973)      | 0.0991<br>(0.101)       | 0.0840<br>(0.0982)      |
| UK (=1)  | -0.136*<br>(0.0703)    | -0.104<br>(0.0694)      | -0.129*<br>(0.0698)     | -0.105<br>(0.0683)      |
| Econometrics (=1)  | 0.117<br>(0.0812)      | 0.113<br>(0.0782)       | 0.0933<br>(0.0795)      | 0.0895<br>(0.0765)      |
| Advanced econometrics (=1)   | 0.0362<br>(0.0970)     | 0.0260<br>(0.0976)      | -0.00495<br>(0.0958)    | -0.0105<br>(0.0965)     |
| Year   | -0.0530***<br>(0.0101) | -0.0493***<br>(0.00943) | -0.0530***<br>(0.00960) | -0.0486***<br>(0.00892) |
| Length   | 0.0188***<br>(0.00280) | 0.0150***<br>(0.00322)  | 0.0183***<br>(0.00283)  | 0.0147***<br>(0.00326)  |

(continued)

(Table A12 continued)

| Variables                                  | (4)                  | (5)                  | (6)                  | (7)                  |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Authors' characteristics</b>            |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| <i>Gender (Male as base category)</i>      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| Gender_F                                   | 0.113<br>(0.153)     | 0.0780<br>(0.140)    | 0.106<br>(0.154)     | 0.0747<br>(0.143)    |
| Gender_MIX                                 | -0.0382<br>(0.107)   | -0.0371<br>(0.114)   | -0.0326<br>(0.106)   | -0.0350<br>(0.112)   |
| Coauthor (=1)                              | 0.202**<br>(0.0806)  | 0.202**<br>(0.0801)  | 0.188**<br>(0.0792)  | 0.187**<br>(0.0787)  |
| Top_institution (=1)                       | 0.355***<br>(0.0767) | 0.353***<br>(0.0774) | 0.354***<br>(0.0761) | 0.354***<br>(0.0765) |
| American (=1)                              | -0.00341<br>(0.0943) | -0.0285<br>(0.0900)  | -0.0473<br>(0.0944)  | -0.0764<br>(0.0907)  |
| <i>Hybrid (no hybrid as base category)</i> |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| hybrid_1                                   | -0.0837<br>(0.103)   | -0.0796<br>(0.0988)  | -0.0481<br>(0.103)   | -0.0436<br>(0.0992)  |
| hybrid_2                                   | -0.0937<br>(0.108)   | -0.114<br>(0.0999)   | -0.0564<br>(0.108)   | -0.0679<br>(0.0992)  |
| Constant                                   | 107.2***<br>(20.20)  | 99.73***<br>(18.94)  | 107.1***<br>(19.30)  | 98.27***<br>(17.91)  |
| Observations                               | 553                  | 553                  | 553                  | 553                  |

Source: our own elaborations.

Note: Robust standard errors in parentheses. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1. Interaction PS\*T3gen omitted because of collinearity.

Table A13. Negative binomial estimations of the success in economic history – top 365 articles in the T-ec.hist

| Variables  | (1)                  | (2)                 | (3)                  | (4)                     | (5)                     | (6)                     | (7)                     |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| T8 (=1)  | 0.686***<br>(0.0963) |                     |                      | 0.342***<br>(0.0709)    |                         |                         |                         |
| <i>Groups (T-ec.hist as base category)</i>   |                      |                     |                      |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| T5   |                      | 0.929***<br>(0.118) |                      |                         | 0.528***<br>(0.0922)    |                         | 0.485***<br>(0.0927)    |
| T3gen  |                      | 0.293**<br>(0.145)  |                      |                         | 0.125<br>(0.0979)       |                         | 0.135<br>(0.0992)       |
| PS (=1)  |                      |                     | 1.513***<br>(0.271)  |                         |                         | 0.755***<br>(0.179)     | 0.227<br>(0.292)        |
| H (=1)   |                      |                     | 0.513***<br>(0.0817) |                         |                         | 0.322***<br>(0.0709)    |                         |
| PS * T5  |                      |                     |                      |                         |                         |                         | 0.339<br>(0.379)        |
| <b>Articles' characteristics</b>   |                      |                     |                      |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| <i>Topic (Institutions as base category)</i>   |                      |                     |                      |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| Methodology  |                      |                     |                      | -0.487<br>(0.520)       | -0.367<br>(0.461)       | -0.437<br>(0.487)       | -0.335<br>(0.438)       |
| Macro approach   |                      |                     |                      | -0.0796<br>(0.110)      | -0.0545<br>(0.107)      | -0.0243<br>(0.103)      | -0.00459<br>(0.100)     |
| Micro approach   |                      |                     |                      | -0.197**<br>(0.0895)    | -0.197**<br>(0.0869)    | -0.172**<br>(0.0832)    | -0.174**<br>(0.0810)    |
| Personal conditions and behaviour  |                      |                     |                      | 0.0773<br>(0.0853)      | 0.0860<br>(0.0845)      | 0.104<br>(0.0799)       | 0.110<br>(0.0792)       |
| <i>Historical period (Long 19<sup>th</sup> century (1815-1914) as base category)</i> |                      |                     |                      |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| Classical and medieval (before 1492)   |                      |                     |                      | 0.209<br>(0.148)        | 0.181<br>(0.139)        | 0.208<br>(0.145)        | 0.183<br>(0.136)        |
| Early Modern History (1492-1815)   |                      |                     |                      | 0.108<br>(0.0663)       | 0.0999<br>(0.0666)      | 0.106<br>(0.0661)       | 0.0984<br>(0.0663)      |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> century (1915-present)  |                      |                     |                      | 0.370***<br>(0.0763)    | 0.362***<br>(0.0727)    | 0.383***<br>(0.0765)    | 0.377***<br>(0.0728)    |
| Long-run   |                      |                     |                      | 0.596***<br>(0.0951)    | 0.605***<br>(0.0924)    | 0.466***<br>(0.0865)    | 0.477***<br>(0.0830)    |
| Cross-country (=1)   |                      |                     |                      | 0.298***<br>(0.0668)    | 0.317***<br>(0.0662)    | 0.265***<br>(0.0664)    | 0.280***<br>(0.0670)    |
| USA (=1)   |                      |                     |                      | 0.0507<br>(0.0868)      | 0.0356<br>(0.0839)      | 0.0724<br>(0.0872)      | 0.0587<br>(0.0850)      |
| UK (=1)  |                      |                     |                      | -0.119**<br>(0.0569)    | -0.0936*<br>(0.0559)    | -0.111*<br>(0.0565)     | -0.0908*<br>(0.0551)    |
| Econometrics (=1)  |                      |                     |                      | 0.0551<br>(0.0621)      | 0.0528<br>(0.0603)      | 0.0359<br>(0.0611)      | 0.0332<br>(0.0594)      |
| Advanced econometrics (=1)   |                      |                     |                      | 0.0289<br>(0.0926)      | 0.0173<br>(0.0929)      | -0.0111<br>(0.0907)     | -0.0185<br>(0.0911)     |
| Year   |                      |                     |                      | -0.0502***<br>(0.00885) | -0.0471***<br>(0.00825) | -0.0498***<br>(0.00839) | -0.0461***<br>(0.00773) |
| Length   |                      |                     |                      | 0.0183***<br>(0.00265)  | 0.0148***<br>(0.00307)  | 0.0178***<br>(0.00270)  | 0.0145***<br>(0.00310)  |

(continued)



(Table A13 continued)

| Variables                                  | (1)                  | (2)                  | (3)                  | (4)                  | (5)                  | (6)                  | (7)                  |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Authors' characteristics</b>            |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| <i>Gender (Male as base category)</i>      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| Gender_F                                   |                      |                      |                      | 0.106<br>(0.133)     | 0.0795<br>(0.122)    | 0.103<br>(0.133)     | 0.0788<br>(0.123)    |
| Gender_MIX                                 |                      |                      |                      | -0.0426<br>(0.0932)  | -0.0424<br>(0.0991)  | -0.0405<br>(0.0927)  | -0.0430<br>(0.0984)  |
| Coauthor (=1)                              |                      |                      |                      | 0.184***<br>(0.0692) | 0.184***<br>(0.0681) | 0.170**<br>(0.0676)  | 0.168**<br>(0.0668)  |
| Top_institution (=1)                       |                      |                      |                      | 0.340***<br>(0.0683) | 0.336***<br>(0.0691) | 0.338***<br>(0.0676) | 0.335***<br>(0.0683) |
| American (=1)                              |                      |                      |                      | -0.0148<br>(0.0821)  | -0.0314<br>(0.0780)  | -0.0523<br>(0.0824)  | -0.0727<br>(0.0789)  |
| <i>Hybrid (no hybrid as base category)</i> |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| hybrid_1                                   |                      |                      |                      | -0.0688<br>(0.0893)  | -0.0637<br>(0.0866)  | -0.0398<br>(0.0891)  | -0.0337<br>(0.0866)  |
| hybrid_2                                   |                      |                      |                      | -0.113<br>(0.0917)   | -0.131<br>(0.0853)   | -0.0778<br>(0.0909)  | -0.0882<br>(0.0840)  |
| Constant                                   | 1.515***<br>(0.0303) | 1.515***<br>(0.0303) | 1.515***<br>(0.0303) | 101.3***<br>(17.80)  | 95.21***<br>(16.59)  | 100.6***<br>(16.87)  | 93.29***<br>(15.54)  |
| Observations                               | 729                  | 729                  | 729                  | 704                  | 704                  | 704                  | 704                  |

Source: our own elaborations.

Note: Robust standard errors in parentheses. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1. Interaction PS\*T3gen omitted because of collinearity.

Table A14. Quartiles and decile of citations per year by type of articles in T8 (2001-2018)

|                  | Number |    | Mean |      | Median |      |
|------------------|--------|----|------|------|--------|------|
|                  | H      | PS | H    | PS   | H      | PS   |
| <b>Quartiles</b> |        |    |      |      |        |      |
| first            | 72     | 19 | 20.7 | 38.3 | 13.7   | 22.7 |
| second           | 81     | 10 | 6.1  | 6.2  | 6.1    | 5.6  |
| third            | 85     | 6  | 3.0  | 2.7  | 3.1    | 2.3  |
| fourth           | 87     | 5  | 0.9  | 0.8  | 0.9    | 0.9  |
| <b>Deciles</b>   |        |    |      |      |        |      |
| first            | 24     | 12 | 36.9 | 53.1 | 30.2   | 31.5 |
| second           | 31     | 5  | 14.0 | 13.9 | 13.5   | 14.5 |
| third            | 31     | 5  | 9.2  | 9.0  | 9.2    | 8.9  |
| fourth           | 34     | 2  | 6.6  | 5.9  | 6.7    | 5.9  |
| fifth            | 31     | 5  | 4.9  | 5.2  | 4.9    | 5.3  |
| sixth            | 34     | 2  | 3.8  | 3.8  | 3.8    | 3.8  |
| seventh          | 35     | 1  | 2.8  | 2.6  | 2.8    | 2.6  |
| eight            | 33     | 3  | 1.9  | 2.0  | 2.0    | 2.0  |
| ninth            | 33     | 3  | 1.1  | 1.1  | 1.1    | 1.1  |
| tenth            | 39     | 2  | 0.4  | 0.3  | 0.4    | 0.3  |
| <b>Total</b>     | 325    | 40 | 7.2  | 20.2 | 3.9    | 8.3  |

Source: our own elaborations.

Table A15. Differences of impact between PS and H article by citing sources

| Sources                   | H      |       | PS    |       | PS/H |
|---------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|
|                           | No.    | %     | No.   | %     |      |
| <b>T-ec.hist</b>          | 1,151  | 4.6   | 236   | 2.4   | 0.5  |
| <b>T5</b>                 | 992    | 3.9   | 321   | 3.2   | 0.8  |
| <b>T3gen</b>              | 729    | 2.9   | 327   | 3.3   | 1.1  |
| <b>History-friendly</b>   | 419    | 1.7   | 411   | 4.1   | 2.5  |
| Other economic history    | 428    | 1.7   | 274   | 2.7   | 1.6  |
| Other economics           | 10,112 | 40.2  | 3,751 | 37.6  | 0.9  |
| Political science         | 677    | 2.7   | 689   | 6.9   | 2.6  |
| Finance                   | 1,204  | 4.8   | 387   | 3.9   | 0.8  |
| Management                | 471    | 1.9   | 336   | 3.4   | 1.8  |
| Other social science      | 2,518  | 10.0  | 749   | 7.5   | 0.7  |
| History                   | 270    | 1.1   | 91    | 0.9   | 0.8  |
| Multidisciplinary science | 85     | 0.3   | 30    | 0.3   | 0.9  |
| Other journals            | 688    | 2.7   | 195   | 2.0   | 0.7  |
| Books                     | 1,772  | 7.1   | 888   | 8.9   | 1.3  |
| Working papers            | 38     | 0.2   | 42    | 0.4   | 2.8  |
| Economist (magazine)      | 6      | 0.0   | 1     | 0.0   | 0.4  |
| Other (quoted < 3 times)  | 3,564  | 14.2  | 1,240 | 12.4  | 0.9  |
| <b>Total</b>              | 25,124 | 100.0 | 9,968 | 100.0 |      |

Source: our own elaborations on data on references retrieved from Scopus in 13-18 May 2019.

Note: The groups of journals in our database are reported in bold.

## Appendix references

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