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Ninety years of publications in Economic History:
evidence from the top five field journals
(1927-2017)

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ABSTRACT: The growing appeal of the long run perspective among economists and the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of the Conrad and Meyer article (1958), which signed the Cliometric Revolution, have attracted a lot of interest on the origin and the development of Economic history. This paper explores the evolution of the field with a new articulated database of all the 6,516 articles published in five journals (*Economic History Review*, *Journal of Economic History*, *Explorations in Economic History*, *European Review of Economic History* and *Cliometrica*) from their establishment to 2017. We show that these journals are the most important in the field, with a wide influence also outside it. Our main results are that the Cliometric Revolution took quite a long time to fully display its effects, which became evident only in the 1990s, when personal computer and software packages became available. Finally, as for the last two decades, we find that the process of integration of economic history into economics is, so far, slower than previously suggested and limited to US. On the other hand, the most striking and neglected change is the overall success of Continental European scholars within the field. Are these changes the harbinger of a new divergence between the two shores of the Atlantic with the rise of a new paradigm based on the “Historical economics” approach? It is too early to tell.

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1. Introduction

Economists are paying a lot of interest to economic history in recent times, after decades of relative neglect, and this shift has rekindled the interest in the history of the field. The conventional wisdom singles out two major breakthroughs, the Cliometric Revolution of the 1960s and the currently on-going “integration of economic history into economics” (Margo 2018). The Cliometric Revolution is credited to have changed economic history from a historical discipline, relying on descriptions of events based on archival material into an economic one, heavily relying on economic reasoning and statistical testing of hypotheses (Andreano 1970, Fogel and Elton 1984, Lyons, Cain and Williamson 2007, Boldizzoni 2011, Boldizzoni and Hudson 2016, Hauptert 2016, Diebolt and Hauptert 2018a). This Revolution started with the publication of the seminal article on slavery by Conrad and Meyer (1958), in the *Journal of Political Economy*, swept the United States in the 1960s and diffused in United Kingdom in the 1970s and 1980s and in Continental Europe in the 1990s. The second major change, spearheaded by the publication of the hugely influential paper on *The colonial origins of comparative development* (Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson 2001), can be interpreted as a further, and possibly final, step in the same direction. Cliometricians still aimed at preserving a specific role of economic history as a bridge between economics and history, and at speaking to historians as well as to economists (Sutch 1991, Collins 2015, Lamoreaux 2015). In contrast, the new generation of economic historians mimics the economists’ approach, and tries to convince them that economic history is relevant not just for the sake of knowledge, but also to understand the present (McCloskey 1976, Arrow 1985, Nunn 2014, Abramitzky 2015, Temin 2016). Many recent papers directly link current outcomes (GDP per capita or similar data) to specific historical events, such as colonial institutions in the already quoted paper by Acemoglu Johnson and Robinson (2001) or slave trade in another famous paper by Nunn (2008).

This conventional wisdom has long been based on anecdotal evidence, but recent works show a welcome shift towards a quantitative approach, which had been pioneered by Harte (1977). Yet, all this literature is partial in a way or another. Some deal with a journal only,

such as the *Economic History Review* (Wrigley 1999), the *Journal of Economic History* (Whaples 1991, 2002) and the *Australian Economic History Review* (Morgan and Shanahan 2010, Selzer 2018): Di Vaio and Weisdorf (2010) compare the citations success of thirteen economic history journals but cover only the citations from other journals of that specific sample to articles published in 2007, while Ojala et al (2017) focus on the most cited articles in the two long-established *Business History* and *Business History Review*. Other works deal with one specific research question, such as the causes of the growth in co-authorship (Selzer and Hamermesh 2018), the growing interest in non-Western economic history (Fourie and Gardner 2014), the spread of quantitative methods in business history (Eloranta, Ojala and Valtonen 2010), the increase of articles on economic history in economic journals (Abramitzky 2015, Diebolt and Hauptert 2018b) and the diffusion of advanced statistical techniques in economic history journals (Margo 2018, Wehrheim 2018).

This paper contributes to this line of research by addressing a wide range of issues with a comprehensive database, covering five economic history journals (henceforth T5-EH), *Economic History Review* (*EHR*), *Journal of Economic History* (*JEH*), *Explorations in Economic History* (*EEH*), *European Review of Economic History* (*EREH*) and *Cliometrica* (*CLIO*). Our database includes a total of 6,516 articles – i.e. articles published in these journals from their establishment (respectively in 1927, 1941, 1969, 1997 and 2007) to 2017. Moreover, we explore the integration of economic history into history by comparing the articles in T5-EH with articles on economic history published, since 2001 up to 2017, in the top five economics journals (henceforth T5-E): 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* (*RES*).

We justify our selection of the T5-EH in Section 2 by showing that they have been the most quoted in the field since the data are available and that they form a strong network, which attracts a lot of citations from economics and other disciplines. We describe our databases in Section 3, while in Section 4 and 5 we outline the main trends in economic history using respectively as unit of analysis papers and authors. Section 6 explores the long-term evolution of citations received by articles contained in the database, while Section 7

compares the recent trends of economic history research in the T5-EH and in the T5-E. Section 8 concludes.

2. A bibliometric analysis of economic history journals

According to a recent survey (Poelmans and Rousseau 2016), the decision of the outlet of the publications of economic historians is heavily affected by the kind of department they are affiliated with.¹ Economic historians working in economics department aim at publishing their work as articles in international journals with Impact Factor (IF). They regard journals without IF as the second best and books with major international publishing houses only as their third option. This ranking is deeply different for their colleagues working in history departments, who deem books with international publishing houses as the best option and rank journals according to their general standing rather than their IF. Although there is no comparable survey for the 1950s, all anecdotal evidence suggests that the pre-eminence of journals outlets for advanced research in economic history is by itself a product of the Cliometric Revolution. The first journal in economic and social history, the *Vierteljahrschrift für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte*, had been founded in 1903, the first business history journal (the *Bulletin of the Business Historical Society*, renamed in 1954 as *Business History Review*) in 1926 and the first journal specialized in economic history, the *Economic History Review*, one year later. Yet economic historians traditionally published their main work in books, and earlier Cliometricians imitated them (Margo 2018). The two 1993 Nobel laureates, Robert Fogel and Douglas North published most of their path-breaking researches in books (Fogel 1964, 1989, Fogel and Engerman 1974, North and Thomas 1973, North 1981, 1990). Nowadays, economic historians still write more books than economists, either as traditional research books (e.g. Mokyr 1990, 2002, Pomeranz 2001, Clark 2007, Allen 2009, Rosenthal and Bin Wong 2011) or, as general, non-technical synthesis of papers in journals (Williamson 2011).

¹ The survey received 332 responses on a total of a list, assembled on the basis of different criteria, of about 1,200 economic historians (28.7 percent).

In the last decades, the number of economic history journals in the world has greatly increased and trace all of them would be impossible. Thus, we consider only journals which are listed at least in one of the two main citation databases, *Web of Science* (*WoS*) and *Scopus* and thus arguably fit the definition of “international journal” referred above. This choice is certainly restrictive, as it omits journals of long tradition, such as the already quoted *Vierteljahrschrift* or the Italian *Rivista di Storia Economica*, established in 1936. It can be justified by the careful vetting which journals are subject to before being included in the databases. We adopt a quite wide definition of economic history, including business history, even if many consider it as a separate subfield (Ojala et al 2017) and interdisciplinary journals with a strong interest in social and economic history.² The two databases provide various measures of relevance of journals, such as the IF and 5-Year Impact Factor (IF5) for *WoS* and the SJR (SCImago Journal Rank) and SNIP (Source Normalised Impact per Paper) for *Scopus*.³ We have selected the two most representative measures of impact, the IF and SNIP, which we report in Table 1 for the last five years, alongside the position by quartiles in the two main subject area (History, and Economics and Econometrics) in the *SCImago* ranking. The results are quite neat. No other economic history or business history journal matches the selected five for any criteria, and only two of

² Di Vaio and Weisdorf (2010) adopt a more restrictive definition of economic history, but they include in their list some journals outside the *WoS* such as the *Irish Economic and Social History*, *Jarhbuch für Wirtschaftsgeschichte* and *Rivista di Storia Economica* as well as the *Annales*.

³ The IF is computed for each year according to different methods:

i) IF in a given year refers to citations received in the same year by articles published in the two previous years:

$$IF_t = \frac{Cit_{t-2} + Cit_{t-1}}{A_{t-2} + A_{t-1}}$$

where, t is the year for which the IF is computed; Cit_t is the number of citations received by the articles in the same year for which the IF is computed; A_t is the number of citable articles.

ii) IF5 refers to citations received in a given year by articles published in the five previous years:

$$5yIF_t = \frac{\sum_{t-5}^{t-1} Cit_t}{\sum_{t-5}^{t-1} A_t}$$

where, t is the year for which the 5yIF is computed; Cit_t is the number of citations received by the articles in the same year for which the 5yIF is computed; A_t is the number of citable articles.

The SJR is the number of weighted citations received in the selected year by the documents published in the previous years and it takes into account the prestige of the journals where citations come from, while the SNIP measures contextual citation impact by weighting citations based on the total number of citations in a subject field, using *Scopus* data. Anyway, all measures are fairly well correlated and IF is also well correlated with the H-index by *Google scholar* (Hamermesh 2018). For detailed information on all these indicators, see Todeschini and Baccini (2016).

the interdisciplinary ones have a comparable SNIP (but they are well behind on the two other indicators). On the other hand, no economic history journal can match the impact of top economic journals: in the same years, the T5-E journals had an average IF around 4.4 and a SNIP around 4.7, both almost four times higher than for the T5-EH.

Table 1 about here

The prominent role of the T5-EH is confirmed by two other pieces of evidence. They appear top of the ranking by Di Vaio and Weisdorf (2010: 11), both in their basic, unadjusted measure of all citations from other economic history journals, and in their preferred “baseline” one, which adjusts for self-citation, age and size of the journal. Second, as Table 2 shows, the T5-EH are ranked quite high in three major international rankings, the *Categorization of Journals in Economics and Management* by the French Comité National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS 2017), the *Academic Journal Guide* by the Association of Business Schools (ABS 2018) and the *Academic journals in Economics* by Kalaitzidakis, Mamuneas and Stengos (KMS 2011). In this latter, the *JEH*, *EEH*, and *EHR* are in the top 100, while *EREH* and *CLIO* do not feature at all, having too short track record to be included. For the same reason, they are in the second or third tier in the two other rankings. Other journals from Table 1 are not ranked at all or are ranked much below the top three. *Academic journals in Economics* includes only the *Australian Economic History Review*, as 173th, while for the *Categorization of Journals in Economics and Management*, *Business History* is in the second class.

Table 2 about here

Given this evidence, we are confident that the T5-EH are representative of the state of the art in economic history. It is however important to remind the differences among them, which reflect their institutional history. The *EEH* had been established in 1948 as *Explorations in entrepreneurial history*, but it was taken over and re-named, in 1969, by “new” economic historians. We include it in the database only after this change and thus for all purposes it appears as a Cliometric journal. The *EREH* was established, in 1997, as the

journal of the *European Historical Economics Society* (Sharp 2013) and *CLIO*, in 2007, as the journal of the *Association Francaise de Cliométrie*. Thus all three journals, to some extent, were “native cliometrician”. In contrast, the *JEH* and the *EHR* had a long tradition and changed progressively since the 1960s, as the result of a progressive take over by a new generation of cliometricians (Diebolt and Hauptert 2016).

The discussion so far has focused on the past five years, which might not be representative of long term trends. Unfortunately, it is impossible to extend the comparison back in time for most journals, including *EREH* and *CLIO*, because they have entered in the databases only in recent years (Table 1). Sufficiently long series are available only for three of the T5-EH (Table 3).

Table 3 about here

The data suggest at least three stylized facts. First, in general, the impact of the T5-EH has been rising, as shown by the results of a simple log regression with time. The rates of change (Table 3, last two rows) are always positive and, with one exception only, significant over the whole period. They imply an increase in the impact measures from 23 to 122 percent. This rise is to some extent a natural consequence of the growing number of journals in the *WoS* and *Scopus* databases, but the differences between journals suggest that other factors mattered as well. We will explore them in Section 4 and in a companion paper (Cioni, Federico and Vasta 2019). Second, the indexes are rather, but not excessively volatile, with standard deviations of residuals ranging from 0.16 to 0.34, and, at least for IF, volatility is declining.⁴ Last but not least, the ranking of IF and SNIP coincide for the whole period 1999-2007 (first *EHR*, then *JEH* and third *EEH*), but their yearly movements differ a lot. The crude coefficients of correlation between the two indexes are quite low for *EEH* (0.63) and *JEH* (0.64) and much lower for the *EHR* (0.13). The correlations are even lower

⁴ The standard deviations are 0.251 (IF) and 0.167 (5-Year IF) for *JEH*, 0.221 and 0.251 for *EHR* and 0.345 and 0.168 for *EEH*. The volatility declined between 1997-2006 and 2007-2017 by a half to one third according to the journal, for the IF, while trends for the SNIP are mixed.

(0.42 for *JEH*, 0.49 for *EEH*, and 0.04 for the *EHR*) if computed on residuals from the regression, which measure more precisely the short-run fluctuations.

The citations are useful not only as a general measure of impact of a specific journal, but also to map the scientific connections within the field or among journals of different fields. We explore these connections by extracting all citations received and done in 1997 by the *EHR*, *JEH* and *EEH*, and in 2017 by all the T5-EH from the *Journal of Citation Report* (Clarivate Analytics). This source is very detailed, but it has some limitations. First, it does not list items, including journals, which cite or are cited by the journals only once. They are lumped together in the generic category “other”, which in the case at hand accounts for over a half of all citations done (56 percent in both years) and for a small share for citations received (16 percent in 1997 and 22 percent in 2017). Second, the source includes books and documents other than journal articles (e.g. primary sources, working papers, and PhD dissertations) only in citations done but exclude them from the citations received. We deal with this asymmetry by excluding this material from our analysis, which thus refers only to journals. It is however important to remind that books are still a relevant source of ideas and information, accounting at least for 22.2 percent of citations in 1997 and for 19.2 percent in 2017.⁵ Furthermore, these figures might be underestimated the share of books, because books, especially in languages other than English, are likely to account for a large proportion of the items cited only once.

We analyze the citation patterns of T5-EH by reporting separately the data for each journal (and for their sum), plus the sum of citations to and from seven groups: *i*) the T5-E, *ii*) the top three journals in business history (T3-BH) -*Business History*, *Business History Review* and *Enterprise & Society* -, *iii*) the other economic history journals as listed in Table 1, *iv*) other economic journals, *v*) other social science journals, *vi*) history journals; *vii*) other journals, a residual category which includes different subject areas, such as chemistry or computer science and so on. Economic history journals not in the *Journal of Citation Report*

⁵ Books have been singled out on the basis of abbreviation of the titles of individual items or of series (such as *Routledge Research in Gender and History* or *The Cambridge History of Science*). Thus there is a margin of uncertainty in the classification.

database are all included among “other social science” journals, and thus our computation underestimates the impact of the T5-EH in the field.

The most striking feature of citations done (Table 4a-b) is the permanent strength of the network of the T5-EH. In 1997, citations to the T3-EH accounted for 33.8 percent of the total, and citation to the same journal (self-citations) for 18.6 percent. Twenty years later, the total number of citations within the network had increased by two thirds, and their share on total was still 29.2 percent. This slight decrease is entirely accounted by the fall in citations to the same journal down to 10.1 percent (11.4 percent for the T3-EH, with a decrease also in absolute number). The citations to other journals, excluding self-citations, increase to 19.1 percent, as the result of the doubling of the share for the *EHR* and of the high propensity of the two newcomer journals, *EREH* and *CLIO*, to cite the other top EH journals. In contrast, *JEH* and *EEH* cited roughly the same number of times both themselves and the other four top journals in 1997 and 2017.

Table 4a-b about here

The share of “history” journals halved, even if the absolute number of citations increased by 60 percent, the share of “other social sciences” and other fields remained stable, while citations to economic journals (the T5-E plus other “economics”) soared, from 356 to 1,221 – i.e. from 23.9 to 42.2 percent. In 2017, the T5-EH cited economics journals more frequently than economic history ones. This shift was spearheaded by the *EEH*, which, in 1997, had cited economics journals less than the *JEH*. In 2017, all economics journals accounted for almost two thirds of all citation for *EEH* and the T5-E for almost a quarter, i.e. 4 percentage points more than the share of T5-EH (23.9 percent vs. 19.5). In contrast, the *EHR* is still strongly oriented towards the journals of the field, with the share of citations to T5-EH (30.4 percent), significantly above the share of all economics journals (25.6 percent).

The distribution by group of citations received, rather than done (Table 5a-b) features a sharp decline in the share of T5-EH which, given the overall increase in total number,

corresponds to a small increase (from 502 in 1997 to 841 in 2017). In contrast, the combined share of T3-BH and “other economic history” journals increased by a couple percentage points, from 11.1 to 13.4 percent. Clearly the T5-EH are a landmark for these latter. On the other hand, the bulk of the increase in citations comes from journals outside the field, as result of growing size of the database and/or of the increasing interest towards economic history.

Table 5a-b and about here

The share of citations from “history” journals remained constant around 15 percent of the total and thus the absolute number increased fourfold. The citations from “other social sciences” and, above all, from other fields (“others”) increased massively in relative and absolute terms. Yet, the most relevant change is the rise of citations from economics journals, or more precisely from “other economics” journals. They jumped from 149 in 1997 to 1,010 in 2017, accounting for almost a third of the total increase of citations received by the T5-EH. In contrast, the T5-E showed little interest in T5-EH, citing them only 21 times in 1997 and 33 in 2017. This scarce attention contrasts with the recent increase of articles on economic history issues in those journals (Section 7). The difference among the T5-EH emerges quite clearly also in citations received in 2017. Economic journals cited mostly the *JEH* and *EEH*, which accounted for three quarters (76.5 percent) of all citations received from the T5-EH. Unsurprisingly given its age, *CLIO* got few citations from economics journals, but these citations accounted for a large proportion of the total citation it got (29 on 78). The *EHR* exhibits a more traditional pattern, with most citations from economic history journals and almost as many citations from “history” (327) than from economics (173), “other social sciences” (136) and “others” (135). The *EREH* stands out for the success it got among other field journals. In 2017, it received about a third of its citations from the other top four EH journals, and a further 18 percent from “EH journals” and “business history” journals.

Figure 1a-b compares the citations network in 1997 and 2017, allowing to better highlight the massive change in the citation pattern outside the field both from the citing and the cited sides.

Figure 1a-b about here

3. The databases

As said, our main database includes all articles published in the T5-EH since their establishment (see Table 1) to the last issue of 2017, inclusive of short notes, comments, replays, rejoinders, rebuttals, and essays in bibliography. We prefer to include all these non-research articles, unlike Hamermesh (2018), for two reasons. In the early period, the distinction between regular articles and short research notes is not so clear and, although their number is small (about 2.5 percent of the total), the movements in the yearly share on total articles reveal some relevant changes in the scholarly debate in economic history (see Section 4). On the other side, the database excludes book reviews, summary and reviews of PhD thesis, conferences introduction and obituaries, that are obviously not refereed. These criteria yield a total of 6,516 articles (Table 6).

Table 6 about here

Half of all these articles (3,247) have been published in the last thirty years and almost four fifths (5,182) in the last fifty (Figure 2). Before 1940, the *EHR* published on average 12 articles per year and its size shrank remarkably during WWII. The establishment of the *JEH*, which since its beginning was double the size of the pre-war *EHR*, marked a first major discontinuity. The total number of articles increased steadily in the 1950s and 1960s, especially in the *EHR*, and jumped again to over one hundred after the transformation of the *EEH* into an economic history journal in 1969. It declined somewhat in the early 1990s, and grew in the last years up to 140 and beyond. In 2012, the T5-EH journals published a total of 159 articles, five more than the whole period 1927-1940. The establishment of the *EREH* in 1997 and of *CLIO* in 2007 account for slightly more than half of this increase: in 2015-

2017 they published on average 21 articles per year, while the other three journals 18 articles more than in 1994-1996. Furthermore, the number of articles biases downward the number of pages, as the length of articles has been growing from about 15 pages until the mid-1980s up to a peak close to 30 in the mid-2000s.

Figure 2 about here

We have collected for all the 6,516 articles in the database the key bibliographic references (names of the authors, title, issue of the journal and length in pages) and four different sets of information, referring to authors, content (topic, geographical area and period), methods (tables, figures and econometrics tools) and impact, as measured by citations.

The information on author(s) include name, gender and the affiliation at the time of publication, as stated in the article. A small number of articles (0.7 percent), especially in the early years reports only a name of city without institutional affiliation, possibly because authors were independent scholars. Unfortunately, a large number of articles specifies only the University (or college) and thus we cannot keep the distinction between departments of Economics and History, which would have been informative (Poelmans and Rousseau 2016). We have classified the articles by topic by looking at the title, abstract and, in some controversial cases, directly at the text. We have decided not to use the JEL codes of the American Economic Association because we deem them too aggregate. Thus, we have defined 17 categories, trying to achieve the maximum level of detail without being forced to allocate arbitrarily articles on broad issues. Table 7 identifies and briefly describes them, reporting also the corresponding JEL codes.

Table 7 about here

Our basic classification by period follows the standard division in “Classical history” (before 476), “Medieval history” (476-1492), “Early modern history” (1492-1815) and “Modern history” (1815-present). We have labelled “long period” articles which deal with more than one period such as from 1700 to 1870. The “Modern period” accounts for most of the articles

and thus he have further distinguished four sub-periods (1815-1870, 1871-1913, 1914-1945 and after 1945), five extended periods (1815-1913, 1870-1945, 1914-present, 1915-1945 and 1870-present) and a residual category which includes paper dealing with all the period from 1815 to present (“all modern”). We group in a category “no period” theoretical and methodological articles.

We distinguish five different geographical area categories, referring to: *i*) the whole world, *ii*) one continent without further specification, *iii*) two or more countries in the same continent, *iv*) two or more countries in different continents, and *v*) a single country. Then, we add a residual category of “no area”, for all the cases in which the article’s content could not be referred to a geographical area (i.e. theoretical and methodological articles). We consider three different definitions of quantitative methods, with an increasing level of sophistication. The lowest level features simple quantitative tools (tables, figures and graphs), the intermediate (“econometric methods”) the use of regression analysis, and the highest the use of “advanced” econometric and statistical methods. Following Margo (2018), we have singled out articles in the third category by looking for words related to six different techniques (differences in differences, instrumental variables, panel regression, propensity score matching, vector-autoregression or VAR, and vector error correction model or VECM), with the advanced search tool of *Google Scholar*. This method might yield false positives, if these words are quoted in the references, in the literature survey, or appear in negative statements (“we cannot use panel regression”). Thus, in any doubtful case, we have double-checked the results with a direct reading of the selected articles.

Finally, we have collected the information on the yearly number of citations received from *Scopus*, which we prefer because it has a wider coverage and a simple method to retrieve data. The database provides the number of citations received from 1970 to nowadays to any article published in the T5-EH. The data provide a good coverage for articles published since 1970 and excellent from the 1990s, while they underestimate the impact of older articles as they omit citations from the publication date to 1969. The citation count is

missing for 241 articles (3.7 percent) in the database. Overall, the total number of citations in the database, as of 15 September 2018, is 100,861.

For our analysis of the integration of economic history into economics (Section 7), we have collected the same information for all articles on economic history issues published in the T5-E since 2001. As a general rule, we include in this database articles which explore the relations between some events, institutional changes or a given situation in the past and economic outcomes, either in the past or in the present. We have selected these articles looking at the abstracts and/or at their contents and, when available, at the JEL code by choosing all the N category (Economic History). As said in the Introduction, the main methodological innovation of recent trends is the explanation of current outcomes as the consequence of specific past events, as in already mentioned article by Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson (2001). We define articles with this research question as “Historical economics”, as opposed to “History” ones, which deal with past outcomes, such as the effect of different endowment of upper tail human capital on the regional differences in the diffusion of modern technologies in XIX century France (Squicciarini and Voigtlander 2015). Since almost all articles of these two categories use econometrics tools, we can distinguish them by looking at the specification of the dependent variable in the main regression of the work. Following McCloskey (1976), we classify as “Model testing” the articles, such as Cervellati and Sunde (2005) on life expectancy and economic growth, which test an economic model with historical data without providing any information about historical context, such as a description of institutions or information about relevant events.

4. The evolution of economic history: articles

The distribution of articles in time (Figure 2) has some important consequences for our results. First, by definition, before 1940 our analysis is limited to the *EHR*, which mainly published works by British scholars on the economic history of the United Kingdom (Section 5). Second, the combined effect of their earlier establishment and their bigger size implies that *JEH* and *EHR* dominate the database, accounting for three quarters of all articles

(Table 6). Third, the overall growth in the number of articles augmented the number of pages corresponding to any given share of the total: a 1 percent share corresponds to 0.1 article per year before 1940, to 0.4 in the 1940s and 1950s, to around 1 from early 1960s to mid-2000s and finally to 1.5 articles after 2007. Last but not least, the hump in the number of articles per year in the 1970s and 1980s (Figure 2) reflects the large number of short articles, which accounted for 5.7 percent of the total from 1968 to 1984, with a peak of 11.2 percent in 1977. Arguably, this increase is a consequence of the Cliometric Revolution, which stimulated the discussion on methods and results. A single discussion between Leunig and Voth and Razzell on stunting of boys in XVIII century London produced 5 articles in the late 1990s. These kind of exchanges has largely disappeared in more recent years (the share of short articles in 1997-2017 is only 0.25 percent), because the research works are subject to much more intense scrutiny in seminars and conferences and are quite often published as working papers before submission, reducing the scope for ex post comments.

In the following, we take into account the changes in the coverage of the database as well as the effects of the two major methodological breakthroughs (the Cliometric Revolution and the “integration of economic history into economics”) by dividing the ninety years in five periods: before 1940, the “British period”; 1941-1960, “the traditional economic history”; 1961-1996, “the age of the Cliometric Revolution”; and 1997-2017, “the rise of the new European journals”, which broadly coincide with the integration of economic history into economics.

Table 8 illustrates the change, by period, in the shares of the 17 topics on total number of articles and Figure 3 plots, for each topic, the evolution over time. The distribution by topic varied considerably across periods: a chi-square test rejects the null hypothesis of equal distribution at 1 percent for the long run comparison between 1927-1940 and 1997-2017, and also for all pairwise comparisons between subsequent periods except between the second and the third.

Table 8 and Figure 3 about here

Some of these changes can be interpreted rather easily. For instance, the decline of “Institutions” from top the list of issues in the first to fifth in 1961-1996 and its return to the top in the last period reflects a deep change in the object of interest. The early works described organizations such as the Islamic guilds (Lewis 1937), the more recent ones, such as the article by North and Weingast (1989) on property rights and debt management after the Glorious revolution, reflects the modern definition of institutions as rules of the game. The articles on “Economic History as discipline” in the British period informed readers of the *EHR* about teaching of Economic history, on economic history in other countries and similar topics. This type of articles disappeared rather early, but the issue remained relevant, with several burst of interests — the last one in the 1970s for the methodological controversies after the Cliometric Revolution. The increase in the shares of articles on “Firms” (i.e. business history) and of “History of Economic Thought” (HET) after 1940 reflects mostly, although not entirely, the addition of *JEH* to the database, as both issues were widely studied by American economic historians. In the fourteen years from 1927 to 1940, the *EHR* had published 10 articles in these two categories: in the next fourteen years, the *JEH* published 38 articles on “Firms” and 23 on “HET” (and the *EHR* additional 8 and 10). Both declined, in relative and absolute terms, from the late 1960s onwards, as in the *Australian Economic History Review* (Morgan and Shanahan 2010), for the combined effect of the Cliometric Revolution and the growing availability of alternative opportunities of publication in specialized journals, such as *Business History* (since 1958), *Enterprise & Society* (since 2000) and *History of Political Economy* (since 1969). In the 1940s and 1950s, the articles about productive sectors (“Agriculture”, “Industry” and “Services”) accounting for about a quarter of the total, consisted mostly of general analysis of descriptions and discussion of trends. These categories declined, with some partial exceptions (e.g. “Agriculture” during the Cliometric Revolution), because scholars moved to more specific research questions, which are classified under other categories, such as “Innovation” or “Firms”. The big increase of articles on “Labour” in the mid-1970s reflects the spurt of interest in slavery after the

publication of the seminal book of Fogel and Engerman *Time on a cross* (1974). Other categories, such as “Growth” or “Trade” remained broadly constant in percentage, and thus increased in total number of articles. The most conspicuous recent trend is the rise of interest in “Finance” and in issues related to personal conditions and behavior, such as “Human capital”, “Population and demography”, “Income distribution” and, above all, “Standard of living”. These latter four topics accounted for less than 5 percent of articles in the 1940s and 1950s and rose a lot in the last period – up to almost a third of total in 2015-2017. Articles published in these last three years account for 6.5 percent of the total in the database, but for 9.4 percent of articles on the “Standard of living”, 9.7 percent of articles on “Population and demography”, 17 percent of articles on “Income distribution” and for 20 percent of articles on “Human capital”. This means that these issues are really fashionable amongst economic historians nowadays.

Unsurprising, economic history was a local field at its beginning and, somewhat more surprisingly, it has largely remained such (Figure 4). All comparative articles (i.e. papers dealing with more than one polity) account for slightly more than a sixth of the total of the whole database. The share fluctuated significantly, especially in the early years, but there is no clear upward trend. The aggregate share for T5-EH is still stuck around a fifth in 2013-2017, although it is a bit higher in the two newcomer journals, *CLIO* and *EREH*. The editorial statement for this latter quotes comparison within Europe as a key interest area of the journal (Hatton, Persson and Zamagni 1997) and yet comparative papers accounted for less than a third on average in the whole history of the journal.

Figure 4 about here

Our definition of “comparative” article is arguably rather generous, as it includes any paper dealing with two polities in the same continent. Articles dealing with polities in different continents (or “intercontinental”) accounted for about a quarter of the comparative ones (i.e. for about 3 percent of total) until 1960, rose after the Cliometric Revolution, up to

a maximum slightly about a half in the 1990s and then declined again (Figure 5). In spite of the hype on globalization, since 2007, the T5-EH have published only 115 “intercontinental” articles, about a third of the comparative ones but less than a tenth of all articles. Last but not least, only a minority of these papers would be classified as intercontinental if the category included only articles dealing with all the world, or with representative samples of polities in several continents. In spite of the diffusion of the on-line sources, it remains rather difficult to build really intercontinental dataset, a notable exception being the Maddison project for GDP data (Bolt and Van Zanden 2014).

Figure 5 about here

The high share of single country papers reflects the strong home bias which has featured economic history for almost the whole period: scholars worked mostly on their own country and published mainly on national (or area-specific) journals. Thus, the shares of papers by area reflected closely the distribution of articles by journal (Figure 6a-c), and ultimately the distribution of authors by country, which we will discuss in Section 5.⁶

Figure 6a-c about here

Before 1940, United Kingdom accounted for about 70 percent of the articles in the *EHR* and Continental Europe, including 17 comparative papers with United Kingdom, for almost all the rest. Only 7 papers out of 150 dealt with other continents. The start of publications of the *JEH* and later of the *EEH* boosted the share of North America, from 1.3 percent (2 articles) to 25.3 percent in 1941-1960 and 34.2 percent in 1961-1996. These latter figures were not as high as one would expect because American journals were slightly less home-biased than the *EHR*. Articles on North America accounted for about half the total, while articles on the United Kingdom for about four fifths of the articles in the *EHR*. The distribution changed since the mid-1990s, when the share of articles on Continental Europe doubled.⁷ These articles accounted for most articles in the *EREH* (72.5 percent) and *CLIO*

⁶ These shares are computed on a total of 5,903 articles, which excludes “no area” and “intercontinental” papers.

⁷ Continental Europe includes also comparative articles dealing with United Kingdom and other European countries.

(52.4 percent) but also for a growing share of articles in the Anglo-Saxon journals. In 1997-2017, the paper on Continental Europe accounted for about 25 percent of the articles in the *JEH* and about 30 percent in the *EHR* and *EEH*. Remarkably, in 2016-2017, the *EHR* published more articles on Continental Europe than on the United Kingdom.

In contrast with these substantial changes, the share of articles on the rest of the world (“others”) remained remarkably stable, around 10 percent, until the end of the century, and increased a little only in the last years. The *EHR* had published five articles on Asia in the first fourteen years, 3.3 percent of the total, and since then the share of Asia has fluctuated widely around 5 percent, with peaks around or over 10 percent in 1947 (3 articles), 1959 (4), 1963 (5) 78 (9), 2009 (12) 2014 (12) and 2017 (14), but also years without a single article (e.g. 1960, 1962, 1976). Oceania remained always below 1 percent, and the only big movement was the “renaissance” of African economic history (Austin and Broadberry 2014). Actually, economic history of Africa was not totally absent from the T5-EH: the earliest research on African economic history had appeared as early as 1954 in an article (*The under-developed economies*) by Hancock (1954) in *EHR* and in an article (*Some economic factors in the political development of the Gold Coast*) by Apter (1954) in *JEH*. Yet there is a striking contrast between the 61 articles published until 2003 and 44 from 2007 to 2017 (13 in 2014 alone).

Most of the research in economic history in the last ninety years has focused on the modern period (1815 to present) and especially on the “long XIX century” from Waterloo to WWI.⁸ They account respectively for two thirds (4,091) and for a third (2,169) of all articles in the database. There are 724 articles exclusively on interwar years (11.2 percent) and only 287 (4.4 percent) exclusively on the period after 1945.⁹ The low share of articles on post-1945 period cannot be explained only by the lack of historical depth, as it has risen only marginally in most recent years, up to 6.2 percent of the total since 1997 (9.6 percent adding

⁸ In this case the total is 6,437 articles omitting “no period” ones. Articles on pre-476 have always been very few (a total of 39 – i.e. 0.6 percent). In contrast, a sizable number of articles encompass more than one macro-period – most often “Early modern” and “Modern” ones, a total around 10 percent for each year.

⁹ These figures do not change much if we add the articles dealing with interwar years and the period before 1913 (416) or articles dealing with both interwar and post 1914 years (157).

articles dealing also with the interwar period). As Figure 7 shows, the establishment of the *JEH* tilted decidedly the distribution by period towards “Modern history”.

Figure 7 about here

Before 1940, the *EHR* had published as many articles in “Early modern” (53) and almost as many in “Medieval history” (38) as in “Modern history” (53) and its distribution changed little in 1941-1960. It still published more articles in “Early modern history” (174) than either “Modern history” (103) or “Medieval history” (60). In the same period, the *JEH* published 214 articles on “Modern history”, three times more than “Medieval history” and “Early modern history” combined (respectively 24 and 48). The strong focus on more recent period in the *JEH* is hardly surprising, given the overall home bias of the economic historians and the prevalence of Americans among its authors (Section 5). The Cliometric Revolution shifted further the distribution of articles towards modern issues in the *JEH* (by about ten percentage points) and, somewhat belatedly, in the *EHR*, up to about a half in the 1970s. The overall prevalence of “Modern history” was sealed by the establishment of *EEH*, the *EREH* and *CLIO*, where articles on “Modern history” accounted respectively for 78 percent, 70 percent and 74 percent of total (plus 5 percent, 8 percent and 10 percent in the long-run which often covers modern period). By definition, the relative rise of “Modern history” reduced the share of articles on “Medieval” and “Early modern history”, but to a different extent. The total number of articles in “Medieval history” remained low but constant around four per year since the 1970s (most of them in the *EHR*) with a correspondingly low but stable share. In contrast, the decline of “Early modern” issues has been more gradual, and the total number of articles has even increased, from 12 articles per year on average in the 1940s and 1950s (a third of the total) to about 20 (a sixth) after 1997. Since 2007, the share of article in “Early modern history” has risen somewhat in all journals, and it has tripled in the *EREH*, from 9 to 27 percent (vs. 24 for the *EHR* in the same years). It is too early to tell whether this recent trend signals a permanent shift in the interests of economic historians.

The defining characteristic of the Cliometric Revolution was the combination of economic theory and statistic tools for the interpretation of history. It is not possible, unfortunately, to measure the use of economic theory and thus, as anticipated, we focus on the use of tables, graphs and econometric methods. To be sure, tables and figures are not an exclusive feature of Cliometric articles: the so called *histoire serielle* was a major current of the *Annales* school in the 1960s (Chanu 1970). Yet, as pointed out by Wrigley (1999), tables and graphs can be considered a harbinger of the methodological change. Indeed, before 1950, only a quarter of articles had at least one table and almost none a figure. As Figure 8 shows, the proportion of articles with tables has been rising steadily, up to over 90 percent in the 2000s.

Figure 8 about here

Figures may be considered more representative of the Cliometric Revolution, as they include the graphical illustration of economic models, starting from the market equilibria. Yet, their number has risen much more slowly, possibly because drawing good figures was technically challenging before the age of personal computer. As late as the 1980s, only about a quarter of the articles had any figure, and even in most recent years a quarter has no visual help.

The first regression appeared, in 1950, in the *JEH* in an article (*The quantitative study of government activity*) by Fabricant (1950), who was part of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) team directed by Kuznets, and in the *EHR* 11 years later in an article (*Emigration and demographic change in Ireland, 1851-1861*) by Cousens (1961). These early regressions were used as an illustrative device rather than to test hypotheses and the results are literally “hidden” in the text rather than reported in tables. The first article to present a proper regression with some coefficients is a reply by Landes (1958) in *JEH* to a note by Danière (1958). This is part of an articulated debate on French income and prices in late XVIII century France originated by two books by Labrousse (1932) and Chabert (1949) harshly criticized by Landes (1950). The first two authors to report the results in the “modern” style, with an explicit equation, were Fishlow (1961) and Williamson (1962), respectively in articles on trustees banks in the United States in 1817-1861 and on the

balance of payments between United Kingdom and United States in 1820-1913, both in the *JEH*.

The number of articles with econometrics remained very low in the 1960s (a total of 22 articles in 1961-1969, less than 4 percent of the total) and jumped in the early 1970 to around a third (Figure 9). Their share fluctuated between a quarter and a third until the 1990s and then rose further, up to about three quarters.

Figure 9 about here

These aggregate figures conceal substantial difference between journals, arguably greater than for any other feature we have discussed so far, as Figure 10 shows. From one hand, *CLIO* and, with few exceptions in the 1960s and early 1970s, *EEH* have always published mostly econometric articles. The *EREH* joined the club in 2004, when the share of econometric papers almost doubled, from 42 percent to 81 percent. On the other hand, the diffusion of econometric techniques in the *EHR* and, somewhat surprisingly, in the *JEH* has been rather slow and both journals still publish a relevant number of non-econometric papers.¹⁰

Figure 10 about here

Economic historians do not use advanced econometric techniques, as defined in Section 3, as often as economists. There were some distinguished pioneers, such as Newell (1973), who used instrumental variable in an article (*The Agricultural Revolution in Nineteenth-Century France*) published in 1973 in *JEH* and Rosenbloom and Sundstrom (1999) who computed the first panel regression in an article (*The sources of regional variation in the severity of the Great Depression: Evidence from U.S. manufacturing, 1919-1937*) published in the *JEH* in 1999. However, these pioneers found few imitators: the number of articles with

¹⁰ Our results for *JEH* and *EEH* tally well with results by Margo (2018), who measures the diffusion of econometric words by using *Google Scholar*. The results are only partially consistent with those by Wehrheim (2018), who extracts clusters of words from *JEH* and label them. In particular, he defines “descriptive language” a cluster including words related to tables with words such as “annual”, “large”, etc. and “econometric language” another cluster comprising words such as “regression”, “test”, “estimated”, etc. While trends from this latter are not too dissimilar to ours, the “descriptive language” cluster grew during the 1950s and the 1960s and then declined rather than rising smoothly as in Figure 10.

advanced econometrics remained negligible until the late 1990s and they are still a minority. The peak was reached in 2014 with 21 articles out of 103 with some econometrics and out of 131 articles overall. The still limited resort to advanced techniques reflects probably data limitations: it is unlikely that scholars trained in modern economics are unaware of the potential of VECM or panel regression for the historical analysis.

As in the case of econometrics, there used to be differences among journals, especially before 2006. Advanced econometric techniques were used in about a tenth of articles in *JEH*, *EEH* and *EREH*, and in no article in the *EHR*. The difference is less evident in the last decade, when the share of advanced econometric articles in the *EHR* has risen to 8.6 percent in comparison with values between 10 and 16.4 percent for all other journals (Figure 11).

Figure 11 about here

5. The evolution of economic history: authors

The 6,516 articles have a total of 8,597 authors, many of whom authored more than one paper. Thus, the database lists a total of 3,884 individuals.¹¹ One can compare this figure with the estimate of about 10,700 active economic historians in the world around 2010 (Baten and Muschallik 2012), taking into account the life-cycle of people in the database. One can get an upper bound of active authors in the T5-EH by assuming that economic historians publish the first article at 30 years of age and their last at 72 (after having retired at 70).¹² These assumptions yield a total of 2,889 individuals. Even with fairly optimistic assumptions, only a quarter of active economic historians have succeeded to publish in their career, at least, once in a T5-EH.

¹¹ This figure may be slightly overstated, as the earlier issues of *EHR* reported, for some authors, only the initial of the given name.

¹² These assumptions are an upper bound for a number of reasons. First, they imply that all individuals who published at least one article since 1975 were professional economic historians, and that they have continued to work in the field throughout all their career. This is unlikely. Several authors belonged to other fields (Weingast, co-author of the most cited paper in the *JEH*, is a political scientist), others may have changed field in the meanwhile, or may have left academia, or, sadly, may have passed away. Second, it is more likely than an author publish their first article after, than before, her 30 birthday. Third, the estimate includes authors who have published in recent years but were not active around 2010.

Figure 12 shows that economic history has always been and still is a male dominated field, even if slightly less so than economics (dots in the Figure). Women account for 12.2 percent of all authors (1,045 out of 8,597) and for 14.8 percent of individuals (574 out of 3,884). Women were quite well represented in the early years. From 1927 to 1947, 30 different women authored 39 articles (out of 359 in total), with all-time peaks of 3 out of 10 articles in 1930 and 4 out of 13 in 1932. After 1948, the share of female authors dropped dramatically: from that year to 1960, they published only 25 articles out of 604 (4.1 percent) and only 7 out of 275 in the *JEH* (2.5 percent). The situation did not change much in the early years of the Cliometric Revolution: female authors accounted for 5.1 percent of total authors in 1961-1978, with a share more than double in the more traditional *EHR* (6.8 percent), than in the hardline cliometric *EEH* (3.0 percent). Then, the share of female authors rebounded up to almost a fifth in 1994-1996. Since then, it has fluctuated between 10 and 20 percent without a clear trend and in the last five years, has been on the low side (14.9 percent), exceeding a fifth only in the women-friendly *EHR*.

Figure 12 about here

Before 1970, co-authored papers were quite exceptional, around one out of twenty (Figure 13). Their share increased to a sixth in the 1970s and 1980s, to a third in the 1990s, eventually exceeding a half of the articles since 2010. Thus, economic historians have followed, with a substantial lag, the path of economists, where co-authored papers exceeded a half already in 1993 (Hamermesh 2013, table 2). Indeed, Selzer and Hamermesh (2018) suggest that the rise in co-authorship in economic history reflects the push in economics departments towards more publications without penalties for co-authorship. Moreover, collaborations in economic history have been and, to some extent, still are quite limited undertakings in comparison not only with sciences but also with economics.

Figure 13 about here

Most co-authored articles are the work by two individuals only (Table 9). The first article (*The nature and the profitability of the Liverpool slave trade*) with three authors was

published, in 1953, in *EHR* (Hyde, Parkinson and Marriner 1953) and the first (*Real inequality in Europe since 1500*) with four ones in the *JEH* in 2002 (Hoffman et al 2002), when articles with more than three authors exceeded a tenth of the total for the first time. There are only three articles with five authors, two in 2011 (Allen et al 2011, Breschi et al 2011) and the third two years later (Boppart et al 2013). Economic history lags clearly behind economics from this point of view (Hamermesh 2013: table 2): in 2011 all co-authored articles accounted for 79.1 percent of the total of the T5-E (vs. 55.1 percent in T5-EH) and articles with three authors or more for 38.5 percent (vs. 17.9 percent). This overall increase has coincided with the rise of cross-gender collaborations, from only 8 articles (out of 64 written by at least one woman) in the first two periods, to 288 in 1997-2017 (over a half). In the last three years, these cross-gender collaborations accounted for two thirds of all articles authored by women and for 18 percent of all articles.

Table 9 about here

Until very recently, very few articles were co-authored by individuals affiliated to universities in different countries (Figure 14). The share of these transnational collaborations remained very low, around 15 percent of co-authored articles (and thus less than 2 percent of all articles) until the late 1970s. Thereafter the share rose slowly but steadily, up to a third and beyond, corresponding to a sixth of all articles in the database, after 1997. Articles from the last period account for two thirds of all transnational co-operations. These trends affected all journals, but to a different extent. In 1997-2017, co-authored articles accounted for over a half of the total in the *EEH* (and internationally co-authored ones for 18 percent) but only for a third (13 percent) in the *EHR*.

Figure 14 about here

We measure the influence of each country with the number of authors affiliated to each of its institutions at the time of the publication of the article. We do not take into consideration the nationality of the author, nor her affiliation before or after the publication of the article. Moreover, we use fractional counting in order to avoid distortions from the rise

in co-authorship. We assign to each author (and thus to her institution and, ultimately, to 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 fractionally weighted articles from unweighted ones by using the word “contribution” instead of “article”.

The database lists 870 institutions of higher education (universities and colleges) and 201 other affiliations, from New York Citibank to Dorset History Center, from 55 countries for a total of 1,071 institutions.¹³ However, a handful of universities produced most of the output in economic history: sixteen of them accounted for a quarter of all contributions from 1927 onwards, 61 for a half and 178 for three quarters. Until the late 1980s, almost all these institutions (95.1 percent) were located in Anglo-Saxon countries (Table 10a and Figures 15 and 16). The United States, which until 1990 accounted for over a half (54.9 percent) of contributions, the United Kingdom for a third (32.4) Canada for a twentieth (4.7 percent) and Ireland (after 1921), Australia, and New Zealand for the rest. The ranking appears quite different if total contribution is adjusted for the size of countries (Table 10b): British universities produced 7 contributions per million inhabitants, about a double than American ones.¹⁴ The whole Continental Europe produced less than Canada (108 contributions vs. 159) and no country exceeded 1 percent of total contributions (the most productive one being France with 25 articles or 0.7 percent). The scientific production of the rest of the world was negligible, with the exceptions of Japan and, above all Israel. Eleven authors from Israeli universities produced a total of 17.5 contributions, pushing the country to the fourth place in the population-adjusted ranking, after United Kingdom, United States and Canada. The dominance of Anglo-Saxon authors reflects largely our selection of journals, jointly with the home bias in the choice of outlet for publication. British authors accounted for 70.7 percent of the articles of the *EHR*, Americans for 77.9 percent of the *EEH* and 84.3 percent of the *JEH*. Furthermore, it is likely that also authors from non-Anglo-Saxon universities had links to the Anglo-Saxon world, via their nationality and/or PhD. For instance, John Komlos, one

¹³ This estimate refers to the number of different polities along the entire period. Thus, for example, we consider Czechoslovakia from the 1927 to 1992 and then, since 1993 to nowadays, we consider Slovakia and Czech Republic as separate countries.

¹⁴ We compute population as the sum of 1940, 1960 and 1996.

of the most prolific authors in our database, was born in Budapest, got his PhD in Chicago and taught in Munich for many years. In those years, Continental Europeans seldom published in Anglo-Saxon journals because they had their own journals.

Figures 15 and 16 and Table 10a-b about here

The situation changed rather suddenly around 1990. The share of Continental Europeans started to rise in the early years of the decade, jumped to about a sixth of all contributions after 1997 and continued to grow up to 38.3 percent in the last five years. Correspondingly, the share of contributions from Anglo-Saxon declined down to 54.3 percent. The jump after 1997 coincides with the establishment of the *EREH*, which published mostly articles from European authors (59.3 percent) and the share was further augmented, ten years later, by the start of publication of *CLIO*, another prevalently European journal (55.2 percent). However, the availability of the European journals does not explain fully the success of European authors. From one hand, they did not dominate these two journals as the American and the British had done before 1990. From the other hand, Continental Europeans succeeded to publish more and more contribution in the Anglo-Saxons journals. In 2013-2017, they contributed to a quarter of the total articles published in *JEH* and *EEH* and to one third for the *EHR*. Actually, in the last five years, the main outlet for articles by Continental Europeans has been the *EHR*, ahead of *EREH* (28.6 percent of contributions vs. 26.8 percent) and the two American journals has published almost as many contributions from Europeans as *CLIO* (15.0 percent *JEH* and 14.0 percent *EEH* vs. 15.5 percent). The performance of Continental European countries, already relatively quite good in the period 1997-2017, appears outstanding in the last five years (2013-2017). They occupied all the first 10 positions in the ranking by population, but two (United Kingdom and Ireland). The top performer, Sweden, has about 50 percent more contributions than the second, the United Kingdom, and six times more than the United States. As said in Section 4, the rise of Continental Europeans was not helped neither by a shift in topics nor by a reduction in their home bias since few articles by Europeans dealt with English or American economic history. Thus, one would explain the trend with the institutional change. The growing relevance of

publications in top international journals for promotion and funding in European universities pushed scholars to submit research on their own country in American and British journals, just when similar forces pushed American scholars to publish in economic journals (Section 7).

In contrast, little changed since 1997 in the contributions of scholars from non-European and non-Anglo-Saxon countries. They accounted for 4.6 percent of total contributions in the whole period 1990-2017 and for 7.4 percent in 2013-2017. Japan maintained its position, Israel slipped somewhat relative to its ranking before 1990 and the four Asiatic tigers (Hong-Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea) entered in the ranking. The contribution of less developed countries, including large countries such as India and China, remained very small if not negligible: in 1990-2017 authors from Indian and (mainland) Chinese universities published a total of 10.1 contributions, slightly more than Finland. Thus, the distribution by country of contributions in T5-EH differed widely from the tentative estimates by Baten and Muschallik (2012) on the number of economic historians. They reckon that 17 percent of economic historians are working in Japan (1.1 percent of all contributions from 1997 to 2017) and 43 percent in other non-Western countries (4.4 percent).

The early dominance of Anglo-Saxon countries and the recent success of Continental European ones appears clearly also from the list of the top 25 institutions (Table 11). The University of Oxford, the London School of Economics (LSE) and the University of Cambridge held the three top spots overall and in each period, but for the third place of Harvard University during the Cliometric Revolution. Four Continental European universities, including Moscow State University, appear in the list in the first period, but they disappear in the second and third. In contrast, in 1997-2017, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Utrecht University and Lund University are respectively fourth, sixth and eight and four other universities (Tubingen, Copenhagen, Antwerp and Munich) are in the list of the top twenty-five institutions. The rise has continued to present: in the last five years the number of Continental European universities has risen to eleven, with a cumulated share higher than the British one (14.6 percent vs. 14 percent). In contrast, and somewhat

surprisingly, few American universities appear in the top 25 in recent years. The best placed one, Harvard University, is fourth in the all-time ranking 1927-2017 and has slipped to the ninth position in 2013-2017. Major institutions, such as Stanford University, University of Chicago, University of California Berkeley, Yale University, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) hardly make the top ten in the ranking and many of them are altogether missing in some periods. Other universities appear in quite high positions in specific periods, such as the University of Washington and the University of Wisconsin in 1961-1996 (respectively sixth and eighth) or the University of California Davis (eighth in 1997-2017), when they employed some prominent economic historians.

Table 11 about here

The combination of the high country share and comparatively low shares of top universities clearly reflects the large number of American institutions. Indeed, in the 1940s the Herfindhal-Hirschman index of concentration of contributions was about a third the British one (Figure 17a-b).¹⁵ It declined sharply during the Cliometric Revolution (Whaples 1991), when the popularity of (by then) “new” economic history stimulated departments of economics all over the country to hire prominent young scholars and remained pretty stable thereafter. The British pattern differed somewhat. The decline from the high initial level continued until the 1970s, but the concentration rebounded in the XXI century. In 2013-2017, the top three universities (Oxford, Cambridge and LSE) produced 45 percent of all contributions from the United Kingdom, corresponding to almost a tenth of the world total. The worldwide concentration by institutions (Figure 17c) was quite high before WWII, when the number of articles was low.

Figure 17a-c about here

Unsurprisingly, given the size of the country, trends in worldwide concentration are quite similar to American ones, with sharp decline in the 1960s and stagnation to present. In

¹⁵ We compute concentration with Herfindhal indexes on ten-year rolling windows (i.e. 1931 is compute with data 1927-1936). The statement refers to the average 1945-2012, excluding the first period, when American contributions to the *EHR* were few and thus highly concentrated.

all likelihood, the success of Continental European universities compensated the growing concentration in the United Kingdom.

6. Measuring the impact of economic history articles with citations

The citations count has become the standard gauge to measure the impact of research first in scientific fields and, more recently, in social science and economics (Card and Della Vigna 2013, Hamermesh 2018). In Section 2, we have used total citations to assess the influence of different journals. Here we shift our attention to articles in the T5-EH, using, as explained in Section 3, the number of citations according to *Scopus*.¹⁶ In this case, we have the number of citations received yearly since 1970 for almost all articles of the database and not only the total number of citations by journals.¹⁷ The raw average number is for this reason a flawed measure of the impact of recent articles and thus in Figure 18 we compare the average number of citations received by each yearly cohort of articles at three different time horizons – i.e. 2, 5 and 10 years after publication.

Figure 18 about here

Articles from the last cohort (respectively 2015, 2012 and 2007) for the three time horizons have been cited around eight times more frequently than articles published in the 1970s. The absolute number jumps, for the ten years horizon, from 2.3 for the 1970 cohort to 18.8 for the 2007 one. The increase reflects both the growth in the number of journals included in *Scopus* and the “citation inflation”, that is the increase of the number of references per article included in the more recent articles which has been documented in scientific fields (Neff and Olden 2010) and in economics too (Anauati, Galiani and Galvez 2016).

Figure 18 by construction omits all citations received after the tenth year since publication, which account for 78 percent of the total received for the article published up to

¹⁶ For a more detailed discussion of this issue, including an econometric analysis of citation success, see Cioni, Federico and Vasta (2019).

¹⁷ We recall here that 241 articles, 169 published after 1970, are not included in *Scopus*.

1997.¹⁸ This very long life cycle can differentiate economic history from economics: the articles in T5-E received most citations in the first ten years after publication and almost no citations thereafter (Anuati, Galiani and Galvez 2016).¹⁹ We speculate that articles in economic history continue to be quoted many years after publication as source of data or information. By the way, this longevity might imply that indexes with short time horizons such as the IF and the SNIP seriously underestimate the overall impact of economic history research.

The increase in average number of citations by cohort seems to have been determined by a reduction in the number of not cited articles rather than by an increase in the number of citations of the most cited articles. We document the change by comparing the distribution of citations after 5 years since publication for articles published in 1970-1996 and in 1997-2012 (Figure 19).

Figure 19 about here

As usual in most scientific fields (Seglen 1992), the curve for 1970-1996 cohorts is strongly left skewed: the median is 1 and about a third of all articles got no citations at all. In contrast, the curve for the most recent cohorts exhibits bimodality, with a median of 5 and a share of non-cited articles down to 6.8 percent. The combined sum of articles with 0 and 1 citation falls from 53.2 percent in 1970-1996 to only 17.4 percent in 1997-2017. The change might be explained by the growing number of self-citations, those where authors cite their own work (Fowler and Aksnes 2007, Seeber et al 2018), but, jointly with the longevity of economic history articles, it points to a clear specificity of the discipline. The change in the left side of the distribution has not been matched by a parallel shift in the other side. The kurtosis indexes are high and similar for the two distributions (33.9 and 30.9). The contribution of the most cited articles (the top 1 and the top 10 percent) has not changed

¹⁸ Our analysis is here limited to 1997 because, for the sake of comparison, we need to have a period of at least ten years after the first ten years since the publication.

¹⁹ Anuati Galiani and Galvez (2016) use *Google Scholar* rather than *Scopus* as source, but the number of citations are strongly correlated. It is worth noting that *Google Scholar* reports a larger number of citations from WP, books and so on, which are rarely accounted in *Scopus*. It is worth mentioning that the top 10 most cited articles of our database after 1970 have a total of 6,922 citations in *Scopus* and three times (21,786) in *Google Scholar* (data extracted 10 October 2018).

that much. Overall, the 1 percent top cited articles for the entire period garnered 15 percent of total citations and the top 10 percent about 40 percent of the total. As said, this is a crude measure since it lumps together periods with different citations' habits and articles with a different age. All articles are cited now more than in the past, but younger articles have had less time to accumulate citations than older ones. However, the shares of top articles on total citations do not change substantially between sub-periods (Table 12).

Table 12 about here

A look at the list of the twenty top cited articles by sub-period (Table 13 a-d) illustrates some of the changes we have discussed in the paper. All articles in the first period (Table 13a) were published in the *EHR*, by definition, and got very few citations. The top one would not make the top twenty in any other period. This comparison is unfair as the database does not register citations received before 1970, but still meaningful given the longevity of economic history articles. The second period (Table 13b) shows the growing relevance of the *JEH*, which has 11 articles between the top 20, even if the most cited article (*The imperialism of free trade*), with 630 citations, by Gallagher and Robinson was published in *EHR* in 1953. The second most cited article (*The creative response in economic history*) was published on the *JEH* by Schumpeter in 1947. Articles published in the *JEH* dominate the ranking in the third period (Table 13c), with 16 articles in the top 20, 9 in the top 10 and the most cited article in the whole database, the famous 1989 article (*Constitutions and commitment: the evolution of institutions governing public choice in seventeenth-century England*) by the Nobel laureate North and Weingast. It received a total of 1,867 citations – i.e. 67 per year (and 120 per year in the last five ones, as evidence of the longevity of economic history works). This specific paper is clearly exceptional, but in general all top papers have had a long citation life receiving about 80 percent of the citations after the tenth year since publication. That paper did not use econometrics (just few tables), and it was not an exception. During the Cliometric Revolution, the proportion of econometric articles was slightly lower among the most cited articles (5 out of 20) than in the full database (928 out of 3,173) and the highest-ranked one (*Proto-industrialization: the*

first phase of the industrialization process), by Mendels (1972) is only sixth. None of the articles on institutions and innovation, which account for half of the top 20 in those years, used econometrics tools.

The 1997-2017 period (Table 13d) shows the growing diversification of the field in terms of journals and issues. All the T5-EH are represented in the list: indeed, both *EREH* and *CLIO*, the two newcomers journals, have one article each, while the *EHR* is back as the most represented journal (10 articles). Articles on issues we defined in Section 4 as “personal conditions and behaviour” accounted for almost half of the total. Indeed, at the top of the ranking we find the articles by Allen (2001) on real wages in early modern Europe (*The great divergence in European wages and prices from the middle ages to the first World War*) and by Komlos (1998) on heights (*Shrinking in a growing economy? The mystery of physical stature during the industrial revolution*). Furthermore, the list of top twenty confirms three already noticed trends: *i*) the increase in the number of co-authored articles, which has risen to 5 (one of which with five authors); *ii*) the increasing presence of female authors, which was very sporadic in the previous periods, while, in this latter, the articles with at least one woman as author account for more than a third (7); *iii*) the notable growth of the contributions by authors from Continental Europeans. They were absent in the first three periods, with the exception of an article, published in 1929 in *EHR*, by Sombart (*Economic theory and Economic history*), while accounted for 30 percent of articles in the last period.

Table 13a-d about here

7. Lost in transition?

As said in the introduction, economic history in recent times is going through a phase of transition with many changes. These changes are visible both in the conspicuous intensification of the relationship with economics (although not necessarily with the T5-E), appeared in the citation patterns (Section 2), and in the increasing role played by Continental Europeans in the T5-EH journals, also in the American ones (Sections 4 and 5). The conventional wisdom of this transformation holds that in recent times the distinction

between economic history and economics has been disappearing, as economists have started to study historical issues and economic historians have adopted approaches and methods of economics (Margo 2018, Diebolt and Hauptert 2018a, 2018b). There is also some empirical evidence for this process of integration of economic history into economics. According to Abramitzky (2015: tab. 1), the share of economic history articles in the *AER* and *QJE* has sharply increased respectively from 3.6 percent and 1.8 percent in 1985-1994 to 6.6 percent and 10.8 percent in 2004-2014, although it has declined in *JPE*, from 5.7 percent to 3.8 percent.

In this Section, we explore this change by comparing articles on economic history issues published in T5-E from 2001 to 2017 with all articles published in the T5-EH in the same period. First, we would ascertain how many of the former are due to the growing interest of economists in the field, or to a new generation of economic historians who, pushed by careers perspective, have discovered a “new” outlet for their work. Second, we would test if this “new” outlet have transformed, in terms of approaches and methodologies, the main features of economic history. Finally, and more ambitiously, we would understand if the rise of a new paradigm, based on the “Historical economics” approach, will force economic history to become an idiosyncratic branch of applied economics. Or, on the contrary, it will only contribute to fertilize the discipline with new theoretical and advanced econometrics tools.

Our selection (Section 3) has yielded a total of 272 economic history articles (about 16 per year) in the T5-E f.²⁰ They account for slightly less than 4 percent of all articles published in those journals, with no clear upward trend in the share and in the number (Figure 20a-b). Two thirds of these articles (182) have been published in the *AER*. This total includes 70 short pieces (less than six pages long), mostly published in the *Papers and Proceedings*, which we include for the sake of comparability with the economic history database. The *QJE* accounts for a fifth of the total (52 articles), while economic history have played a relatively minor role in the *JPE* (25 articles or 9.2 percent) and a marginal one in

²⁰ The number of articles differs slightly from the quoted data by Abramitzky (2015) because of the different criteria for the selection of economic history articles. For instance, he excludes *Papers and Proceedings* of the *AER*. The aggregate shares differ because we consider all the T5-E rather than only *AER*, *JPE* and *QJE*.

ECMA (7 articles) and *RES* (6 articles). The more traditional “History” approach still prevails, with two thirds of all articles, while “Historical economics” articles account for only 13.2 percent of the total (36 articles) and “Model testing” for the rest (54). We have decided to exclude the latter from the analysis, as we reckon that they belong to a totally different, mainly theoretical, research agenda.

Figure 20a-b

This decision leaves a sample of 218 economic history articles in T5-E, to be compared with the 2,036 articles in the T5-EH in the same period. The exercise yields some similarities in the share of female authors (17.8 percent for T5-E vs. 15.4 percent for T5-EH), of comparative papers (25.1 percent vs. 19.7 percent) and also in the distribution by period, although the prevalence of articles on “Modern” is more pronounced in T5-E (77.9 percent) than in T5-EH (only 67.7 percent). However, differences seem to prevail between the two samples. The share of co-authored articles is much higher in T5-E (70.6 percent vs. 48.2 percent) but international collaborations are rarer in T5-E (27.3 percent) than in T5-EH (34.6 percent). This is a consequence of the most striking difference between the two sets of data. Over three quarters of authors of economic history articles in the T5-E are affiliated to American universities (78.2 percent vs 32.2 in the T5-EH journals). American universities occupy nine out of the top ten positions in the ranking, with Harvard University, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and MIT as the first three. The first European university, Pompeu Fabra University, is the seventh in the ranking, LSE is only twelfth, University of Cambridge is below the seventy-fifth position and University of Oxford does not appear at all. There is thus a huge cleavage among institutions, which is reflected also in the modest overlapping between authors in T5-EH and T5-E.

Amongst the 293 authors who have published at least one article of “History” or “Historical economics”, only one third (98 people) of them have also published in the T5-EH. Three quarters of these authors (75.5 percent) have an American affiliation and not all of them are mostly economic historians. In fact, 41 out of 98 have published less than two

(fractionally weighted) contributions to T5-EH and 17 have published less than one. Thus, there is clear evidence of a divergent publication strategy between scholars in the United States and Europe. American economic historians aim to publish in the T5-E. This seems to be the result of the incentives in United States (top) economics departments, which are increasingly using the publications in the T5-E as the key criteria in their decision about tenures and salaries (Gibson, Anderson and Tressler 2014, Heckman and Moktan 2018). The reduced supply of articles from the United States for the T5-EH might explain part of the increase in the share of the Continental European authors²¹

This tendency leads, as illustrated in Figure 21, to a shift in the topics of the articles which, in the T5-E, are more oriented towards institutions (21.1 vs. 13.7 percent), labour (11.0 vs. 6.1 percent) and population and demography (10.6 vs. 4.7 percent). The interest in institutions is particularly evident for “Historical economics” articles since they account for a third of the total. In contrast, articles in the T5-EH deal more with productive sectors (jointly “Agriculture”, “Industry” and “Services” account for 14.6 percent vs. 5.5 percent in T5-E) and, as a consequence of the lively worldwide debate of the last years, with “Standard of living” issues (12.4 vs. 5.5).

Figure 21

This divergent trend is also visible looking at the articles by geographical area. The distribution in the T5-E is clearly oriented towards the American continent, reflecting the large presence of American scholars (Figure 22). In contrast, Europe is becoming the main geographical area of analysis of the T5-EH, while both T5-E and T5-EH have published few articles on Africa, Asia and Oceania. Although the difference in the use of all econometric techniques is substantial but not huge (85.3 percent for T5-E and 71.4 percent for T5-EH),

²¹ This is only a first assessment of this phenomenon, which might need to explore a wider range of journals. According to the analysis of Section 2, we could select, amongst the “other economics” journals, the five ones which have got and done the higher number of citations in 2017. They are the *Journal of Economic Literature*, the *Journal of Economic Development*, the *Journal of Economic Growth*, the *Economic Journal* and, the *Review of Economics and Statistics*. Also the publication in these journals is a powerful determinant for academic careers.

articles in T5-E use advanced econometrics four times more frequently than articles in economic history journals (44.1 percent vs. 11.6 percent).

Figure 22

The citation analysis allow us to understand how the strategy to find new outlet for economic history issues can be rewarding. Economics is a much larger field than economic history, and thus publishing in its general journals is much more likely to attract attention and citations. The raw difference is huge: articles published in the T5-E have received almost ten time more citations than articles in the T5-EH (103.8 on average vs 13.4). “Historical economics” articles are particularly successful (253.2 citations on average) but also “History” articles are cited much more (74.2 times). It is possible that the difference would be smaller in the long run, if economic history articles in T5-E will share the fast decay after then years of average articles in those journals (Section 6). Furthermore, the statistics are skewed by two path-breaking contributions (*The colonial origins of comparative development: an empirical investigation* and *Reversal of fortune: geography and institutions in the making of the modern world income distribution*), by Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson (2001, 2002), which has received respectively 3,440 and 1,338 citations, more than 20 percent of the whole total. Nevertheless, it is evident that the publication in the T5-E provides for economic historians more opportunities in terms of careers and also more visibility. Our data have shown that the process of integration of economic history into economics seems to be rather slow. If, on the one hand, it is evident that the decline of interest in economic history, illustrated by McCloskey (1976), up to the mid-1970s is inverted, on the other hand, our data have shown that this phenomenon is still rather limited to a small number of American economic historians.

8. Conclusions

In this paper, we have focused on five journals, which we have selected for their central position in economic history, but not only in it. We have shown that, at least since 1997 (unfortunately data prevent to go further back in time), they attract interest from different

fields, including not only “economics” and “history”, but also “other social sciences” and even “other” (mostly scientific) disciplines. Connections with economics have been strengthening a lot in the last two decades, with the partial exception of the T5-E, buttressing the conventional wisdom on the integration of economic history into economics. We have stressed that the differences amongst the T5-EH are a legacy of the history of the journals. These differences have an impact on our quantitative analysis of trends. The *EHR* and, to a lesser extent, the *JEH* had a long pre-Cliometric tradition, with a very strong home bias, and their transformation after the Revolution took some years (more for the *EHR* than for the *JEH*). In contrast, the *EEH* was since its beginning a cliometric journal. These three journals have converged in the last decade towards a common model, which has been adopted also by the two newcomers, the *EREH* and *CLIO*. Yet, differences still persist. The home bias, although somewhat reduced, is still strong, as shown by the fairly low share of comparative articles and some differences still remain, for instance, in the use of advanced econometric tools.

We have collected all relevant information on the articles published in the T5-EH since the beginning, and on their authors. We have also built a comparable database for the economic history articles published in the T5-E from 2001 to 2017. This wealth of information has made it possible to enrich and, in several key points, modify the conventional wisdom about the evolution of economic history, which relies on incomplete data and, more frequently, on qualitative evidence. Our results can be summarized in the following three major points:

i) the decades before the Cliometric Revolution cannot be considered a single period dominated by a vaguely defined traditional or historical approach. Actually, it is arguably the most stark case of the impact of a new journal on the discipline. Before 1940, the *EHR* had published few articles, almost exclusively on British subjects, and largely focused on “Medieval” and “Early modern” periods. The *JEH* was much bigger since the early years, and, given the home bias, there was a big increase in American issues and consequently a massive shift towards the “Modern” period. But the differences were also methodological, at least

according to the authoritative opinion of Charles Feinstein: “I’ve always thought that the Americans needed the cliometric revolution because their work had lacked quantitative analysis entirely; whereas in Britain, we’d had a very long tradition of it. This was not cliometric in the shiny sense that it developed in America, with neoclassical economics and econometrics at its core, but it was deeply quantitative in terms of measuring what happened and making the numbers the basis for any analysis” (Thomas 2007: 293).

ii) the Cliometric Revolution took quite a long time to fully display its effects, even in the American journals. Our database cannot capture the use of neoclassical economic reasoning, but it does show that the topic distribution did not change that much and above all that the share of articles using econometrics increased very slowly (and they were not so prominent in terms of impact). They become the majority only in the 1990s, many years after the success of the (by then) “new” economic historians in their *Methodenstreit* with “traditional” ones. In all likelihood, the accomplishment of the Revolution had to wait for the early phase of the “4D (Digitally-Driven Data Design) economic history” in which personal computer and software packages made easy to manage data, produce figures and use econometric tools (Mitchener 2015).

iii) The recent strong emphasis on the integration of economic history into economics, captures only part of the big changes in the discipline in the last twenty years. Our analysis of the economic history articles in T5-E not only shows that the movement was almost exclusively American in terms of authors, institutions and issues but also downplays its size. The total number of economic history articles has undoubtedly risen relative to the dark period of the 1970s and 1980s (McCloskey 1976, 1987), but until 2017 has remained relatively modest. Furthermore, only a small minority of them adopted the innovative “Historical economics” approach *à la* Acemoglu. Most articles either tested models with historical data or dealt with major “historical” issues such as the Great depression, inequality and labour. Even more remarkably, the literature neglects the other major change of the last twenty year, the growing share of articles in the T5-EH by scholars affiliated to Continental European universities, which, given the strong and persistent home bias, caused a parallel

increase in articles on Europe. The overall success of Europe-based scholars has been helped by the establishment of two European journals (*EREH* and *CLIO*), but they also have succeeded to publish a growing number of articles in British and American journals. These two big changes are to some extent related: the shift in publication strategy by many American economic historians has increased the opportunities from scholars from other continents to publish in the T5-EH. In theory, these trends might be the harbinger of a renewed divergence between the two shores of the Atlantic, but they might also signal the rise of a new paradigm, based on “Historical economics” approach, for economic history. It is too early to tell.

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Tables and Figures

Tab. 1. *The impact of economic history journals in 2013-2017*

Journal	Established	Included in WoS with IF since	Included in Scopus with SNIP since	IF	SNIP	Scimago Quartiles History	Scimago Quartiles Economics and Econometrics
<i>Economic History Review</i>	1927	1997	1999	1.123	1.975	Q1	Q1
<i>Journal of Economic History</i>	1941	1997	1999	1.109	1.643	Q1	Q1
<i>Explorations in Economic History</i>	1969 ¹	2007	1999	0.956	1.465	Q1	Q1
<i>European Review of Economic History</i>	1997	2009	2002	0.829	1.352	Q1	Q1
<i>Cliometrica</i>	2007	2010	2008	0.884	0.960	Q1	Q2
<i>Business History</i>	1958	1997	1999	0.778	1.004	Q1	
<i>Business History Review</i>	1926	1997	1999	0.714	1.407	Q1	
<i>Enterprise & Society</i>	2000	2006	2001	0.488	1.152	Q3/Q1	
<i>Australian Economic History Review</i>	1956	1997	1999 ²	0.401	0.619	Q1/Q2	Q3/Q4
<i>Entreprises et Histoire</i>	1992		2002 ³		0.360	Q2/Q3	Q3/Q4
<i>Financial History Review</i>	1994		1999 ⁴		0.872	Q1	
<i>Historical Social Research</i>	1979	2008	2007	0.246	0.566	Q2/Q1	
<i>International Review of Social History</i>	1956	1997	1999	0.354	1.082	Q1	
<i>Investigaciones de Historia Economica</i>	2005		2006 ⁵		0.707	Q2/Q1	Q4/Q3
<i>Journal of European Economic History</i>	1972		2013 ⁶		0.828	Q1/Q3 ⁶	Q2/Q4 ⁶
<i>Journal of Global History</i>	2006	2010	2007	0.739	1.941	Q1	
<i>Journal of Interdisciplinary History</i>	1970	1997	1999	0.510	1.173	Q1	
<i>Journal of Management History</i>	1995		2007		0.652		
<i>Management & Organizational History</i>	2006		2007		0.628	Q1	
<i>Revista de Historia Economica - Journal of Iberian and Latin American Economic History</i>	1983	2010	1999	0.351	0.657	Q2/Q1	Q4/Q3
<i>Revista de Historia Industrial</i>	1992	2011	2012	0.231	0.661		
<i>Scandinavian Economic History Review</i>	1953		1999		0.857	Q2/Q1	
<i>Social Science History</i>	1976	1997	1999	0.272	0.863	Q2/Q1	

Sources: for IF: *Journal of Citation Reports*, Clarivate Analytics (www.jcr.incites.thomsonreuters.com/) data extracted on 15 September 2018; for SNIP: CiteScore™ Calculated by *Scopus* on 15 September 2018; for Scimago Quartiles: www.scimagojr.com/ data extracted on 18 September 2018.

Notes: ¹ previously titled *Explorations in entrepreneurial history* (1948-1959 and 1963-mid-1969); ² gap between 2004-2006; ³ gap between 2007-2008; ⁴ gap in 2003; ⁵ gap between 2009-2011; ⁶ data only for 2013-2015.

Tab. 2. *The T5-EH journals in the most important international rankings*

Journals	CNRS (2017) 1-4	KMS (2011) #	ABS (2018) 4-1
<i>Economic History Review</i>	1	84	4
<i>Journal of Economic History</i>	1	38	3
<i>Explorations in Economic History</i>	2	55	3
<i>European Review of Economic History</i>	2	-	3
<i>Cliometrica</i>	2	-	2

Sources and Notes: see text.

Tab. 3. *The impact of T5-EH journals in the long run (1997-2017)*

Year	<i>Economic History Review</i>			<i>Journal of Economic History</i>			<i>Explorations in Economic History</i>			<i>European Review of Economic History</i>			<i>Cliometrica</i>		
	IF	5-Year IF	SNIP	IF	5-Year IF	SNIP	IF	5-Year IF	SNIP	IF	5-Year IF	SNIP	IF	5-Year IF	SNIP
1997	0.919			0.716			1.022								
1998	1.127			0.857			0.452								
1999	0.654		1.382	0.679		1.342	0.216		0.807						
2000	1.419		1.566	0.654		0.985	0.429		0.818						
2001	0.902		1.339	0.566		1.223	0.559		1.158						
2002	0.788		0.880	0.438		1.387	0.846		1.521			2.250			
2003	0.722		2.137	0.449		1.033	0.622		1.221			1.980			
2004	0.689		1.364	0.769		1.563	0.361		1.213			0.973			
2005	1.051		1.681	0.529		1.274	0.818		1.352			0.788			
2006	0.600		1.381	0.486		1.258	0.5		1.405			0.605			
2007	1.171	0.933	2.147	1.015	0.971	1.733	0.667	0.802	1.525			1.637			
2008	0.897	0.889	2.911	0.73	0.86	1.733	0.467	0.737	1.292			1.295			0.710
2009	0.885	1.08	2.084	0.691	1.058	1.524	0.576	0.721	1.162	0.828		1.008			1.902
2010	0.843	1.115	2.508	1.042	1.244	2.226	1.222	1.237	1.558	0.594		1.896	0.957	0.939	1.347
2011	0.781	0.986	3.001	1.015	1.12	2.196	0.935	0.898	1.215	0.774		1.891	0.480	0.717	0.938
2012	1.045	1.073	2.322	0.766	1.096	1.412	0.686	0.873	1.358	1.206	1.405	2.058	1.615	1.153	1.677
2013	1.321	1.217	2.341	1.032	1.341	1.521	0.757	0.917	1.120	0.733	0.913	1.509	1.036	0.75	1.320
2014	0.872	1.1	2.069	1.29	1.288	1.775	0.866	1.09	1.783	0.957	1.031	1.669	0.759	0.776	0.849
2015	1.000	1.332	1.873	0.742	1.23	1.768	1	1.286	1.763	0.619	0.892	1.092	0.731	0.746	1.253
2016	1.233	1.403	1.762	1.101	1.27	1.468	0.979	1.27	1.317	0.814	0.991	1.306	1.192	0.868	0.511
2017	1.187	1.671	1.833	1.379	1.46	1.682	1.176	1.444	1.344	1.023	1.205	1.186	0.704	1.132	0.870
Rate of change Cumulated increase	1.04ns 23.2%		2.89** 68.1%	3.35*** 95.4%		2.36*** 53.0%	4.00*** 122.7%		2.01*** 45.7%						

Sources: for IF: *Journal of Citation Reports*, Clarivate analytics (www.jcr.incites.thomsonreuters.com/) Data extracted on 15 September 2018; for SNIP: CiteScore™ Calculated by *Scopus* on 15 September 2018.

Notes: ns: not significant; significance levels: ** 0.05 *** 0.01.

Tab. 4.a *The distribution of citations done in 1997 by T3-EH journals*

Journals	EHR	JEH	EEH	EREH*	T3-EH	T5-E	T3-BH	Other EH	Other Economics	Other social sciences	History	Others	Total
<i>Economic History Review</i>	16.9	6.5	2.8	0.3	26.5	3.6	4.3	4.2	7.7	12.1	35.3	6.3	100.0
<i>Journal of Economic History</i>	8.9	24.0	7.8	-	40.7	13.0	0.9	3.6	22.6	3.7	12.6	2.8	100.0
<i>Explorations in Economic History</i>	4.6	20.5	11.7	-	36.7	12.4	-	3.5	17.0	9.2	14.1	7.1	100.0
Total	11.5	15.8	6.4	0.1	33.8	8.8	2.2	3.8	15.1	8.4	22.7	5.2	100.0

Tab. 4.b *The distribution of citations done in 2017 by T5-EH journals*

Journals	EHR	JEH	EEH	EREH	CLIO	T5-EH	T5-E	T3-BH	Other EH	Other Economics	Other social sciences	History	Others	Total
<i>Economic History Review</i>	10.7	9.0	5.1	5.2	0.5	30.4	7.2	2.8	7.1	18.4	6.6	15.5	12.0	100.0
<i>Journal of Economic History</i>	6.0	15.6	5.3	1.5	-	28.4	18.9	0.9	3.2	28.4	7.4	7.4	5.4	100
<i>Explorations in Economic History</i>	2.3	9.0	7.8	0.5	-	19.5	23.9	0.3	0.5	36.6	7.3	4.4	7.3	100
<i>European Review of Economic History</i>	10.9	12.9	6.3	5.1	2.3	37.5	15.6	1.2	3.9	25.0	3.5	12.5	0.8	100
<i>Cliometrica</i>	7.6	7.3	10.2	7.6	5.4	38.1	15.3	-	5.9	33.6	3.1	1.7	2.3	100
Total	7.5	10.6	6.4	3.6	1.0	29.2	15.2	1.3	4.4	27.0	6.2	9.3	7.3	100

Sources: elaborations on data extracted by InCites *Journal of Citation Reports*, Clarivate Analytics, www.jcr.incites.thomsonreuters.com/ data extracted on 19 September 2018.

Notes: from the total citations done are excluded all documents cited less than 2 times (because the source allows to identify single documents only if they have been cited at least 2 times), books, sources, working papers and thesis. These excluded documents represent 66.9% on total in 1997 and 66.9% in 2017. *EREH was established in 1997, for completeness its received citations are included in the Table 4a.

Tab. 5.a *The distribution of citations received in 1997 by T3-EH journals*

Journals	EHR	JEH	EEH	T3-EH	T5-E	T3-BH	Other EH	Other Economics	Other social sciences	History	Others	Total
<i>Economic History Review</i>	29.4	13.5	3.5	46.4	0.5	8.6	1.6	5.9	5.1	28.0	3.8	100.0
<i>Journal of Economic History</i>	7.8	25.1	10.8	43.7	3.2	1.9	9.1	18.6	11.2	10.4	2.0	100.0
<i>Explorations in Economic History</i>	11.5	28.0	21.0	60.5	1.3	3.8	9.6	17.2	2.5	5.1	-	100.0
Total	15.9	21.5	9.8	47.1	2.0	4.5	6.6	14.0	7.8	15.8	2.3	100.0

Tab. 5.b *The distribution of citations received in 2017 by T5-EH journals*

Journals	EHR	JEH	EEH	EREH	CLIO	T5-EH	T5-E	T3-BH	Other EH	Other Economics	Other social sciences	History	Others	Total
<i>Economic History Review</i>	9.1	3.5	1.2	2.4	2.2	18.4	0.6	5.3	9.5	14.4	11.8	28.3	11.7	100.0
<i>Journal of Economic History</i>	5.5	6.4	3.4	2.0	1.6	18.9	1.0	3.1	8.8	32.5	14.5	12.6	8.5	100.0
<i>Explorations in Economic History</i>	7.3	5.0	2.3	6.9	5.2	26.7	1.0	1.6	11.1	35.1	10.3	8.0	6.2	100.0
<i>European Review of Economic History</i>	18.7	3.6	1.1	4.7	9.7	37.8	0.7	2.5	15.8	14.7	8.3	16.2	4.0	100.0
<i>Cliometrica</i>	6.4	-	-	7.7	24.4	38.5	-	-	11.5	37.2	2.6	5.1	5.1	100.0
Total	7.9	4.9	2.3	3.3	3.5	21.9	0.9	3.4	10.0	26.3	12.2	16.6	8.7	100.0

Sources: elaborations on data extracted by InCites *Journal of Citation Reports*, Clarivate Analytics (www.jcr.incites.thomsonreuters.com/) data extracted on 19 September 2018.

Notes: from the total citations received are excluded all document cited less than 2 times (because the source allows to identify single documents only if they cited articles in T5-EH at least 2 times), books, sources, working papers and thesis. These excluded documents represent 16.4% on total in 1997 and 28.7% in 2017.

Tab. 6. *The database at a glance*

Journal	Covered years	N. articles	Average articles/year	Average pages/year
<i>Economic History Review</i>	91	2,395	26.3	17.7
<i>Journal of Economic History</i>	77	2,491	32.4	19.8
<i>Explorations in Economic History</i>	49	1,139	23.2	20.4
<i>European Review of Economic History</i>	21	346	16.5	26.3
<i>Cliometrica</i>	11	145	13.2	25.3
Total		6,516	71.6	19.6

Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Tab. 7. *Classification of articles' topics*

	Topic	Description	Jel Code
1	Agriculture	Agriculture (including forestry and fishing), land policy, natural resources, energy and environmental history	N5
2	Human capital	Human capital and education	N3
3	Trade	Trade and trade policies. Market integration (commodities).	N7
4	Standard of living	Wages, consumption, biological standard of living (heights, wellness and health)	N3
5	Growth	Growth, national accounts and economic fluctuations. General economic history (also industrialization process) of a specific geographical area (continent, country and region)	N1
6	Finance	Banking and financial systems, private investment and capital markets (domestic and international, including integration) and credit regulation	N2
7	Firm	Business history on specific companies in industry and banking, entrepreneurship	N8
8	Industry	Manufacturing, mining and construction. Industrial policy	N6
9	Innovation	Innovation and technology	N7
10	Institutions	Institutions, regulation, role of culture and religion, empires and imperial expansion. Electoral issues and general politics, war	N4
11	Macroeconomic and monetary policies	Monetary and fiscal policy, central banking	N1
12	Services	Insurance, transportation (roads, railways and canals) including construction. Retailing.	N7
13	Income distribution	Inequality and wealth distribution	N1
14	Population and demography	Demographic behaviour (birth, marriage and mortality), famines and their demographic effects, migrations, urbanization and city growth	N3
15	Labour	Labour force (including gender issue), slavery (including trade), industrial relations and trade unions, welfare state (including pensions)	N3
16	HET	History of Economic Thought	B
17	EH	Economic History discipline	N01

Sources: our own database.

Tab. 8. *Share of articles' topics by period*

Topic	1927-1940	1941-1960	1961-1996	1997-2017
Agriculture	11.7	10.3	10.9	5.7
Economic History as a discipline (EH)	14.9	6.6	2.7	0.9
Finance	6.5	7.4	8.3	12.4
Firm	5.2	8.3	2.3	1.8
Growth	9.1	11.3	12.7	10.5
History of Economic Thought (HET)	1.3	6.4	1.2	0.2
Human capital	0.0	0.1	1.5	3.1
Income distribution	0.6	0.4	1.6	3.1
Industry	7.1	11.4	9.4	6.3
Innovation	1.9	1.6	3.0	3.8
Institutions	15.6	9.2	8.6	13.3
Labour	5.2	6.0	10.1	6.7
Macroeconomic and monetary policies	1.3	4.0	6.4	5.6
Population and demography	2.6	1.7	4.4	4.6
Services	1.3	4.8	3.2	3.1
Standard of living	4.5	2.6	6.9	12.6
Trade	11.0	7.8	6.6	6.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Number of articles</i>	154	769	3,173	2,420

Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Tab. 9. *Co-authorship: number of authors per article by period*

No. of authors per article	1927-1940	1941-1960	1961-1996	1997-2017	Total
1	94.2	96.4	82.9	54.5	74.2
2	5.8	3.3	15.4	33.1	20.3
3	-	0.4	1.7	10.5	4.8
4	-	-	-	1.7	0.6
5	-	-	-	0.1	0.0
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Tab. 10.a *Share of nationality of the contributions' authors affiliations by period*

Year	1927-1940	1941-1960	1961-1996	1997-2017	Total
USA	20.0	50.5	56.5	33.9	46.6
UK	64.2	40.7	28.4	25.2	29.3
Canada	-	2.7	5.7	4.9	4.9
Australia	-	0.8	3.1	1.6	2.2
Germany	1.7	0.9	0.5	4.7	2.2
Spain	-	-	0.2	5.1	2.0
Italy	-	0.5	0.4	3.5	1.5
Netherlands	-	0.3	0.3	3.4	1.4
France	5.0	1.2	0.6	2.4	1.4
Sweden	1.7	0.3	0.1	2.9	1.2
Belgium	2.5	0.3	0.3	1.7	0.9
Japan	-	-	0.7	1.1	0.7
Israel	-	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.6
Ireland	-	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.6
Denmark	-	-	0.1	1.4	0.6
Switzerland	-	0.1	0.2	0.9	0.5
New Zealand	-	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.5
South Korea	-	-	0.0	0.8	0.3
Norway	-	-	0.1	0.4	0.2
Russia**	4.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
South Africa	-	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.2
Finland	-	-	-	0.4	0.1
India	0.8	-	0.2	0.1	0.1
Turkey	-	-	0.1	0.3	0.1
Portugal	-	-	-	0.4	0.1
Brazil	-	-	0.0	0.3	0.1
China	-	-	0.0	0.2	0.1
Nigeria	-	-	0.2	0.0	0.1
Greece	-	-	0.0	0.2	0.1
Argentina	-	-	0.0	0.2	0.1
Poland	-	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Taiwan	-	-	-	0.2	0.1
Hong Kong	-	-	-	0.2	0.1
Hungary	-	-	0.1	0.0	0.1
Austria	-	-	-	0.2	0.1
Singapore	-	-	0.0	0.1	0.1
Colombia	-	-	-	0.1	0.1
Mexico	-	-	-	0.1	0.0
Perù	-	-	-	0.1	0.0
United Arab Emirates	-	-	-	0.1	0.0
Bulgaria	-	-	0.0	0.0	0.0
Czech Republic*	-	0.1	0.0	-	0.0
Jamaica	-	0.1	0.0	-	0.0
Malaysia	-	-	0.0	-	0.0
Zambia	-	-	0.0	-	0.0
Uruguay	-	-	-	0.1	0.0
Estonia	-	-	-	0.0	0.0
Iceland	-	-	-	0.0	0.0
Kazakhstan	-	-	-	0.0	0.0
Kenya	-	-	0.0	-	0.0
Philippines	-	-	0.0	-	0.0
Saudi Arabia	-	0.1	-	-	0.0
Chile	-	-	-	0.0	0.0
Bolivia	-	-	-	0.0	0.0
Lithuania	-	-	-	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Notes: * until 1992 Czechoslovakia; ** until 1991 USSR.

Tab. 10.b *Share of nationality of the contributions' authors affiliations per million inhabitants by period*

Year	1927-1940	1941-1960	1961-1996	1997-2017
UK	1.6	5.9	15.4	9.2
Sweden	0.3	0.3	0.3	7.0
Denmark	-	-	0.6	5.7
Netherlands	-	0.2	0.6	4.9
Ireland	-	0.7	4.3	4.4
Belgium	0.4	0.2	0.9	3.7
Canada	-	1.1	6.0	3.2
Iceland	-	-	-	3.0
Switzerland	-	0.2	1.0	2.6
Spain	-	-	0.1	2.6
USA	0.2	2.1	6.6	2.5
Israel	-	1.4	3.7	2.2
Norway	-	-	0.5	2.0
New Zealand	-	0.8	5.0	1.9
Finland	-	-	-	1.7
Australia	-	0.6	5.5	1.6
Italy	-	0.1	0.2	1.4
Germany	0.0	0.1	0.2	1.4
France	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.9
Portugal	-	-	-	0.8
Estonia	-	-	-	0.8
Hong Kong	-	-	-	0.6
Greece	-	-	0.1	0.4
Singapore	-	-	0.3	0.4
Austria	-	-	-	0.4
South Korea	-	-	0.0	0.4
Uruguay	-	-	-	0.4
United Arab Emirates	-	-	-	0.3
Japan	-	-	0.2	0.2
Taiwan	-	-	-	0.2
Lithuania	-	-	-	0.2
South Africa	-	0.1	0.0	0.2
Bulgaria	-	-	0.1	0.1
Argentina	-	-	0.0	0.1
Perù	-	-	-	0.1
Colombia	-	-	-	0.1
Turkey	-	-	0.0	0.1
Kazakhstan	-	-	-	0.1
Hungary	-	-	0.4	0.1
Bolivia	-	-	-	0.0
Poland	-	0.0	0.1	0.0
Chile	-	-	-	0.0
Brazil	-	-	0.0	0.0
Mexico	-	-	-	0.0
Russia**	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nigeria	-	-	0.0	0.0
China	-	-	0.0	0.0
India	0.0	-	0.0	0.0
Jamaica	-	0.6	0.4	-
Zambia	-	-	0.2	-
Czech Republic*	-	0.1	0.1	-
Malaysia	-	-	0.1	-
Saudi Arabia	-	0.2	-	-
Kenya	-	-	0.0	-
Philippines	-	-	0.0	-

Sources: elaborations on our own database; for population: *Maddison Project Database*, version 2018 (Bolt, Inklaar, de Jong and van Zanden 2018).

Notes: Population refers to the final year of the period; *until 1992 Czechoslovakia, for both periods population refers to Czechoslovakia; **until 1991 USSR, for the first three period populations refers to USSR.

Tab. 11. *Top 25 affiliations by number of contributions*

#	1927-1940			1941-1960			1961-1996			1997-2017			1927-2017		
	Institution	Area	%	Institution	Area	%	Institution	Area	%	Institution	Area	%	Institution	Area	%
1	University of Oxford	AS	16.8	University of Cambridge	AS	8.2	University of Cambridge	AS	3.2	London School of Economics and Political Science	AS	3.1	University of Cambridge	AS	3.7
2	London School of Economics and Political Science	AS	11.8	London School of Economics and Political Science	AS	5.1	University of Oxford	AS	2.7	University of Oxford	AS	3.0	University of Oxford	AS	3.3
3	University of Cambridge	AS	6.3	University of Oxford	AS	5.0	Harvard University	AS	2.5	University of Cambridge	AS	2.8	London School of Economics and Political Science	AS	2.9
4	University College London	AS	5.0	Harvard University	AS	4.8	London School of Economics and Political Science	AS	1.8	Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	C	1.9	Harvard University	AS	2.5
5	Moscow State University	C	4.2	Columbia University	AS	3.0	University of London	AS	1.6	University of Warwick	AS	1.8	University of London	AS	1.3
6	University of Manchester	AS	4.2	University of Chicago	AS	2.8	University of Washington	AS	1.5	Harvard University	AS	1.7	Yale University	AS	1.2
7	Harvard University	AS	3.4	University of Manchester	AS	2.6	Yale University	AS	1.5	Utrecht University	C	1.7	University of Warwick	AS	1.1
8	Université de Rennes	C	3.4	University College London	AS	2.0	University of Wisconsin	AS	1.4	University of California Davis	AS	1.3	University of Manchester	AS	1.1
9	University of Chicago	AS	3.4	University of Pennsylvania	AS	1.8	University of California Berkeley	AS	1.4	Lund University	C	1.1	University of California Berkeley	AS	1.1
10	Ghent University	C	2.5	Johns Hopkins University	AS	1.8	University of Edinburgh	AS	1.3	University of Reading	AS	1.1	University of Chicago	AS	1.1
11	University of Liverpool	AS	2.5	New York University	AS	1.7	University of Chicago	AS	1.2	Vanderbilt University	AS	1.0	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	AS	1.0
12	Yale University	AS	2.5	University of Glasgow	AS	1.6	Ohio State University	AS	1.2	Stanford University	AS	1.0	University of Edinburgh	AS	1.0
13	University of Sheffield	AS	2.1	University of Nottingham	AS	1.6	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	AS	1.2	University of Tübingen	C	1.0	Stanford University	AS	1.0
14	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	AS	1.7	University of Toronto	AS	1.6	Rutgers University	AS	1.1	University of London	AS	0.9	University of Wisconsin	AS	0.9
15	Stockholm School of Economics	C	1.7	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	AS	1.4	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	AS	1.1	Queen's University Belfast	AS	0.9	University of Washington	AS	0.9
16	University of Birmingham	AS	1.7	University of Wisconsin	AS	1.4	University of Toronto	AS	1.1	University of Glasgow	AS	0.9	University of California Davis	AS	0.9
17	University of Edinburgh	AS	1.7	University of California Berkeley	AS	1.4	University of Manchester	AS	1.1	University of Copenhagen	C	0.8	Rutgers University	AS	0.9
18	University of Glasgow	AS	1.7	Washington D.C.	AS	1.4	Stanford University	AS	1.1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	AS	0.8	University of Toronto	AS	0.8
19	University of Nottingham	AS	1.7	Yale University	AS	1.3	University of Birmingham	AS	1.0	Yale University	AS	0.8	Columbia University	AS	0.8
20	University of Wisconsin	AS	1.7	University of Birmingham	AS	1.2	Australian National University	O	1.0	University of Sussex	AS	0.7	University of Birmingham	AS	0.8
21	Wellesley College	AS	1.7	Cornell University	AS	1.2	University of Warwick	AS	0.9	Simon Fraser University	AS	0.7	Ohio State University	AS	0.8
22	Bedford College	AS	0.8	University of Sheffield	AS	1.2	University of Pennsylvania	AS	0.9	University of Antwerp	C	0.7	University of Glasgow	AS	0.8
23	British Records Association	AS	0.8	University of Leeds	AS	1.2	University of California Davis	AS	0.9	University of Edinburgh	AS	0.7	Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	C	0.7
24	Cornell College	AS	0.8	University of Michigan Ann Arbor	AS	1.0	Indiana University	AS	0.9	University of Munich	C	0.6	Northwestern University	AS	0.7
25	Durham University	AS	0.8	University of London	AS	1.0	Northwestern University	AS	0.9	University of Exeter	AS	0.6	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	AS	0.7
	C25		84.9			57.6			34.4			31.6			32.2

Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Notes: AS: Anglo-Saxon; C: Continental Europe; O: Others.

Tab. 12. *Share of citations received by the most cited articles by periods*

Periods	Citations received by top 1% articles	Citations received by top 10% articles	Total citations received by all articles	% Citations received by top 1% articles out total	% Citations received by top 10% articles out total
1927-1940	65	454	1,006	6.5	45.1
1941-1960	1,974	4,563	8,153	24.2	56.0
1961-1996	9,629	17,791	57,026	16.9	31.2
1997-2017	3,511	14,287	34,664	10.1	41.2
Total	15,179	37,095	100,849	15.1	36.8

Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Tab. 13.a *Twenty most cited articles by period (1927-1940)*

#	Citations received	Citations per year	Authors	Article title	Journal	Year	Topics
1	44	0.94	Shannon, H.A.	The limited companies of 1866-1883	<i>EHR</i>	1933	Institutions
2	41	0.87	Fisher, F.J. (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)	The development of the London food market, 1540-1640	<i>EHR</i>	1935	Standard of living
3	39	0.83	Lewis, Bernard (Princeton University, USA)	The Islamic guilds	<i>EHR</i>	1937	Institutions
4	35	0.74	Stenton, Frank Merry (University of Oxford, UK)	The road system of medieval England	<i>EHR</i>	1936	Services
5	32	0.68	Postan, Micheal Moisse (University College London, UK)	Recent trends in the accumulation of capital	<i>EHR</i>	1935	Growth
6	32	0.68	Habakkuk, Hrothgar John (University of Oxford, UK)	English landownership, 1680-1740	<i>EHR</i>	1940	Agriculture
7	29	0.62	Barbour, Violet (Vassar College, USA)	Dutch And English merchant shipping in the seventeenth century	<i>EHR</i>	1930	Services
8	28	0.60	Postan, Micheal Moisse (University College London, UK)	Credit in medieval trade	<i>EHR</i>	1928	Finance
9	28	0.60	Todd, Geoffrey	Some aspects of joint stock companies, 1844-1900	<i>EHR</i>	1932	Finance
10	27	0.57	Derry, Thomas Kingston (University of Oxford, UK)	The repeal of the apprenticeship clauses of the statute of apprentices	<i>EHR</i>	1931	Standard of living
11	26	0.55	Dale, Marian K.	The London silkwomen of the fifteenth century	<i>EHR</i>	1933	Labour
12	24	0.51	Sombart, Werner (University of Berlin, Germany)	Economic theory and Economic history	<i>EHR</i>	1929	EH
13	24	0.51	Nef, John Ulric (University of Chicago, USA)	The progress of technology and the growth of large-scale industry in Great Britain, 1540-1640	<i>EHR</i>	1934	Industry
14	24	0.51	Fisher, F.J. (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)	Commercial trends and policy in sixteenth-century England	<i>EHR</i>	1940	Trade
15	21	0.45	Jones, P.E. and Judges, A.V.	London population in the late seventeenth century	<i>EHR</i>	1935	Population and demography
16	19	0.40	Elman, P.	The economic causes of the expulsion of the Jews In 1290	<i>EHR</i>	1937	Institutions
17	16	0.34	Tawney, A.J. (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK) and Tawney, Richard Henry (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)	An occupational census of the seventeenth century	<i>EHR</i>	1934	Labour
18	16	0.34	Hamilton, Earl J. (University of Chicago, USA)	Revisions In Economic history: Viii.-The decline of Spain	<i>EHR</i>	1938	Institutions
19	14	0.30	Wagner, Donald O.	Coke and the rise of economic liberalism	<i>EHR</i>	1935	HET
20	13	0.28	Gilboy, Elizabeth Waterman (Wellesley College, USA)	Labour at Thornborough: an eighteenth-century estate	<i>EHR</i>	1932	Standard of living
20	13	0.28	Lennard, Reginald (University of Cambridge, UK)	English agriculture under Charles II: the Evidence of the Royal Society's "enquiries"	<i>EHR</i>	1932	Agriculture
20	13	0.28	Bishop, Tam Alan M. (University of Oxford, UK)	Assarting and the growth of the open fields	<i>EHR</i>	1935	Agriculture

Tab. 13.b *Twenty most cited articles by period (1941-1960)*

#	Citations received	Citations per year	Authors	Article title	Journal	Year	Topics
1	630	13.40	Gallagher, John (University of Cambridge, UK) and Robinson, Ronald (University of Oxford, UK)	The imperialism of free trade	<i>EHR</i>	1953	Institutions
2	528	11.23	Schumpeter, Joseph A. (Harvard University, USA)	The creative response in economic history	<i>JEH</i>	1947	EH
3	237	5.04	Machlup, Fritz (Johns Hopkins University, USA) and Penrose, Edith (Johns Hopkins University, USA)	The patent controversy in the nineteenth century	<i>JEH</i>	1950	Innovation
4	202	4.30	Bohannon, Paul (Northwestern University, USA)	The impact of money on an African subsistence economy	<i>JEH</i>	1959	Institutions
5	135	2.87	Rostow, Walt Whitman (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA)	The stages of economic growth	<i>EHR</i>	1959	Growth
6	127	2.70	North, Douglass C. (University of Washington, USA)	Ocean freight rates and economic development 1750–1913	<i>JEH</i>	1958	Services
7	115	2.45	Stoianovich, Traian (Rutgers University, USA)	The conquering Balkan orthodox merchant	<i>JEH</i>	1960	Trade
8	99	2.11	Yamey, Basil S. (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)	Scientific bookkeeping and the rise of capitalism	<i>EHR</i>	1949	Firm
9	96	2.04	de Roover, Raymond (Boston College, USA)	The concept of the just price: theory and economic policy	<i>JEH</i>	1958	HET
10	94	2.00	Landes, David S. (Harvard University, USA)	French entrepreneurship and industrial growth in the nineteenth century	<i>JEH</i>	1949	Firm
11	82	1.74	Lane, Frederic C. (Johns Hopkins University, USA)	Economic consequences of organized violence	<i>JEH</i>	1958	Institutions
12	71	1.51	Davis, Ralph (University of Hull, UK)	English foreign trade, 1660-1700	<i>EHR</i>	1954	Trade
13	63	1.34	Habakkuk, Hrothgar John (University of Oxford, UK)	Family structure and economic change in nineteenth-century Europe	<i>JEH</i>	1955	Labour
14	60	1.28	Hoover, Edgar M. (University of Michigan Ann Arbor, USA)	Interstate redistribution of population, 1850–1940	<i>JEH</i>	1941	Labour
15	59	1.26	Kellett, John R. (University of Glasgow, UK)	The breakdown of gild and corporation control over the handicraft and retail trade in London	<i>EHR</i>	1958	Institutions
16	57	1.21	Graham, Gerald S. (King's College London, UK)	The ascendancy of the sailing ship 1850-85	<i>EHR</i>	1956	Services
17	55	1.17	Coats, Alfred William (University of Nottingham, UK)	Changing attitudes to labour in the mid-eighteenth century	<i>EHR</i>	1958	Labour
18	52	1.11	Handlin, Oscar (Harvard University, USA) and Handlin, Mary F. (Harvard University, USA)	Origins of the American business corporation	<i>JEH</i>	1945	Firm
19	51	1.09	Tawney, Richard Henry (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)	The rise of the gentry, 1558-1640	<i>EHR</i>	1941	Institutions
20	50	1.06	Chambers, J.D. (University of Nottingham, UK)	Enclosure and labour supply in the industrial revolution	<i>EHR</i>	1953	Agriculture

Tab. 13.c *Twenty most cited articles by period (1961-1996)*

#	Citation s received	Citation s per year	Authors	Article title	Journal	Year	Topics
1	1,867	66.68	North, Douglass C. (Washington University St. Louis, USA) and Weingast, Barry R. (Stanford University, USA)	Constitutions and commitment: the evolution of institutions governing public choice in seventeenth-century England	<i>JEH</i>	1989	Institutions
2	1,380	44.52	Abramovitz, Moses (Stanford University, USA)	Catching up, forging ahead, and falling behind	<i>JEH</i>	1986	Growth
3	586	20.93	Greif, Avner (Stanford University, USA)	Reputation and coalitions in medieval trade: evidence on the Maghribi traders	<i>JEH</i>	1989	Trade
4	539	12.25	Alchian, Armen A. (University of California LA, USA) and Delmetz Harold (University of California LA, USA)	The property right paradigm	<i>JEH</i>	1973	Institutions
5	384	16.70	De Vries, Jan (University of California Berkeley, USA)	The industrial revolution and the industrious revolution	<i>JEH</i>	1994	Growth
6	313	6.96	Mendels, Franklin F. (Sir George Williams University, Canada)	Proto-industrialization: the first phase of the industrialization process	<i>JEH</i>	1972	Industry
7	306	6.51	Rosenberg, Nathan (Purdue University, USA)	Technological change in the machine tool industry, 1840–1910	<i>JEH</i>	1963	Innovation
8	253	9.37	Cowan, Robin (New York University, USA)	Nuclear power reactors: a study in technological lock-in	<i>JEH</i>	1990	Innovation
9	225	4.79	Domar, Evsey D. (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA)	The causes of slavery or serfdom: a hypothesis	<i>JEH</i>	1970	Labour
10	220	6.47	Mowery, David (Carnegie Mellon University, USA)	The relationship between intrafirm and contractual forms of industrial research in American manufacturing 1900-1940	<i>EEH</i>	1983	Innovation
11	219	7.55	O'Brien, Patrick Karl (University of Oxford, UK)	The political economy of British taxation, 1660-1815	<i>EHR</i>	1988	Institutions
12	210	9.55	Williamson, Jeffrey G. (Harvard University, USA)	The evolution of global labor markets since 1830: background evidence and hypotheses	<i>EEH</i>	1995	Labour
13	204	6.38	Eichengreen, Barry (Harvard University, USA) and Sachs, Jeffrey (Harvard University, USA)	Exchange rates and economic recovery in the 1930s	<i>JEH</i>	1985	Finance
14	201	5.58	Easterlin, Richard A. (University of Pennsylvania, USA)	Why isn't the whole world developed?	<i>JEH</i>	1981	Institutions
15	200	9.52	Bordo, Michael D. (Rutgers University, USA) and Rockoff, Hugh (Rutgers University, USA)	The gold standard as a "good housekeeping seal of approval"	<i>JEH</i>	1996	Finance
15	200	4.26	Olson, Mancur (Princeton University, USA)	Rapid growth as a destabilizing force	<i>JEH</i>	1963	Growth
17	190	9.05	Williamson, Jeffrey G. (Harvard University, USA)	Globalization, convergence, and history	<i>JEH</i>	1996	Trade
18	182	4.04	Rosenberg, Nathan (University of Wisconsin, USA)	Factors affecting the diffusion of technology	<i>EEH</i>	1972	Innovation
19	173	6.41	Humphries, Jane (University of Cambridge, UK)	Enclosures, common rights, and women: the proletarianization of families in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries	<i>JEH</i>	1990	Institutions
20	167	3.55	Schmookler, Jacob (University of Minnesota, USA)	Economic sources of inventive activity	<i>JEH</i>	1962	Innovation

Tab. 13.d *Twenty most cited articles by period (1997-2017)*

#	Citations received	Citations per year	Authors	Article title	Journal	Year	Topics
1	389	24.31	Allen, Robert C. (University of Oxford, UK)	The great divergence in European wages and prices from the middle ages to the first World War	<i>EEH</i>	2001	Standard of living
2	249	13.11	Komlos, John (University of Munich, Germany)	Shrinking in a growing economy? The mystery of physical stature during the industrial revolution	<i>JEH</i>	1998	Standard of living
3	218	11.47	Epstein, S.R. (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)	Craft guilds, apprenticeship, and technological change in preindustrial Europe	<i>JEH</i>	1998	Institutions
4	212	11.16	Feinstein, Charles H. (University of Oxford, UK)	Pessimism perpetuated: Real wages and the standard of living in Britain during and after the industrial revolution	<i>JEH</i>	1998	Standard of living
5	208	10.40	Offer, Avner (University of Oxford, UK)	Between the gift and the market: the economy of regard	<i>EHR</i>	1997	Institutions
6	187	23.38	Steckel, Richard H. (Ohio State University, USA)	Heights and human welfare: Recent developments and new directions	<i>EEH</i>	2009	Standard of living
7	163	8.58	Goldin, Claudia (Harvard University, USA)	America's graduation from high school: the evolution and spread of secondary schooling in the twentieth century	<i>JEH</i>	1998	Human capital
8	159	14.45	Broadberry, Stephen (University of Warwick, UK) and Gupta, Bishnupriya (University of Warwick, UK)	The early modern great divergence: wages, prices and economic development in Europe and Asia	<i>EHR</i>	2006	Growth
9	151	7.95	Szreter, Simon (University of Cambridge, UK) and Mooney, Graham (University of London, UK)	Urbanization, mortality, and the standard of living debate: new estimates of the expectation of life at birth in nineteenth-century British cities	<i>EHR</i>	1998	Standard of living
10	137	13.70	David, Paul A. (Stanford University, USA)	Path dependence: a foundational concept for historical social science	<i>CLIO</i>	2007	EH
11	128	21.33	Allen, Robert C. (University of Oxford, UK), Bassino, Jean Pascal (Université de Montpellier, France), Ma, Debin (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK), Moll-Murata, Christine (Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany) and Van Zanden, Jan Luiten (Utrecht University, Netherlands)	Wages, prices, and living standards in china, 1738–1925: in comparison with Europe, Japan, and India	<i>EHR</i>	2011	Standard of living
12	122	17.43	De Moor, Tine (Utrecht University, Netherlands) and Van Zanden, Jan Luiten (Utrecht University, Netherlands)	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>	2010	Population and demography
12	122	12.20	Ogilvie, Sheilagh (University of Cambridge, UK)	Whatever is, is right'? Economic institutions in pre-industrial Europe	<i>EHR</i>	2007	Institutions
14	117	39.00	Bolt, Jutta (University of Groningen, Netherlands) and Van Zanden, Jan Luiten (Utrecht University, Netherlands)	The Maddison project: collaborative research on historical national accounts	<i>EHR</i>	2014	Growth
15	114	5.70	O'Rourke, Kevin (University College Dublin, Ireland)	The European grain invasion, 1870-1913	<i>JEH</i>	1997	Agriculture
16	112	8.00	Allen, Robert C. (University of Oxford, UK)	Progress and poverty in early modern Europe	<i>EHR</i>	2003	Growth
17	111	8.54	Ogilvie, Sheilagh (University of Cambridge, UK)	Guilds, efficiency, and social capital: evidence from German proto-industry	<i>EHR</i>	2004	Institutions
18	107	6.29	Prados De La Escosura, Leandro (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain)	International comparisons of real product, 1820-1990: an alternative data set	<i>EEH</i>	2000	Growth
18	107	10.70	Clark, Gregory (University of California Davis, USA)	The long march of history: farm wages, population, and economic growth, England 1209–1869	<i>EHR</i>	2007	Growth
20	104	5.78	Van Zanden, Jan Luiten (Utrecht University, Netherlands)	Wages and the standard of living in Europe, 1500-1800	<i>EREH</i>	1999	Standard of living

Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Notes: for articles published before 1970 citations per year are calculated on a period of 47 years.

Fig. 1.a *T3-EH citations' network 1997*

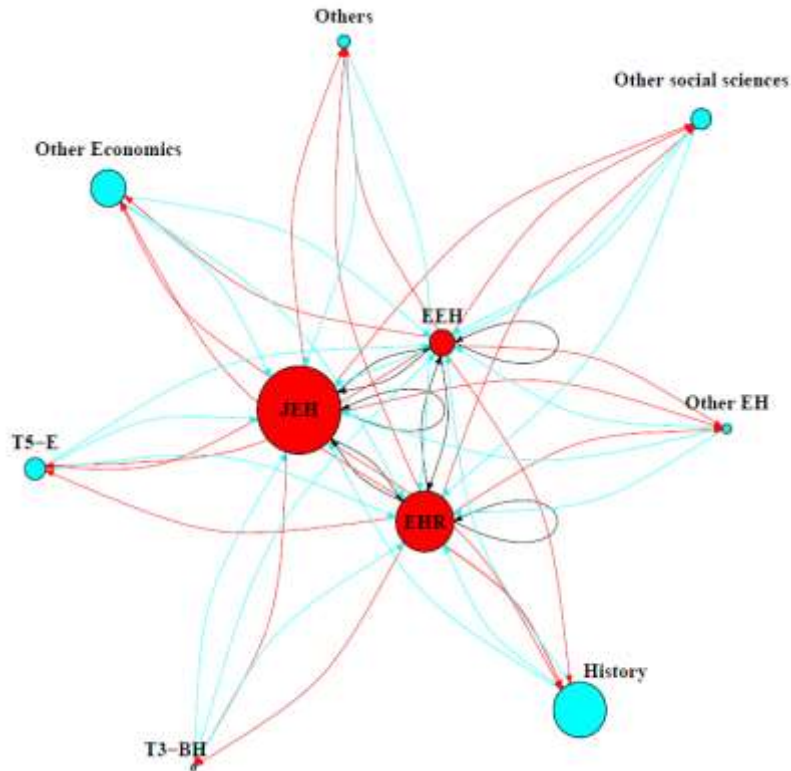
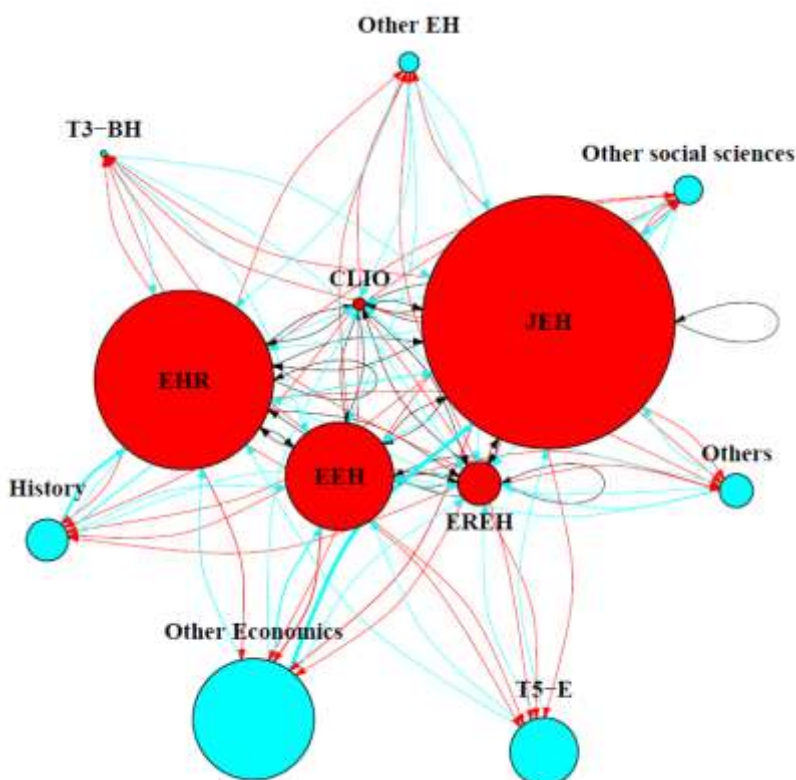
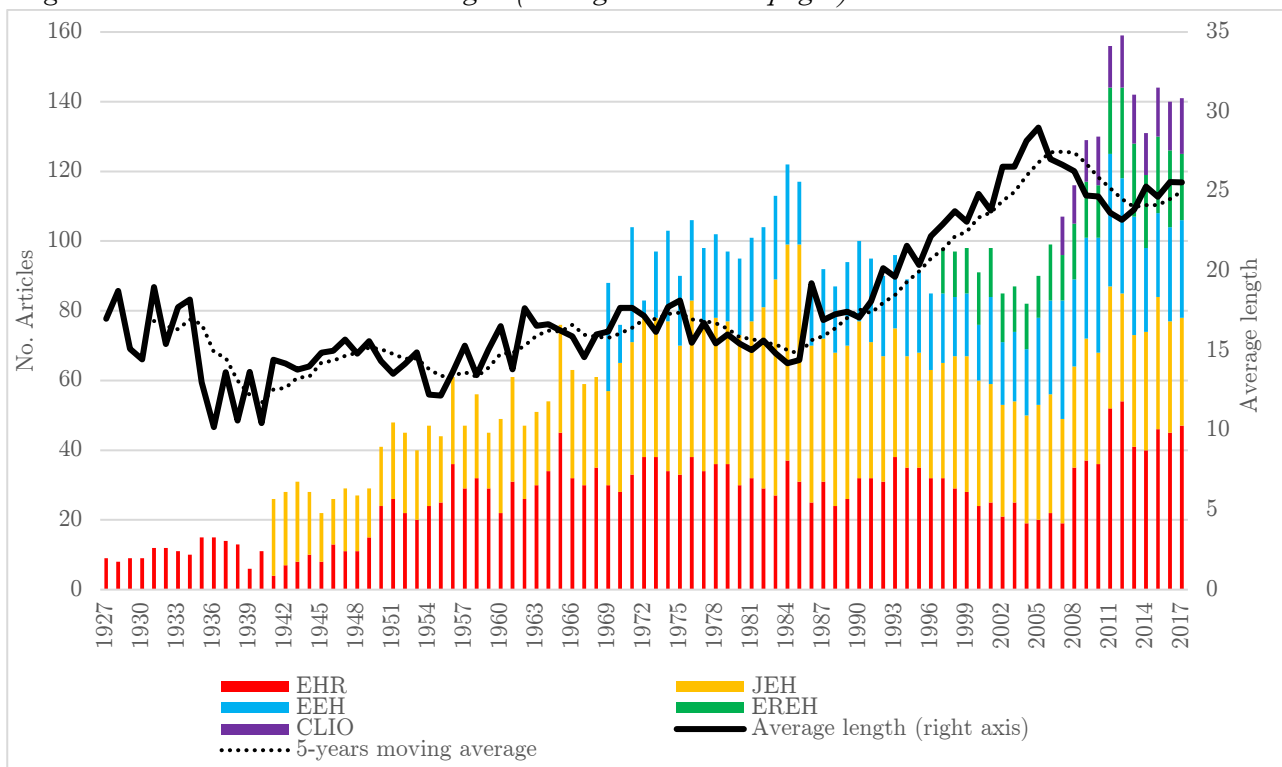


Fig. 1.b *T5-EH citations' network 2017*



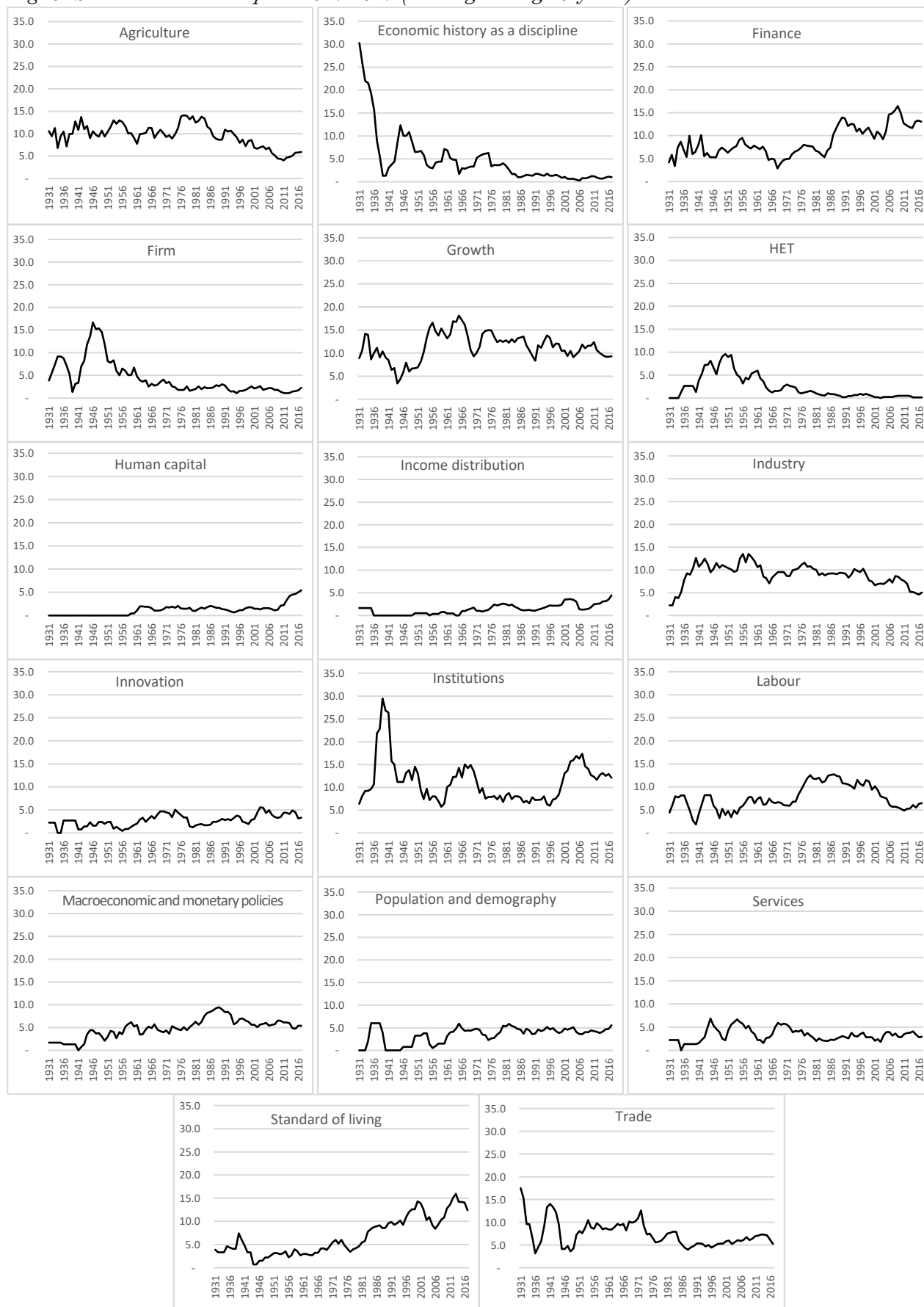
Legend: Circle size points out total citations received; arrow thickness points out the total number of citations between T5-EH and groups; black arrows indicate citations done and received within the T5-EH; red arrows indicate citations done by T5-EH and blue arrows indicate citations received by T5-EH from other groups. Sources and Notes: see Tab. 4 and Tab. 5.

Fig. 2. *Evolution of articles and length (average number of pages)*



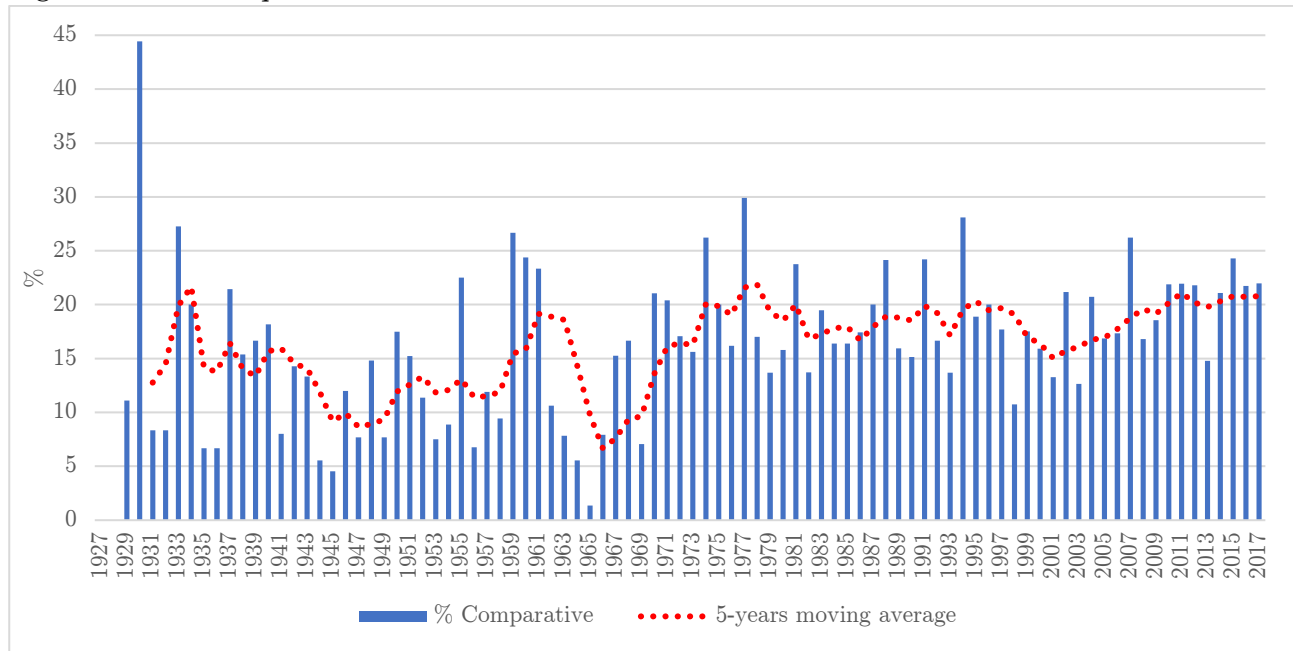
Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 3. *Share of articles' topics: 1927-2017 (moving average 5 years)*



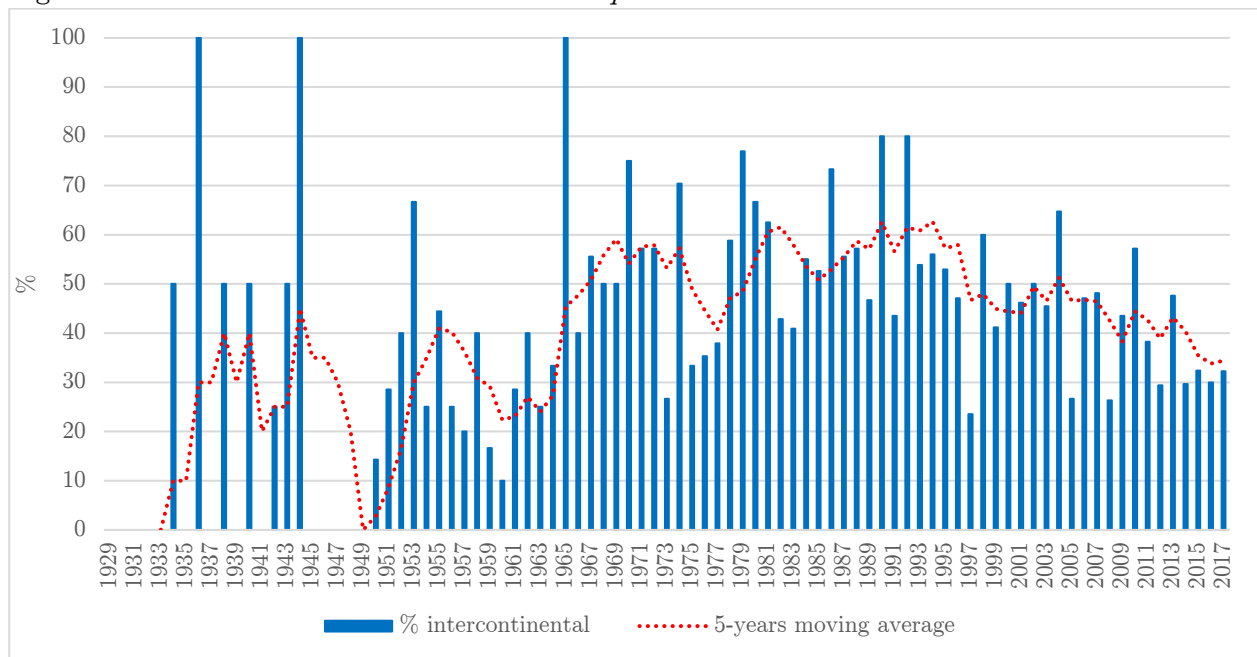
Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 4. *Share of comparative articles*



Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 5. *Share of intercontinental articles on comparative ones*



Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 6.a *Share of articles by continents*

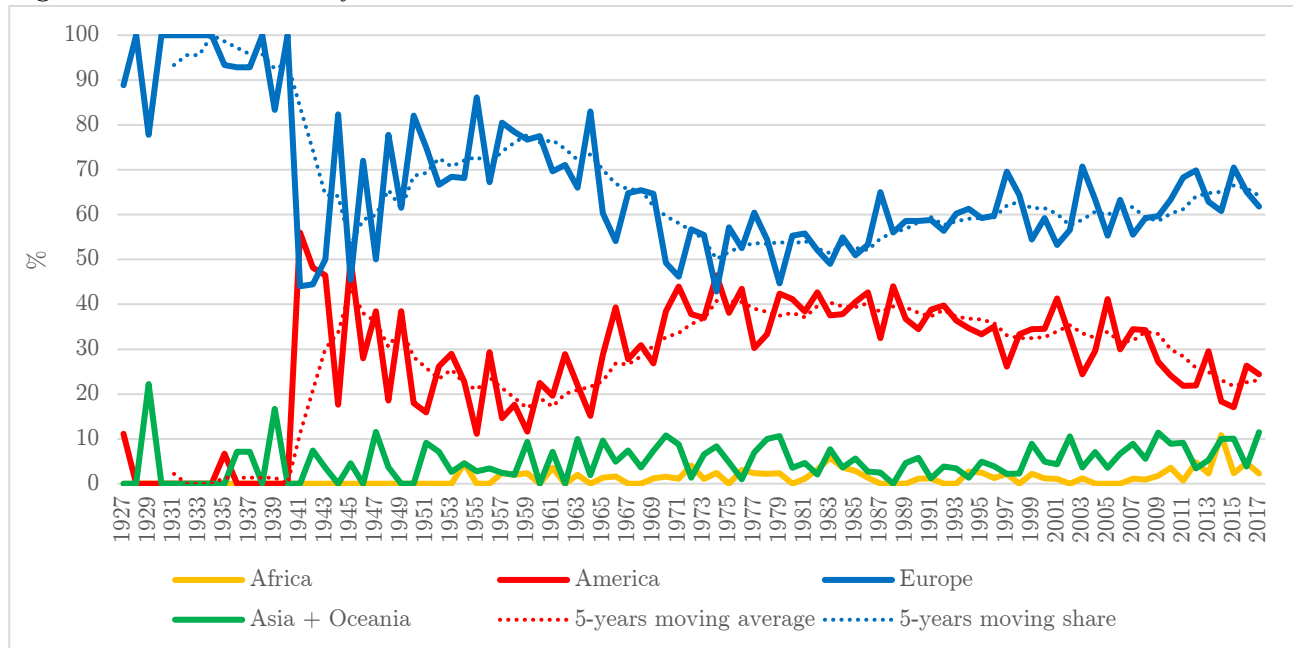


Fig. 6.b *Trends inside Europe*

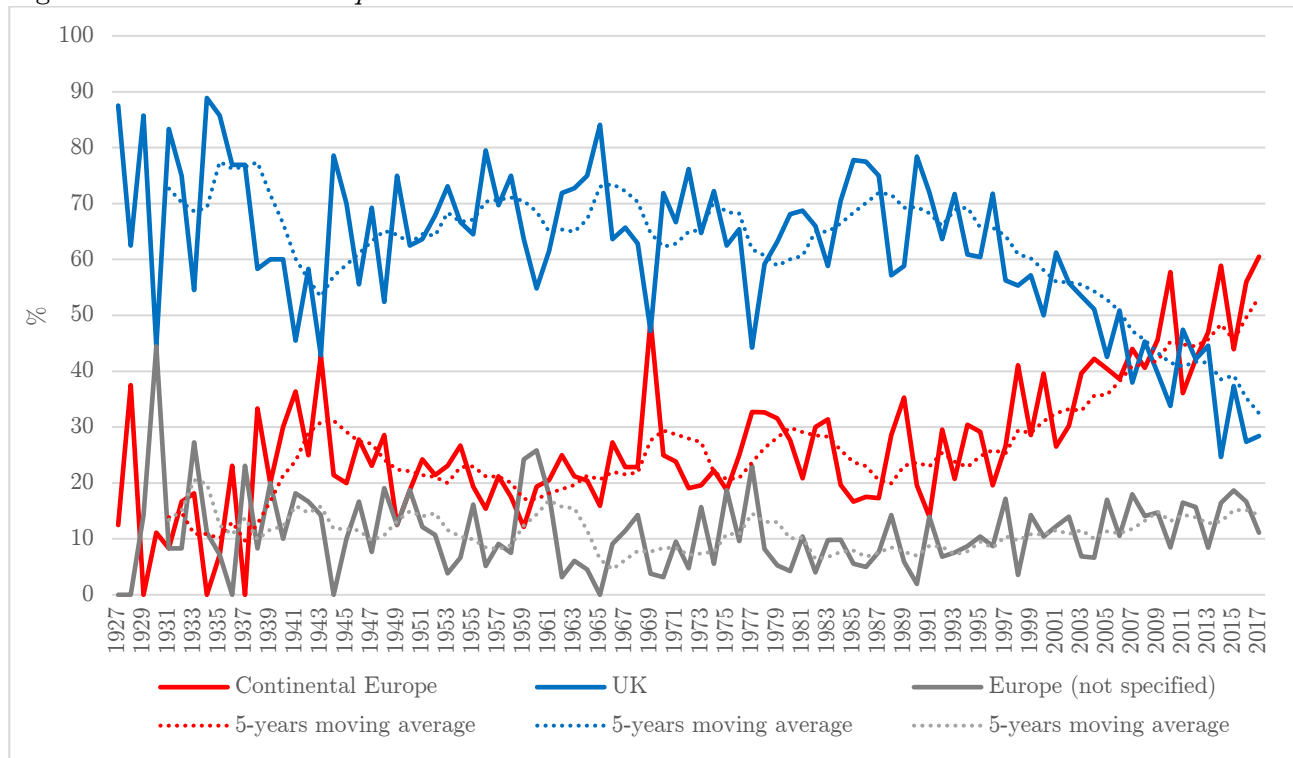
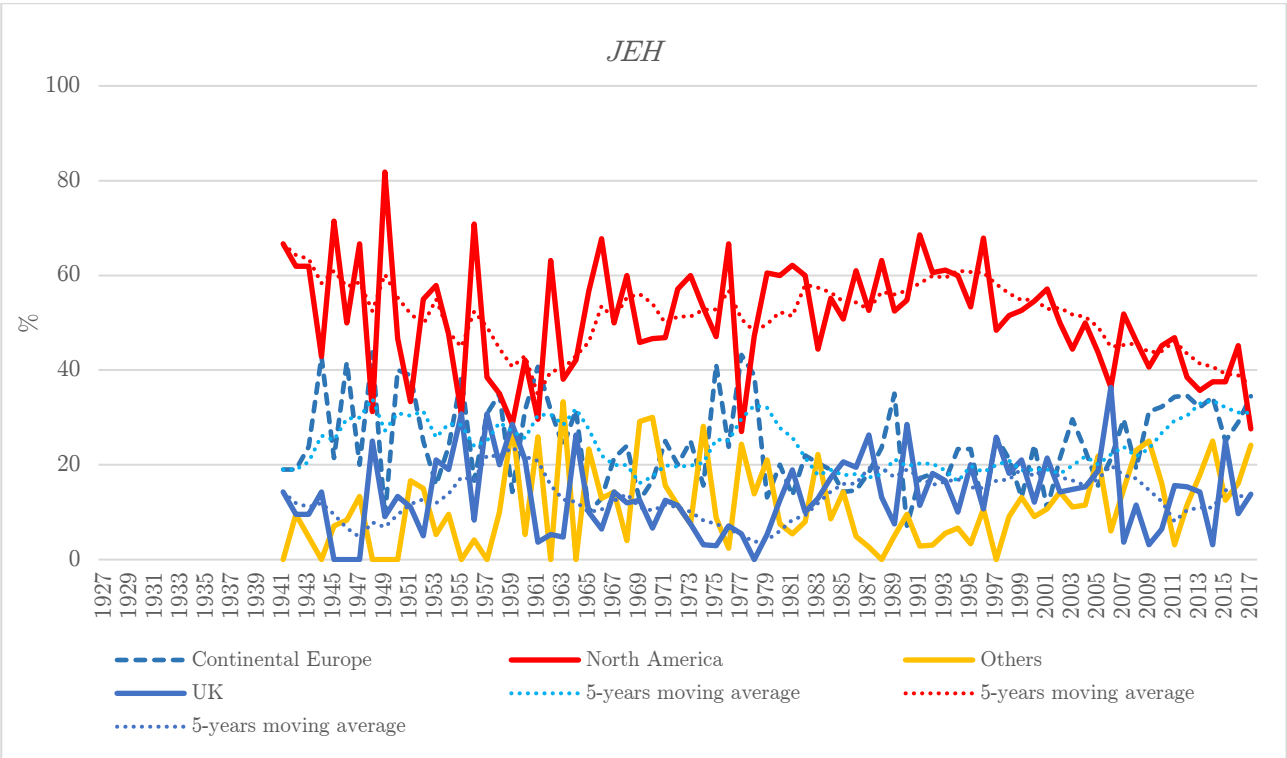
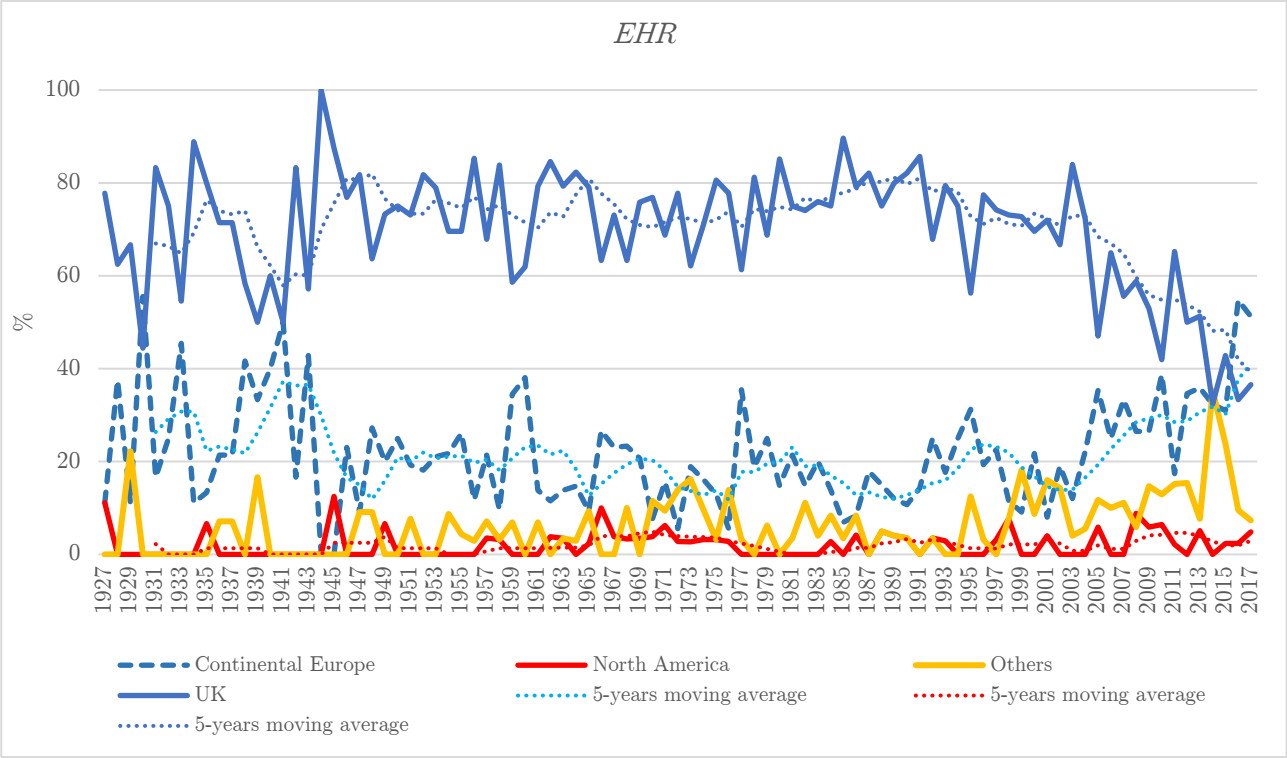
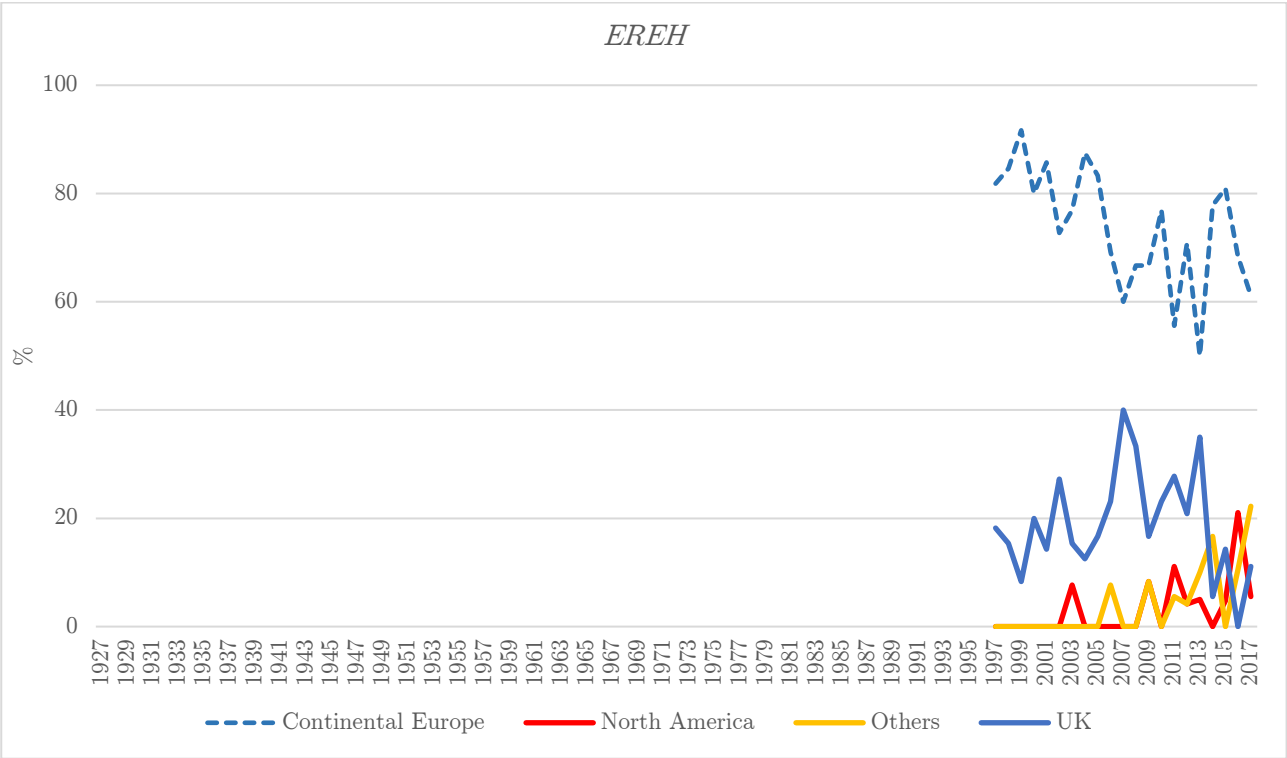
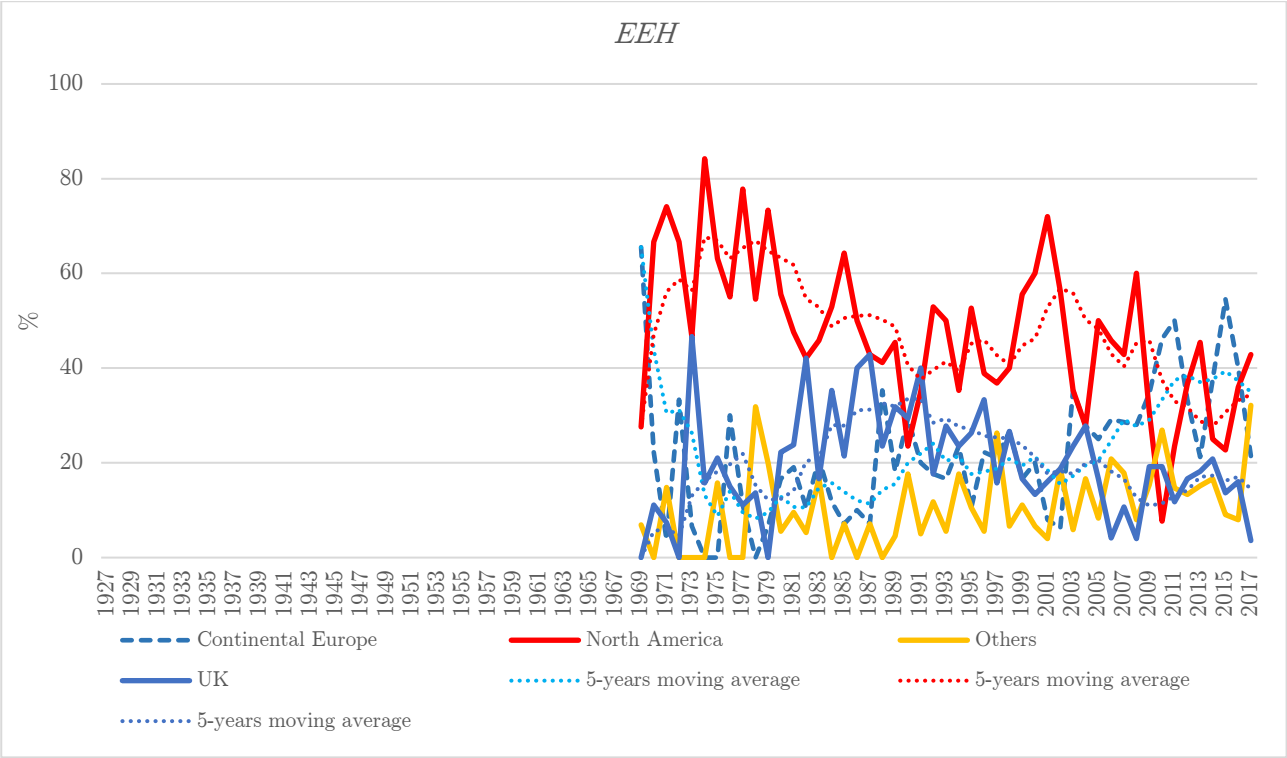
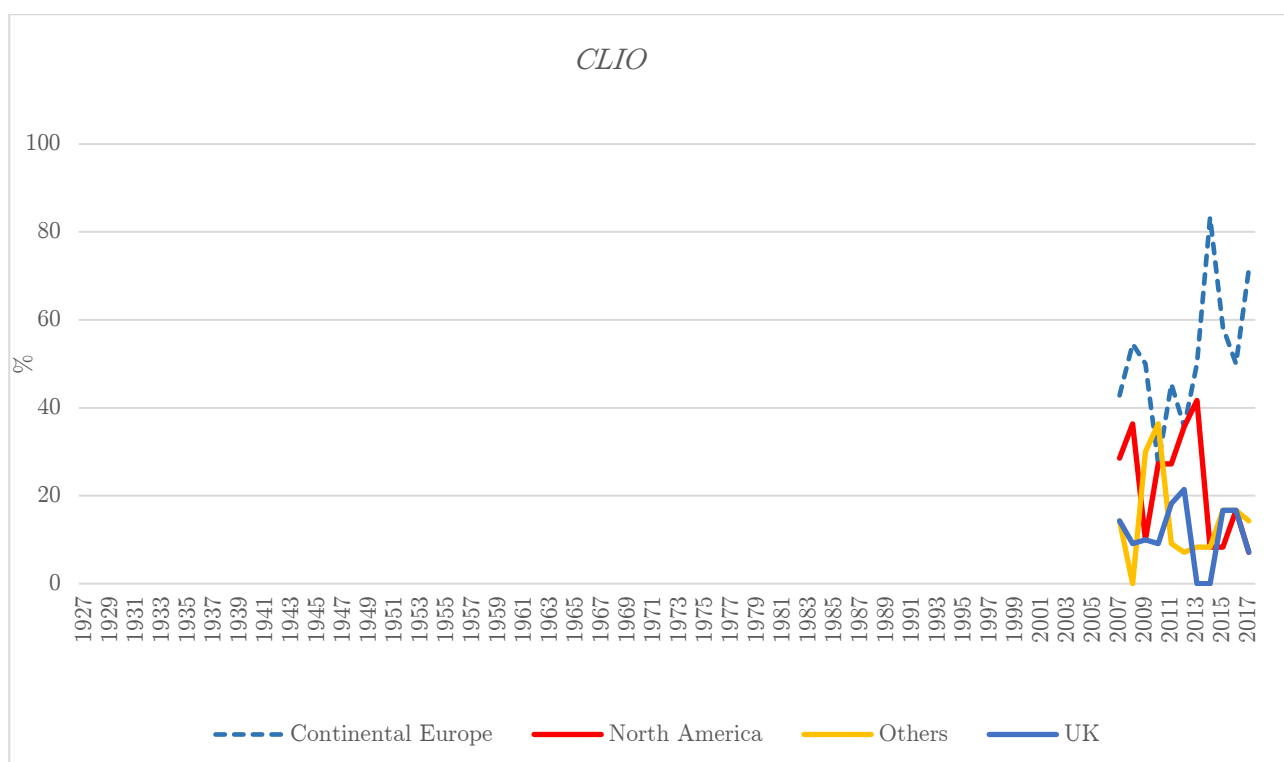


Fig. 6.c *Share of articles by continent and by journal*



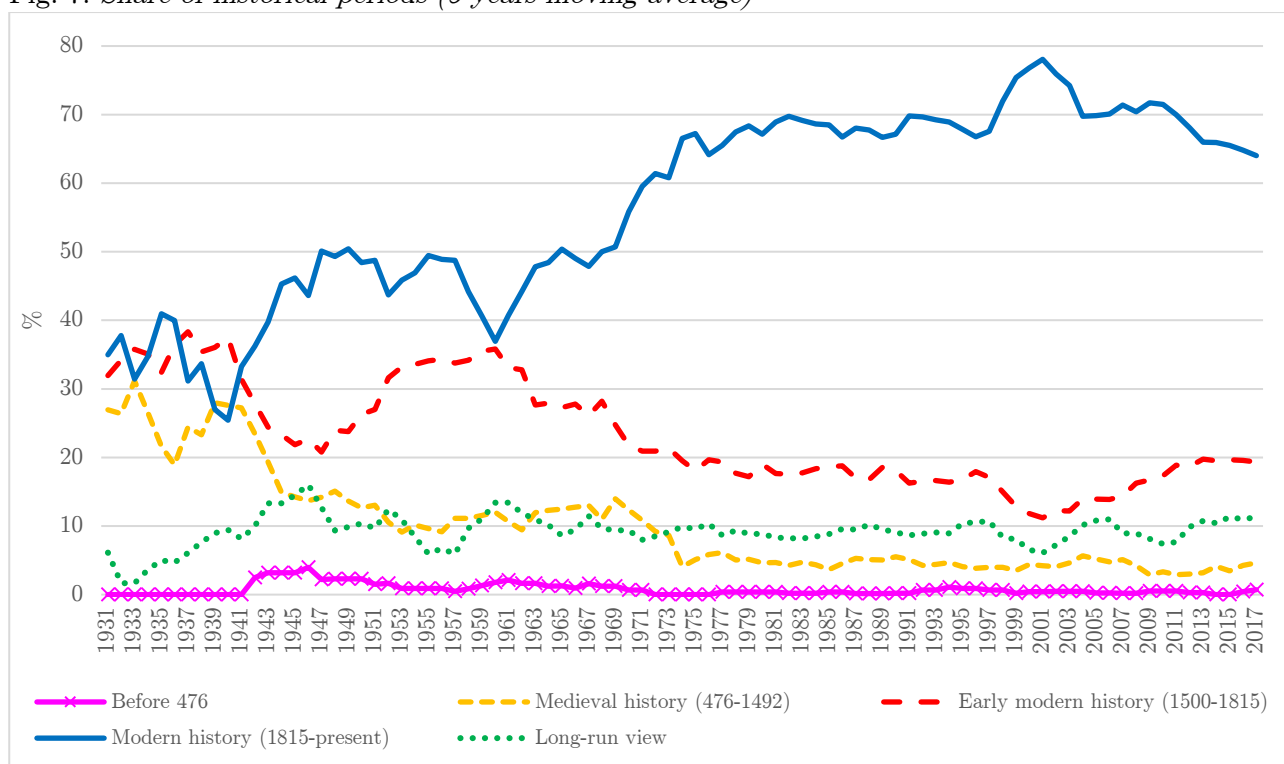




Sources: elaborations on our own database.

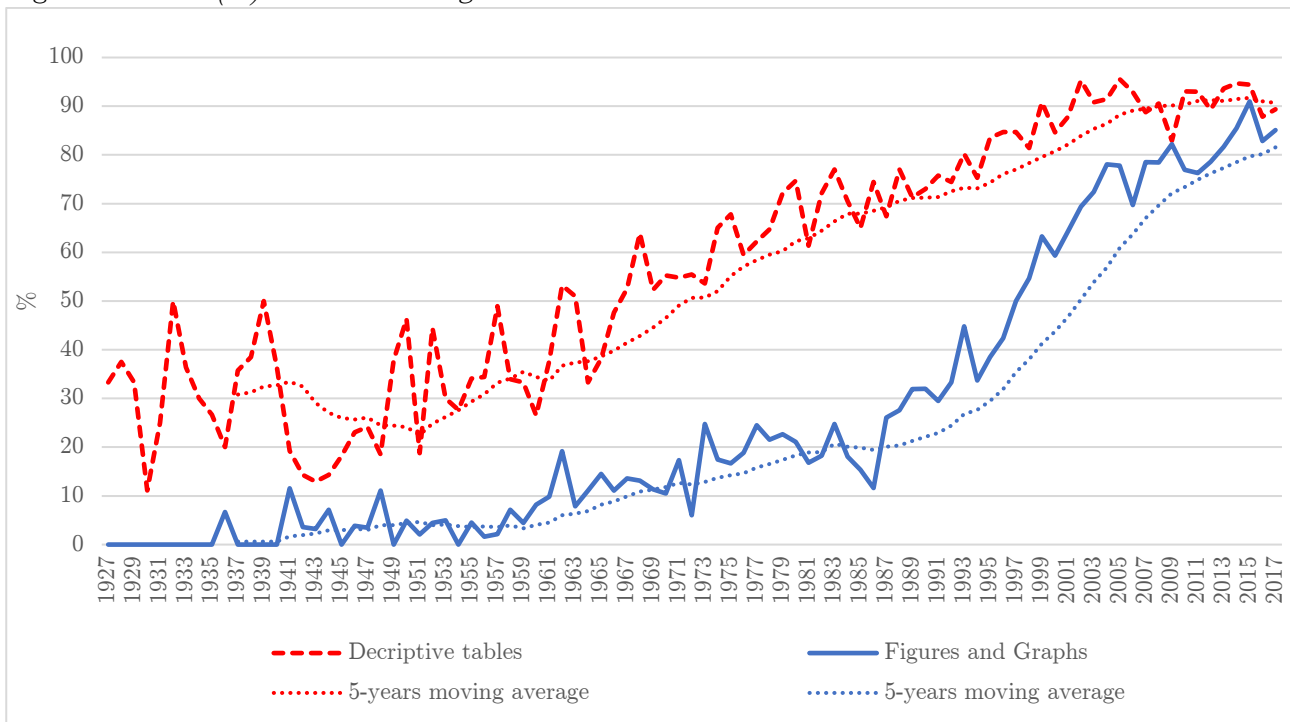
Notes: in these figure, Continental Europe includes also comparative articles dealing with UK and other European countries.

Fig. 7. *Share of historical periods (5-years moving average)*



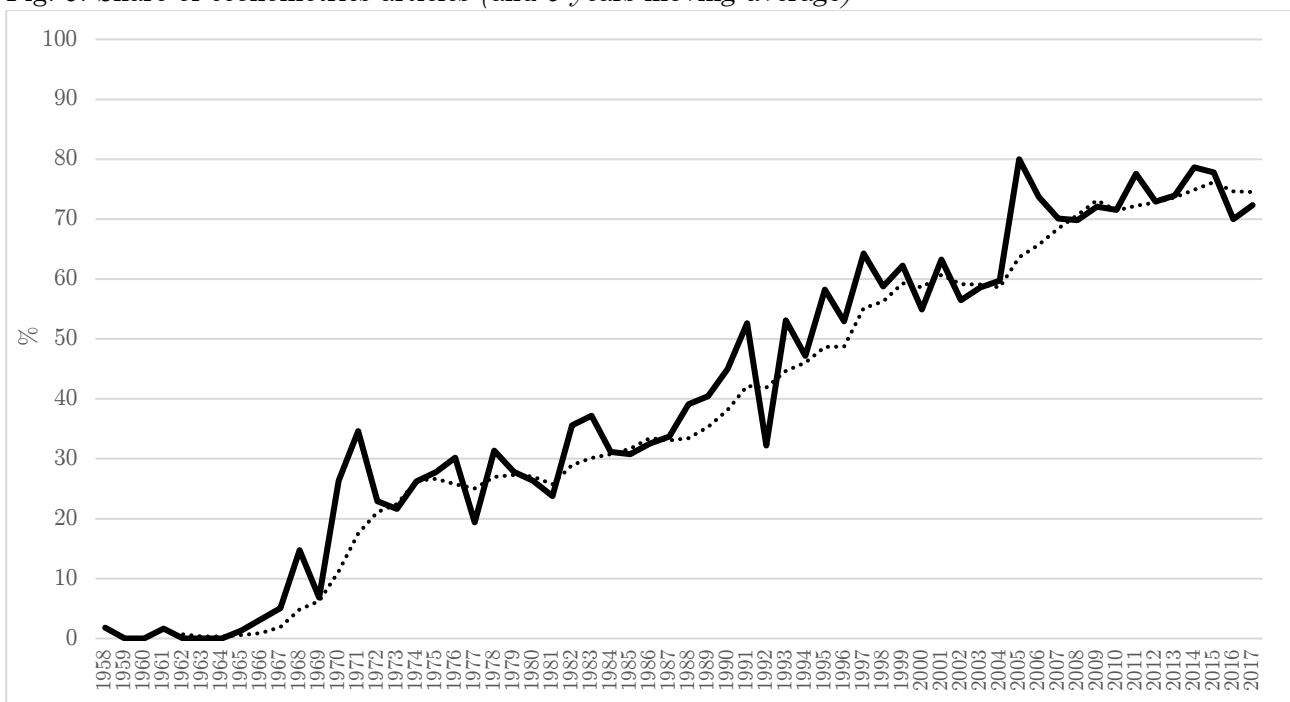
Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 8. *Presence (%) of tables and figures on total articles*



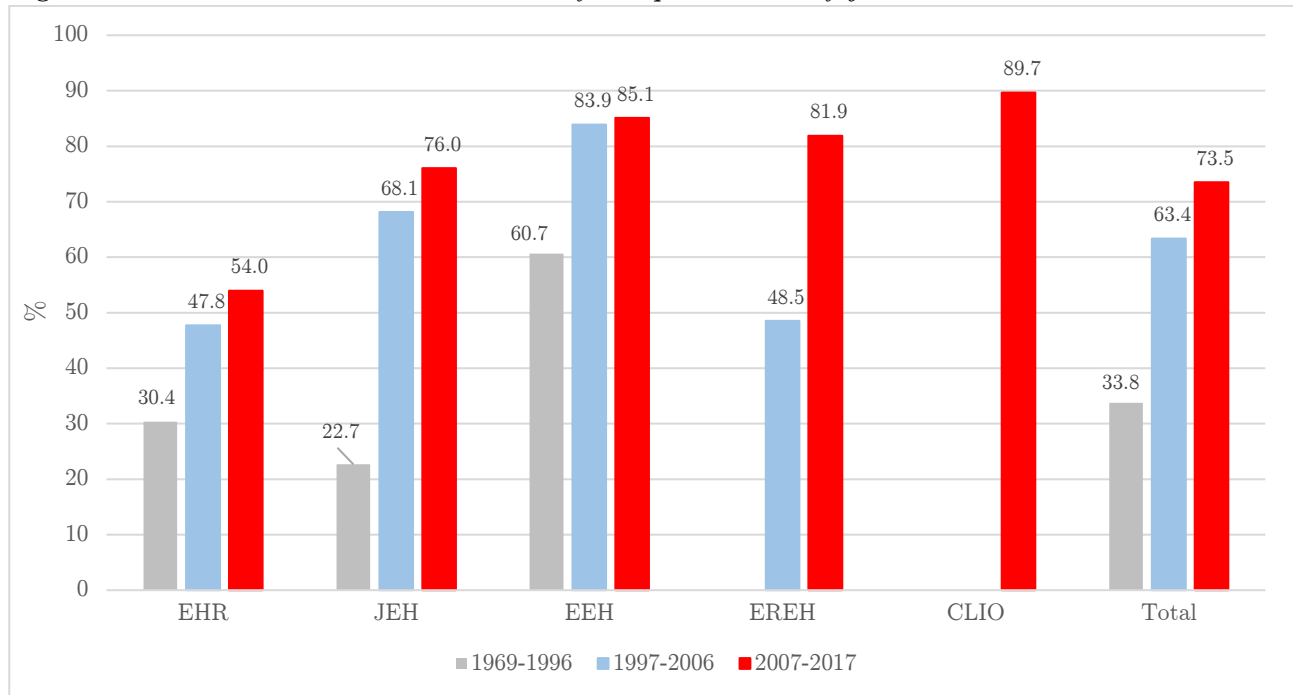
Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 9. *Share of econometrics articles (and 5-years moving average)*



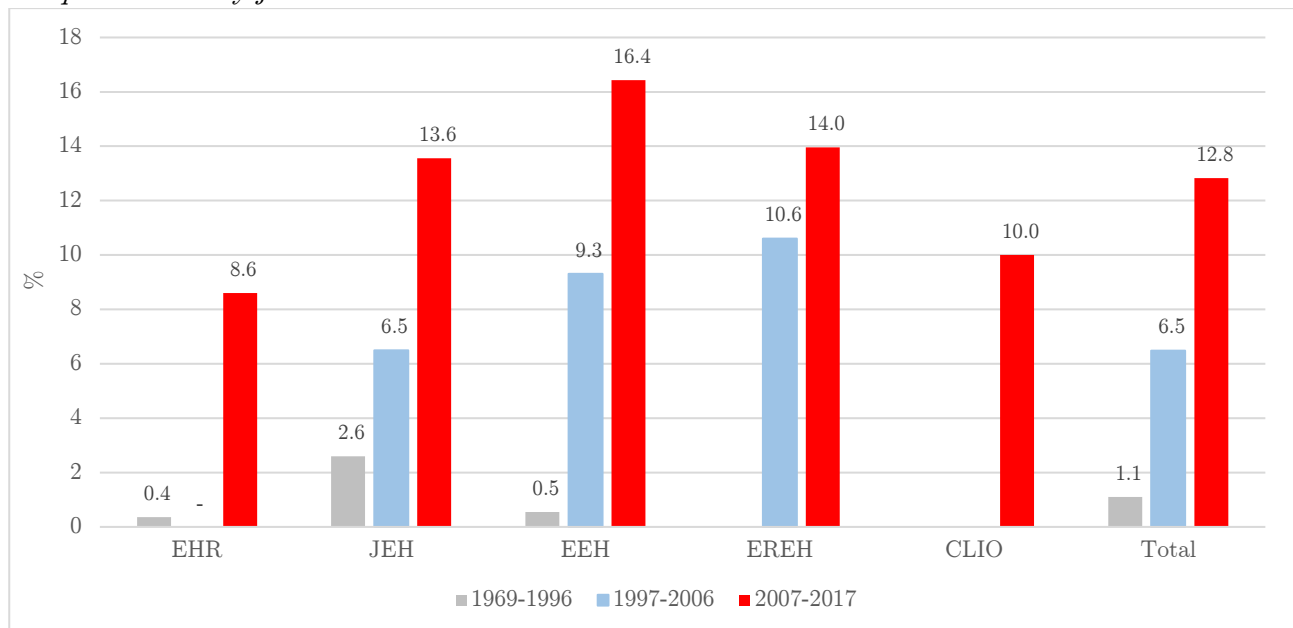
Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 10. *Share of articles with econometrics by sub-periods and by journal*



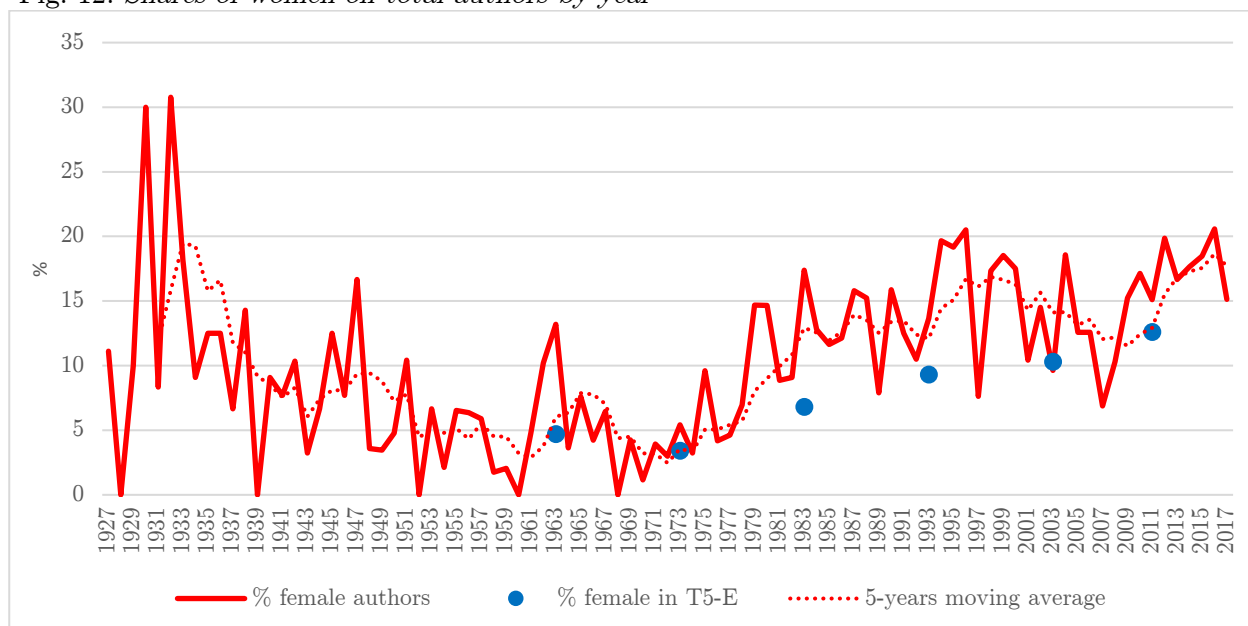
Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 11. *Share of articles with advanced econometrics techniques (% on articles with econometrics) by sub-periods and by journal*



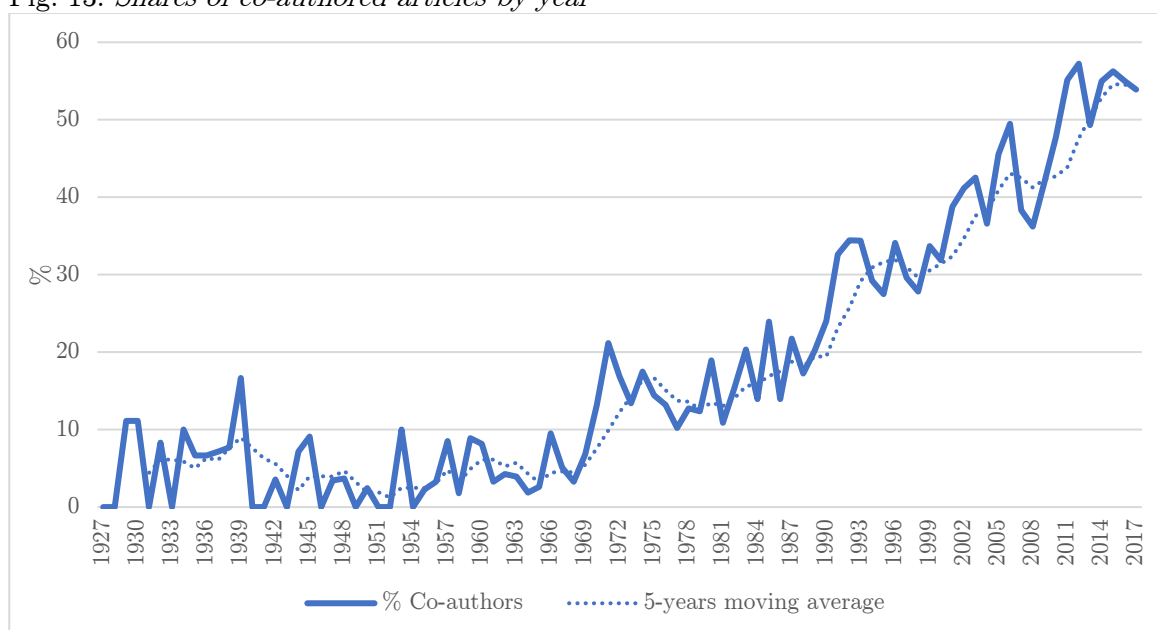
Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 12. *Shares of women on total authors by year*



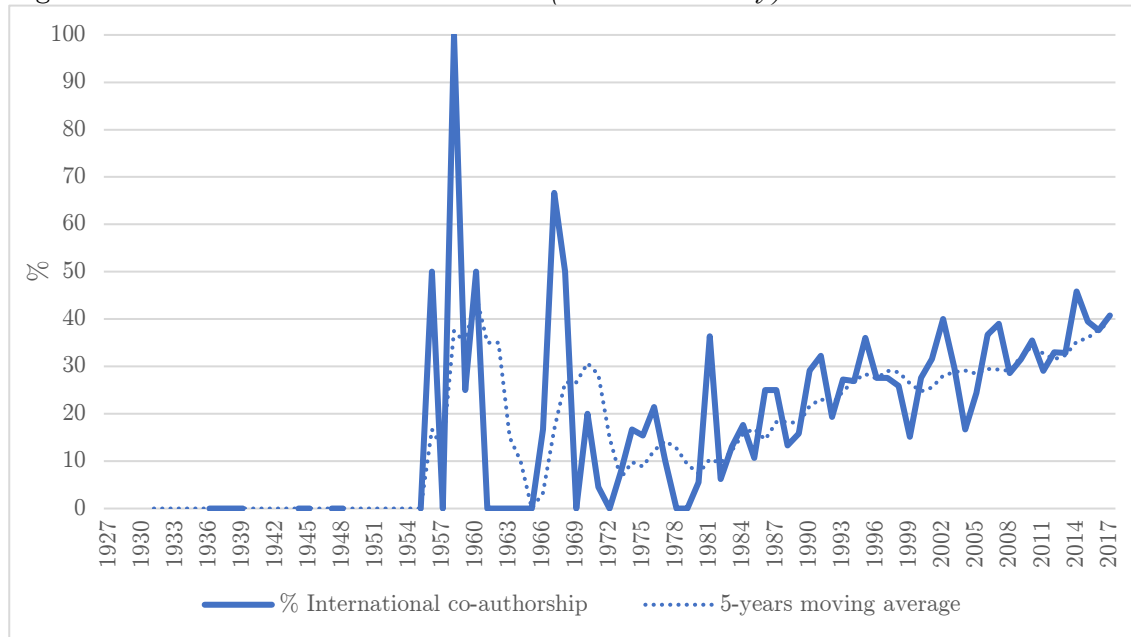
Sources: elaborations on our own database; for Top Economics Journals: Hamermesh (2013, table 1).

Fig. 13. *Shares of co-authored articles by year*



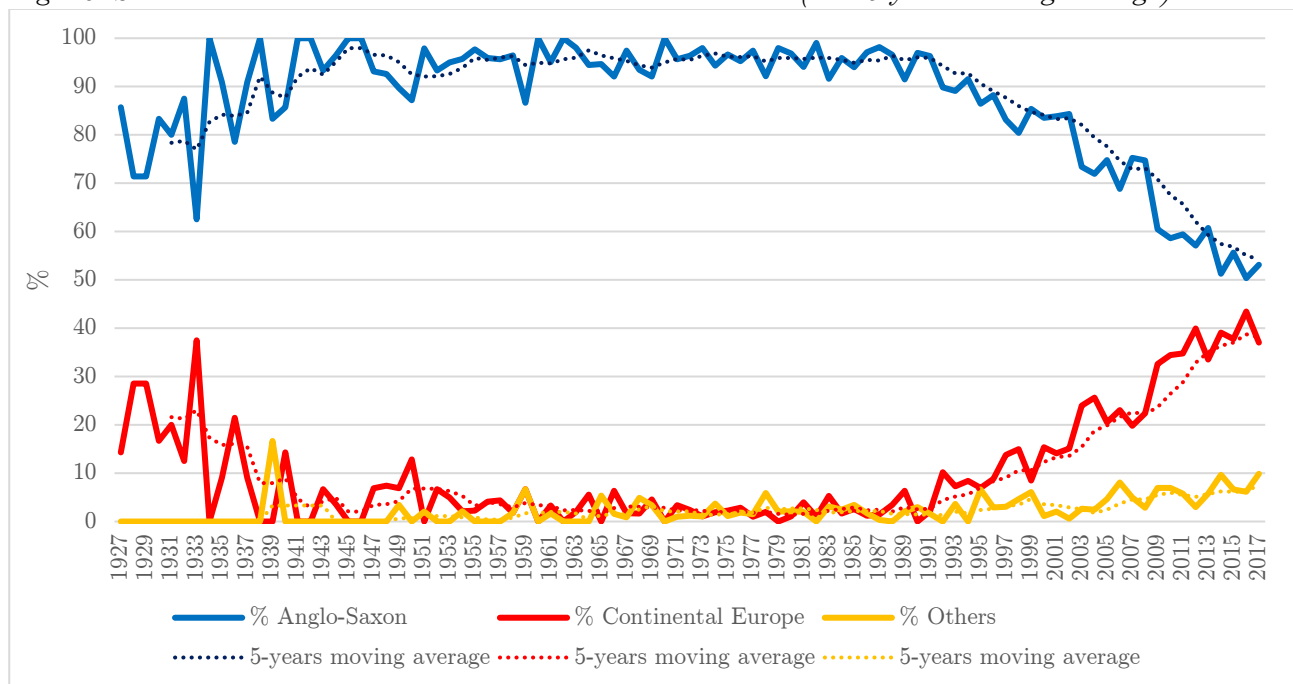
Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 14. *Shares of international co-authors (different country) on total co-authored articles by year*



Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 15. *Share of area of the contributions' authors affiliations (and 5 years moving average)*

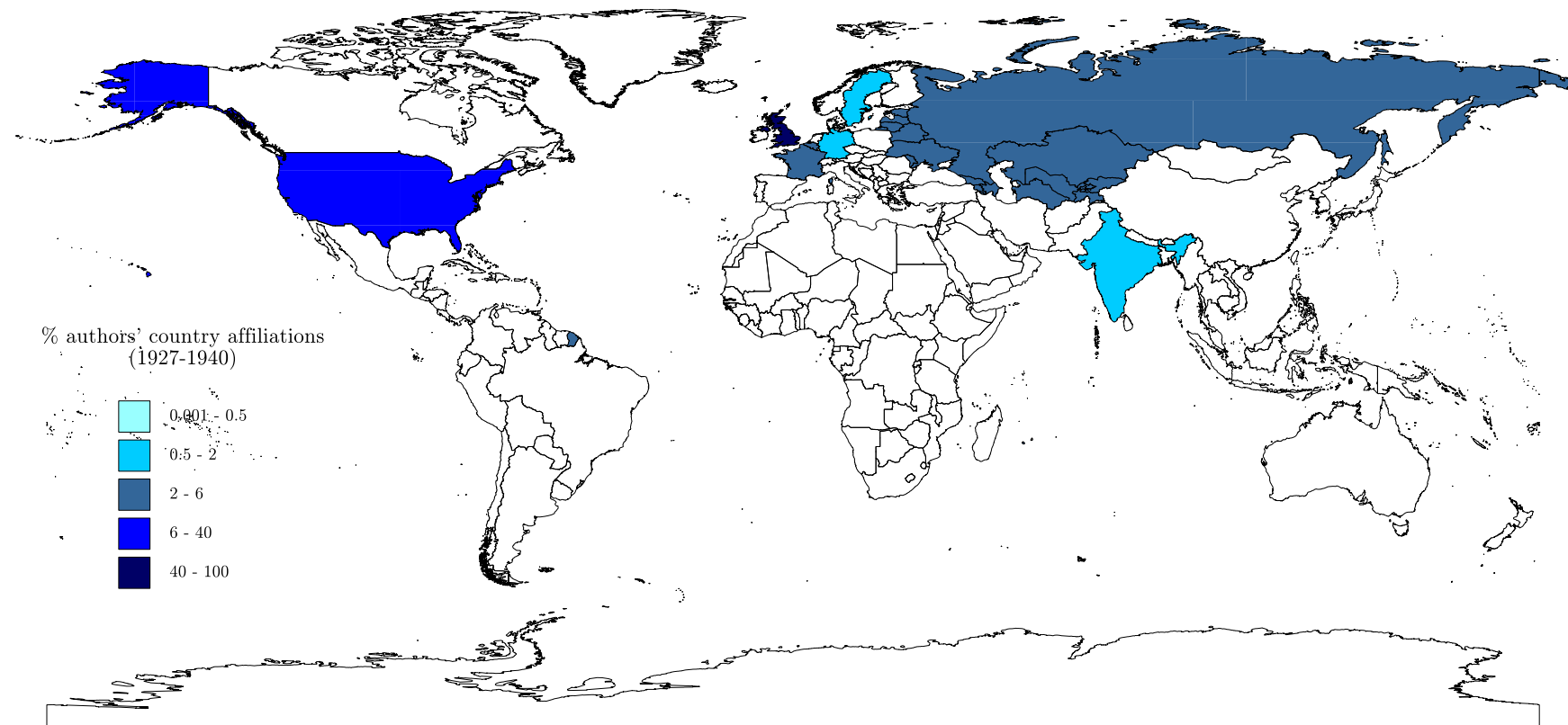


Sources: elaborations on our own database.

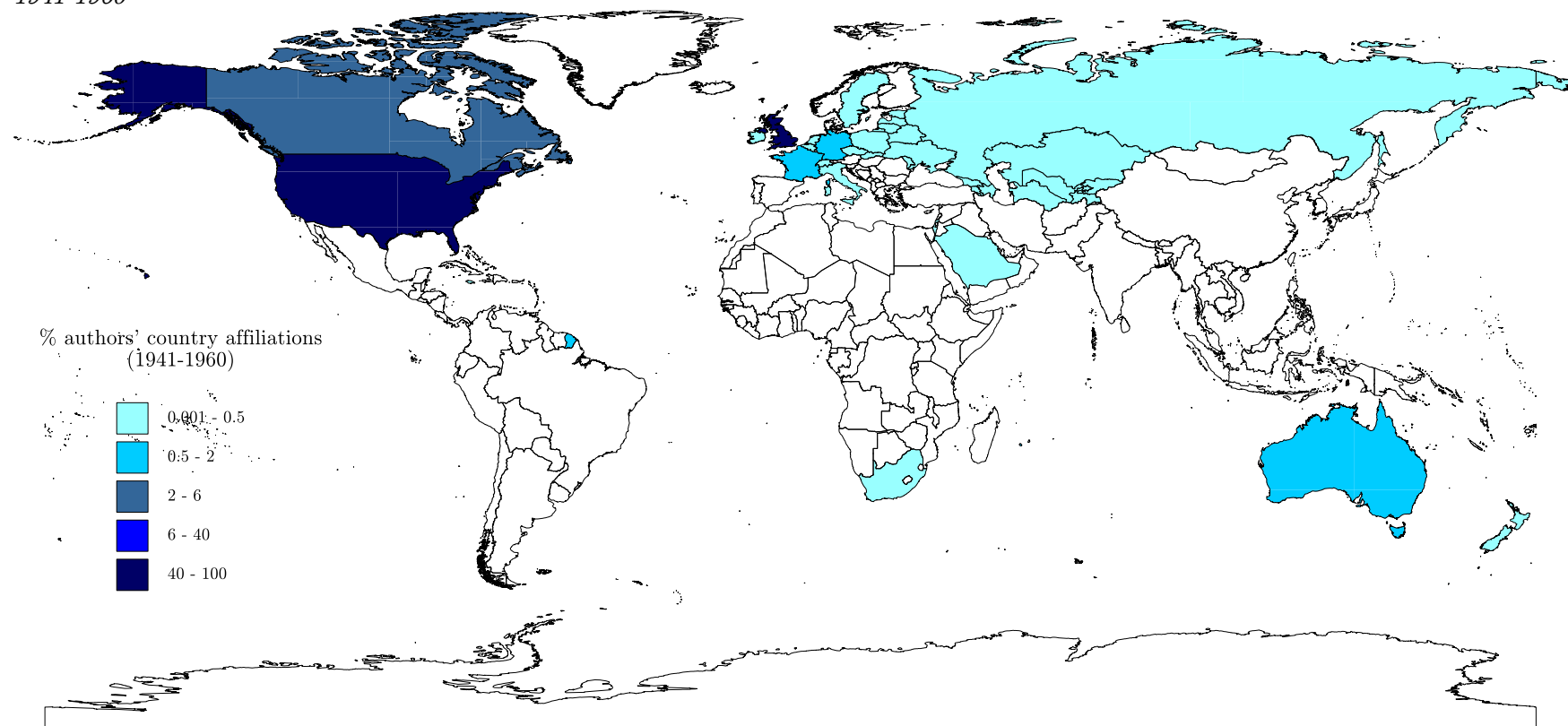
Notes: Anglo-Saxon includes Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, UK and USA.

Fig. 16. *Share of nationality of the contributions' authors affiliations by period*

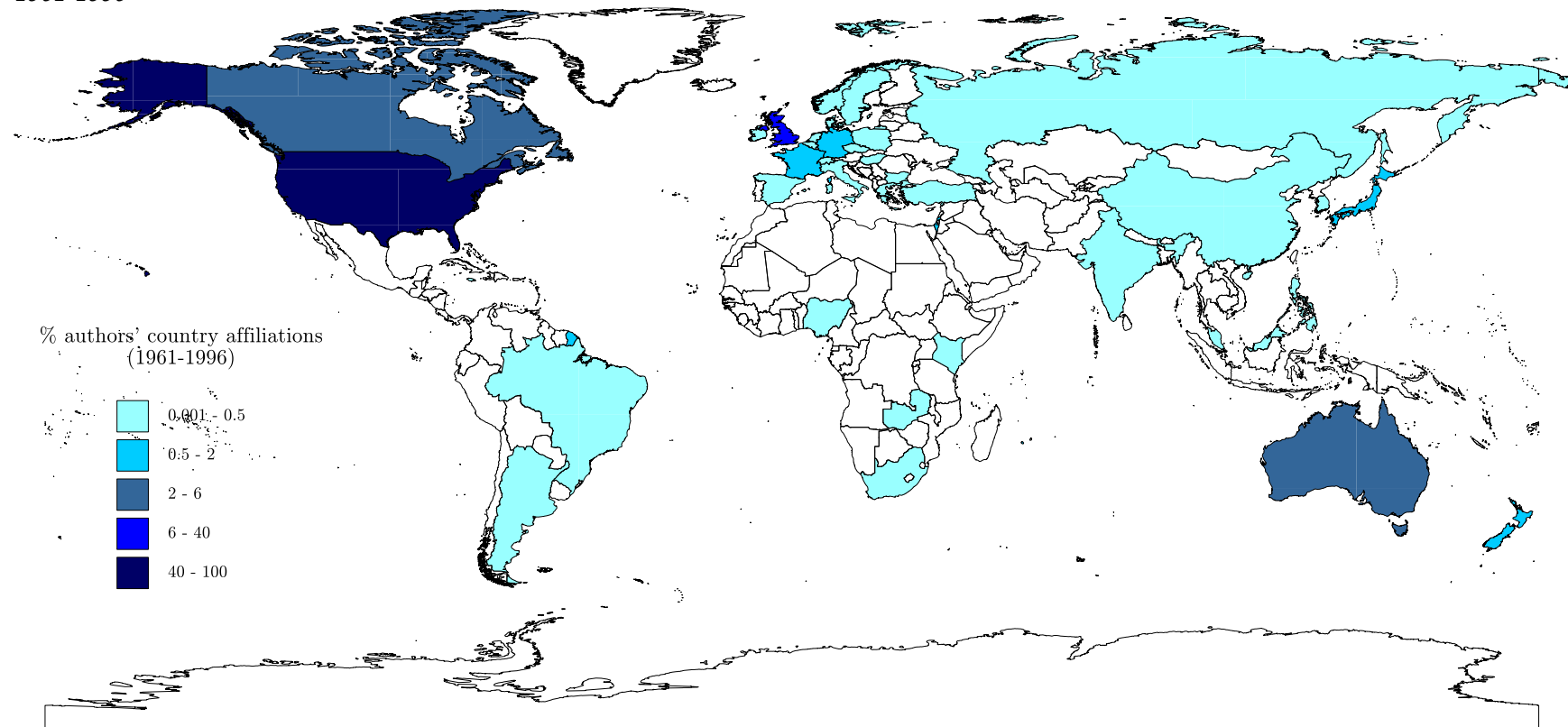
1927-1940



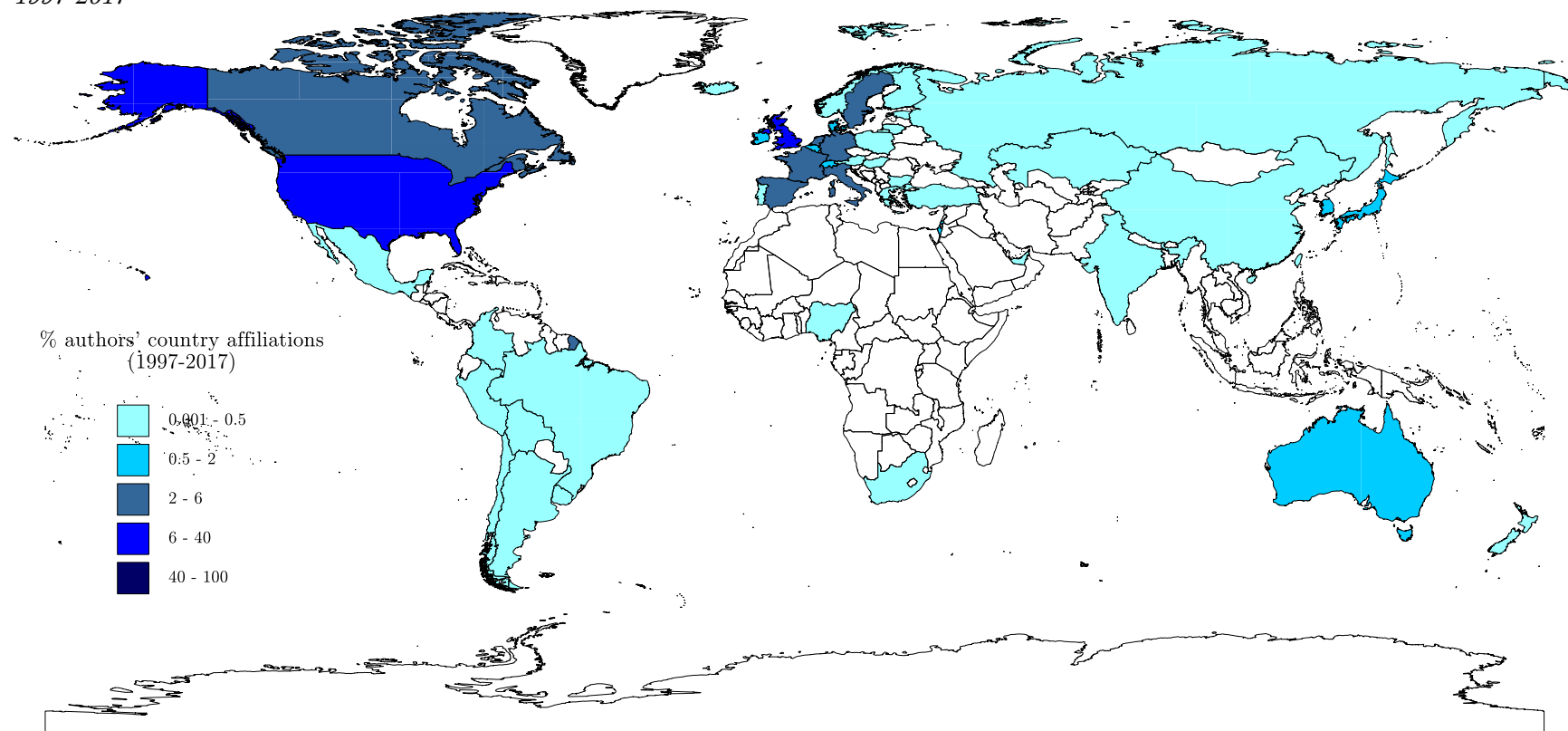
1941-1960



1961-1996



1997-2017



Sources: see Tab. 10.a.

Fig. 17.a *The concentrations of USA authors' affiliation by year (Herfindahl-Hirschman Index)*

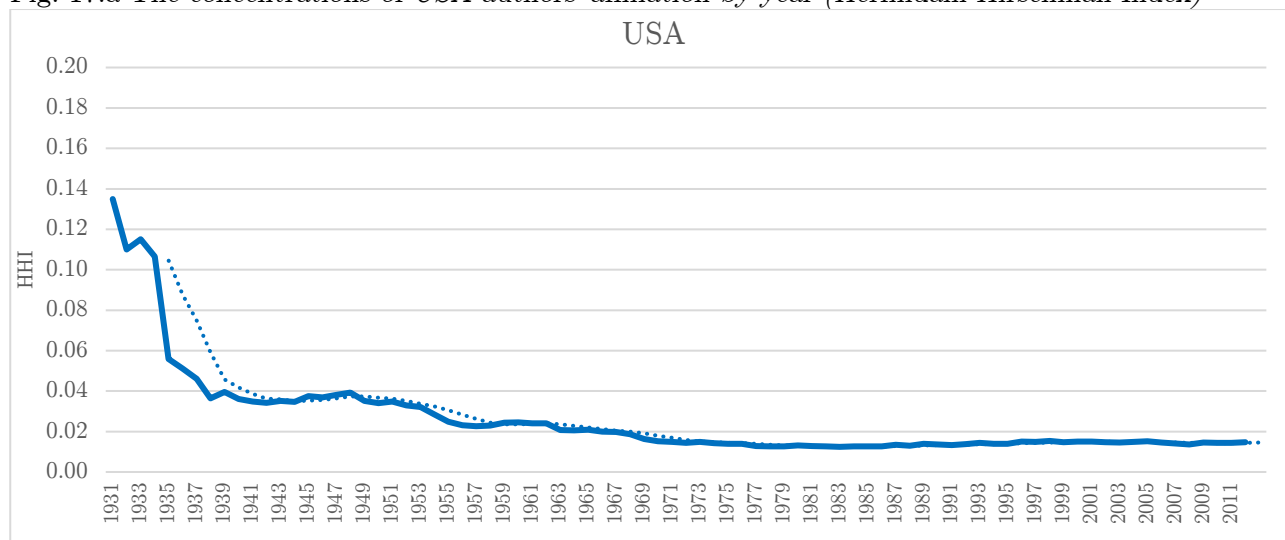


Fig. 17.b *The concentrations of UK authors' affiliation by year (Herfindahl-Hirschman Index)*

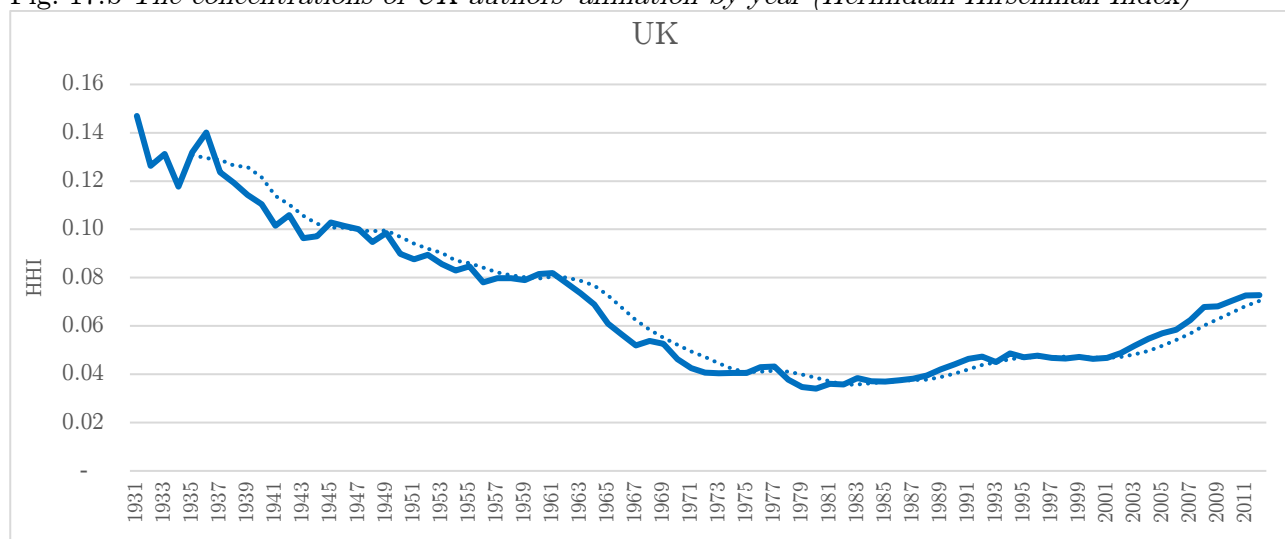
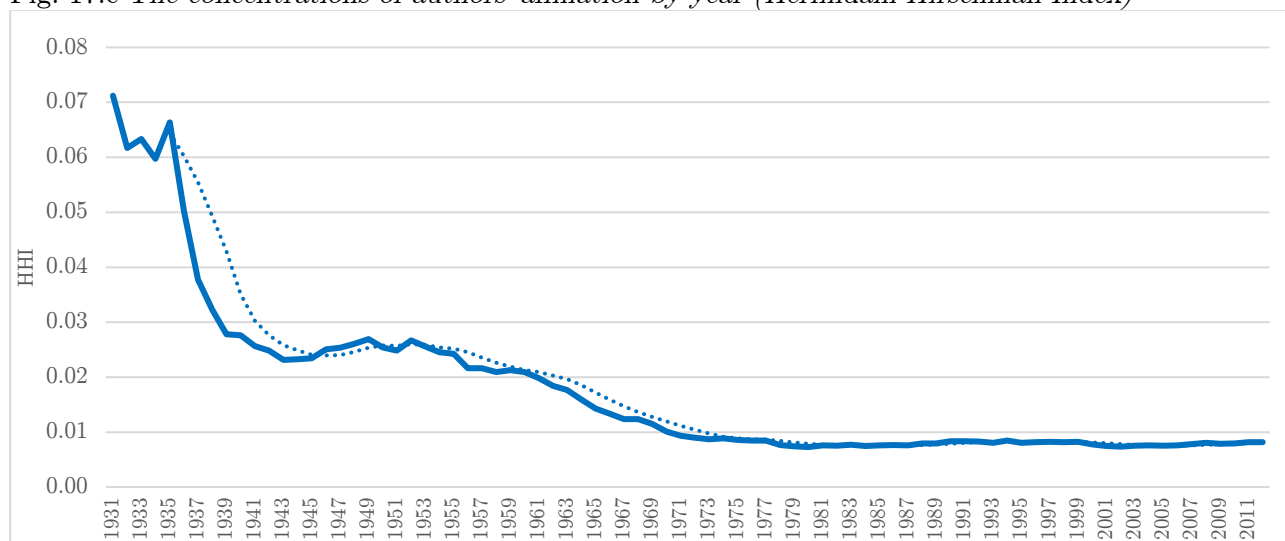
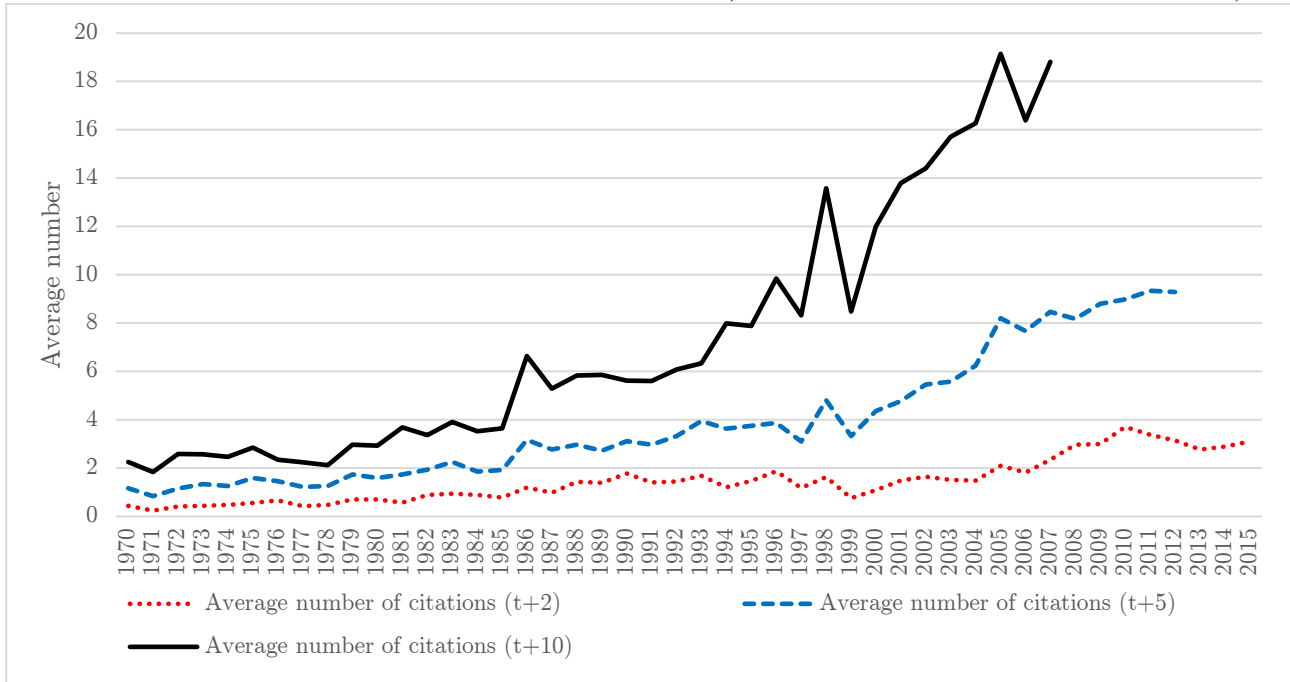


Fig. 17.c *The concentrations of authors' affiliation by year (Herfindahl-Hirschman Index)*



Sources: elaborations on our own database. Notes: Herfindhal index is computed on ten-year rolling windows.

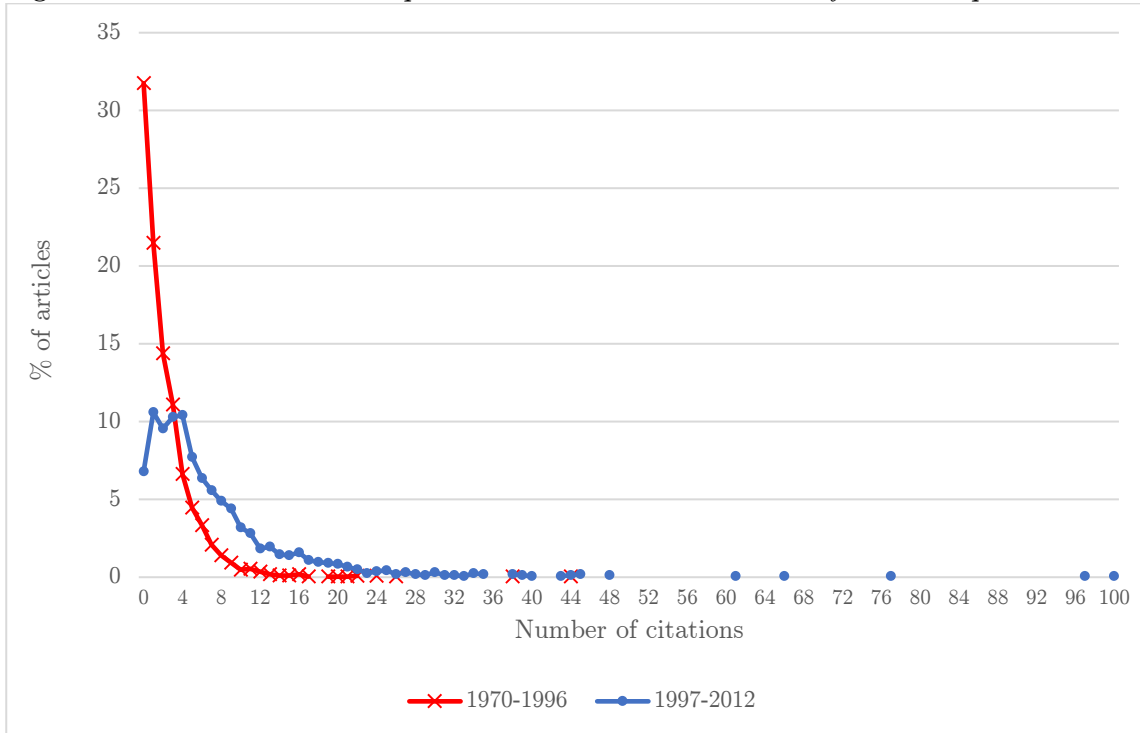
Fig. 18. *Average number of citations received per article (after 2, 5 and 10 years from publication)*



Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Notes: data start from the 1970 cohort.

Fig. 19. *Distribution of articles per number of citations after five years from publication*



Sources: elaborations on our own database.

Fig. 20.a *Number of articles on economic history published in the T5-E (2001-2017)*

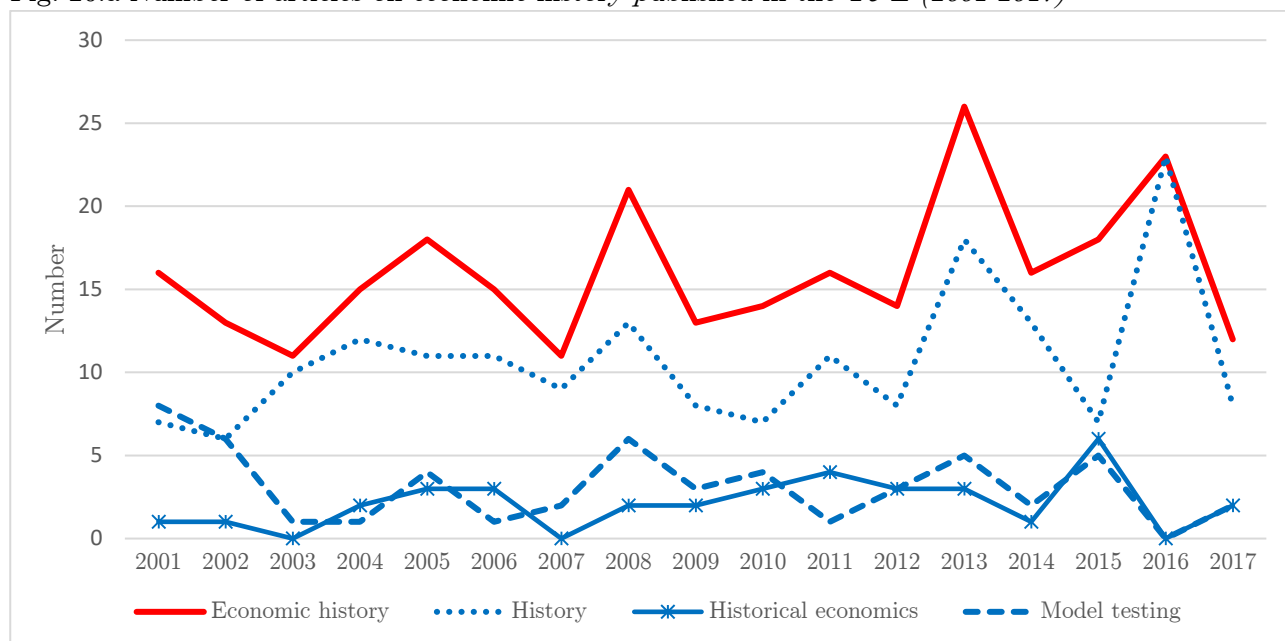
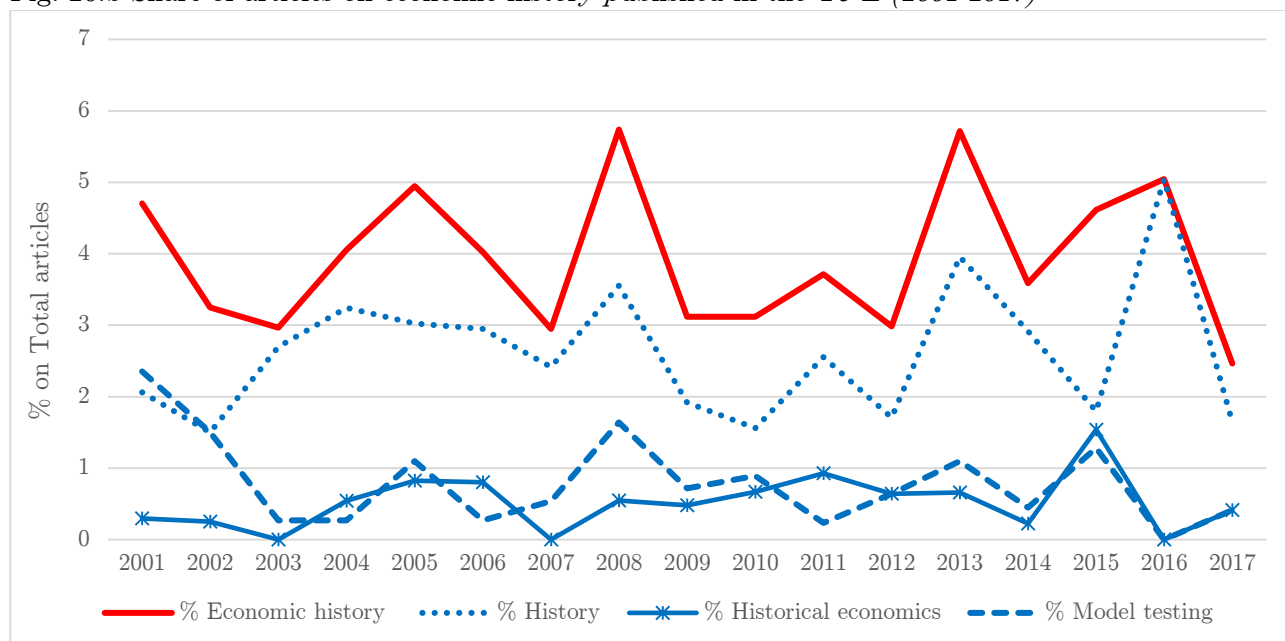
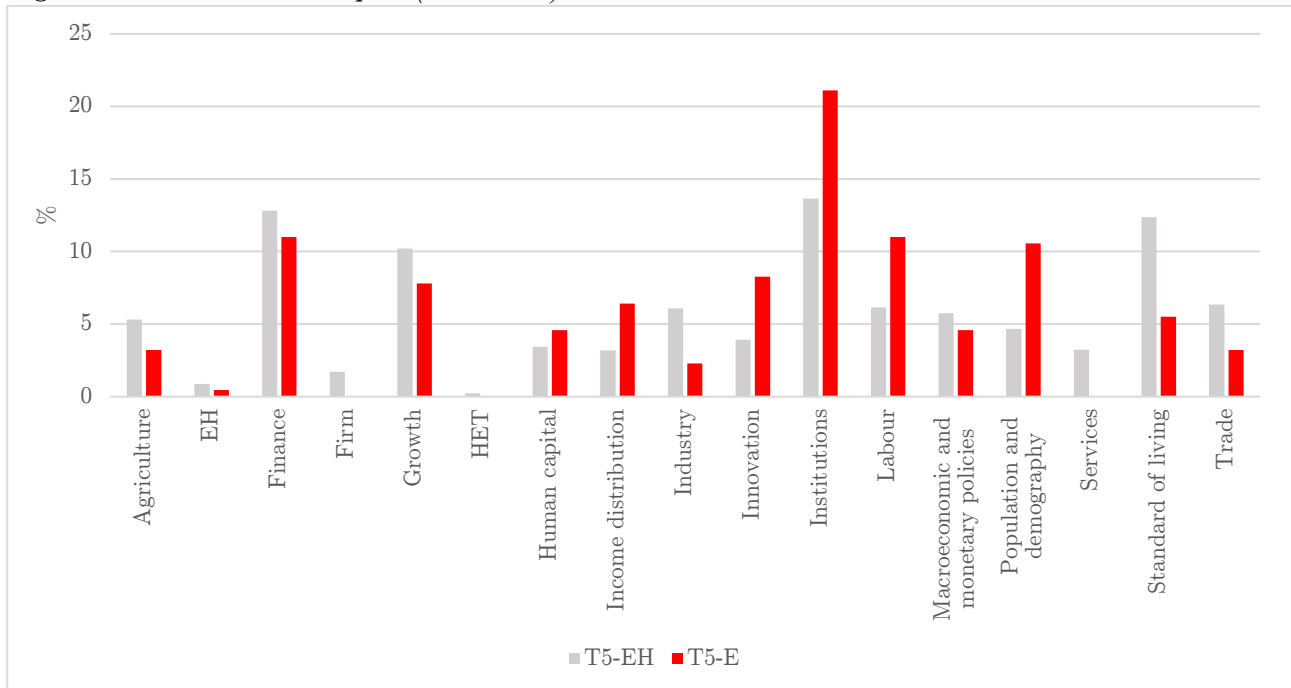


Fig. 20.b *Share of articles on economic history published in the T5-E (2001-2017)*



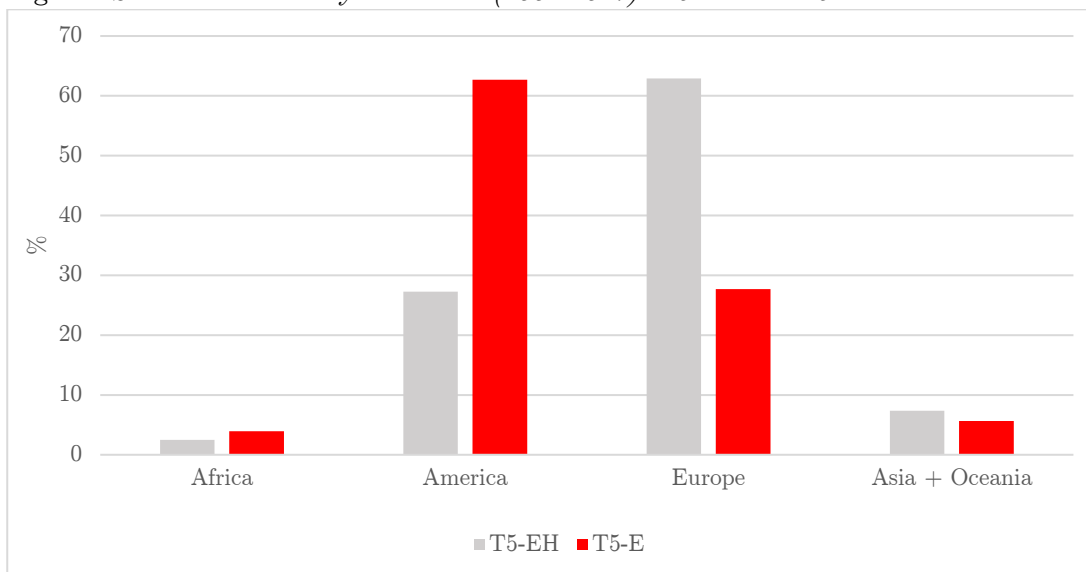
Sources: elaborations on our own databases.

Fig. 21. *Share of articles' topics (2001-2017): T5-EH vs. T5-E*



Sources: elaborations on our own databases.

Fig. 22. *Share of articles by continent (2001-2017): T5-EH vs. T5-E*



Sources: elaborations on our own databases.