

**Survey of Participants for 2015 Cliometric Society Conference
University of Michigan, May 15-17, 2015**

1. How did the presentation at the Conference help your work?

- The feedback provided was excellent and will guide the development of my paper.
- I received a ton of great feedback--I learned of more sources of data to explore, other works to consider and cite, and different techniques to try.
- The comments were very helpful. This paper will be improved a lot in the future.
- The 2015 Cliometrics Conference help me in improving my research. The 5-minute presentation/55-minute Q&A format allows me receiving very useful feedback
- Terrific help for a work that was (very) in progress, in particular regarding which of several directions to pursue, both in framing and in data collection efforts.
- A lot. It clarified how the paper was read as opposed to how people reacted to a presentation. Several of the ideas raised would be effective when we revise the paper.
- It was very helpful in providing some directions for us to pursue in terms of data collection and topics to consider.
- Detailed feedback on a work in progress.

2. Please describe the current status of the paper that you presented.

Still a work in progress: 7

Forthcoming: 1

3. If you participated at the Conference without presenting, how was your participation beneficial to your research and professional activity?

- I met several young scholars that I may coauthor with. I also got to catch up with old students
- It helps me to know what economic historians are interested in the profession.
- As a graduate student, the Conference was an excellent opportunity to meet or reconnect with mid and senior level scholars in the field of economic history. For example, I spoke with one mid-level scholar who conducts research in the same country and time period that I hope will be the focus of my dissertation. This scholar offered to keep in touch regarding my research, and to give me tips when I am ready to dive into building my dataset (as this will be a challenge.) Another example is during the banquet on Saturday night, I had a long, professionally refreshing conversation with a scholar who was well acquainted with several of my mentors from the years I spent working in the Federal Reserve system prior to attending graduate school.
- For a senior person in the field, it is very helpful, insightful, and inspiring to interact with the younger practitioners. In turn, I think my observations based on long experience is helpful to them.
- Good ideas for a book I am writing. I met several scholars interested in my work. I have never been disappointed at a Clio Conference.

- Enormously so: to have seen and heard discussion and research at such a high level, and met with such accomplished colleagues in the field: a tremendous model and motivation to take with me.
- Participation in the Conference was beneficial by bringing research to my attention that I may otherwise have missed, and introducing me to scholars I would not otherwise have known.
- I learned about the current state of research in several sub fields in economic history, including new work by graduate students.
- Seeing new work, hearing about different methods (e.g., control functions), talking about own/others' research offline, general networking
- It was helpful to think about identification strategies in economic history, and to compare the way that economic and sociological are estimated.
- Clio always provides inspiration as well as useful contacts with other scholars who are at work on similar projects. In this case I believe I have found a useful data source.
- Conversations with fellow participants introduced me to a number of new, cutting-edge advances that are critical to my work. Here are three examples: how to create mapping boundary files in STATA; new measures of geographic segregation; and Drupal, an open-source content management system for academic websites. I learned a lot!
- I'm now working on two new papers with other conference attendees.
- It is always helpful to learn what colleagues from other universities are doing, what issues they are addressing and what techniques they use to answer the questions they are addressing.
- Learned about data of which I was unaware; thought about new ways of approaching some research questions
- By showing me a significant part of the research frontier. In addition, I discovered a research connection with one established scholar, and we have already been trading data and ideas in the week following the conference.
- Learned about latest results in Cliometrics, and met many of the leading researchers in the area.
- Reading, discussing and listening to others' comments learn me a lot but also allow me getting inspiration for my work.
- I met several young scholars who were willing to share their data. And I talked with people sharing similar research interests and/or facing similar problems and had helpful discussions.
- The contacts and conversations, plus the opportunity to participate in deep discussions on current research.
- Exposure to the state of the art in the field as well as the opportunity to observe how knowledgeable senior scholars react to things presented.
- Yes, one always learns from the other participants
- I saw several excellent papers. In one case, the data set used prompted me to revisit a paper I long ago abandoned. These data I think will help me revive that paper.

4. This is the second conference for which we distributed the conference book electronically, as a PDF. Please provide suggestions for how we might improve the book's formatting or suggest alternative methods of distribution.

- Electronically is good.
- It is fine.
- I had my book printed and bound at a local copy store. It would have been easier to have had it already printed and bound. I do not read pdfs as carefully.
- Have each paper downloadable separately, rather than as part of an unwieldy book. This is particularly important from the front matter.
- Head shot photos of participants would be nice.
- I thought the format worked well. I did not have any problems reading the papers. My personal preference would be to have the one file with the organizational matters -- who is attending, where to go, schedules, etc and then have the papers grouped in separate files for each session, rather than have one big file for everything.
- I thought that worked very well. A detail might be to make internal links in that file clickable i.e., to allow clicking through to individual papers from the table of contents, and/or to provide chapters/papers also as separate files on a web page: I tended to have the early material with list of participants, guidelines, maps etc. as a separate file/print out. But it worked very well for me.
- Would it be possible to link to tables and figures in the text (as some on-line journals do)? The only aspect of the pdf that I didn't like was scrolling to see end matter.
- I like the electronic version. Given that, I do not see the need for page limits.
- It was fine, I printed it and read the hard copy.
- I enjoyed having access to a digital version. To improve the interpretation of paper findings it would help to have the figures and references in a separate pdf, or to have hyperlinks embedded in a single pdf to permit movement back and forth between the figures, references, tables and text
- I think everything is great.
- I printed it--it is easier for me to mark a physical paper--I used the graphs digitally and that was helpful.
- I thought that the electronic distribution worked exceptionally well. Thank you!
- N/A
- Links in the PDF's table of contents to each paper.
- I think the current formatting works well. I liked being able to print out the papers.
- While I read things on the computer, I did sort of wish I could easily print out the tables in particular (and some figures). This was easy enough for papers that put them at the end of the paper, but more difficult with those that were integrated in

to the paper. It would be nice to have the tables/figures in a separate file that could be printed or viewed simultaneously.

- It's fine as is.
- Seemed just fine.
- The e-book is great but the table and figure should be in the text because when I was reading the papers on my iPad, it took me some times to go from the text to the tables and this is annoying.
- I think pdfs are good.
- No suggestions. Worked well for me
- I had no problems with the way the data was formatted.
- Some sort of compression perhaps or breaking the book into pieces by session would be useful. The file was otherwise quite large.
- The pdf was great.
- OK by me
- I think it was fine.
- I would prefer to have the pdf emailed directly to me rather than downloading from central location.
- This worked very well for me.

5. How did you read the conference papers?

On a computer: 9

On a reader: 8

I printed out the papers: 15

6. Did you find your neighbour's reading on a computer or iPad distracting?

Yes: 2

No: 29

7. Please make suggestions for improving the conference

- Shorter sessions. Add another paper. Or two.
- Add one more hour to the afternoon break on Saturday, so that there is time for exercise and/or a good nap. Spread out the number of sessions per day more evenly (one more on Friday, one less on Saturday.)
- The format causes the issues raised to jump around randomly. It would be nice to pursue an issue through to the end before moving to the next issue.
- I thought the conference went very smoothly. I would have liked a few more papers that dealt with broader treatment of "big" issues -- but that is a very minor critique.
- Have more of them! I can't honestly think of ways in which it could be improved-I think it was very successful model
- Don't start at 8 am on Sunday! Having a theme might be good - although the variety was also engaging.

- More presentations by senior people.
- More methodological diversity. Given the interest in spatial variation, some spatial econometrics needs to be introduced.
- No.
- This conference was one of the best I have attended. people were well-prepared and in many cases had done significant research in order to ask good questions and help other scholars.
- In my somewhat limited experience, this was the best Clio conference ever. Presenters were well prepared and the audience was knowledgeable, generous, and gentle in its suggestions. Local arrangements were superb. The organizers are to be commended!
- N/A
- My main suggestion is that the sessions end on Saturday evening with the banquet. People were very tired on Sunday morning. I also would prefer a few less papers that focused on econometric techniques. I am old fashioned and like stories.
- The conference is awesome. It doesn't need change :)
- Of the two formats used in 2014 (all Fri-Sat) and 2015 (mid-Fri thru mid-Sun), I have at first thought the 2014 was better. But I have changed my mind. The 2015 save a night of lodging for those east of Rockies, and it has only one exhausting full day. So I now prefer 2015.
- As a newcomer to both the conference and this area, I don't think I am qualified to say much on this.
- Some of the papers were too preliminary to be discussed plainly.
- I think if session chairs can sort of direct people's questions better, that may be more helpful. For example, if the chair realizes after 15 mins that multiple people have problems on a couple of issues: selection and measurements. Then the chair can shuffle the queue by asking people who have questions on selection to talk first, ask the presenter to respond, then move on to the discussion on measurement. That way, the session may seem more "organized" instead of people keeping on going back to others' comments.
- I wonder if there is some way for the graduate students who attend to get a bit more out of it (and us learn a bit about their work, maybe we have some useful knowledge for them). Not sure how to do this exactly though (5 minute talks like they are having at NBER?)
- This was my first Clio and I greatly enjoyed it. This was a great way to get reaction to a paper that is close to submission but not yet ready for submission.
- Start a tad later on Sunday morning
- I thought there was too many people. This made it too much like a "conference" and not a clio. 2. I also thought the room was not particularly conducive to interactions. 3. The chairs needed to do a better job of controlling the time it took for people to ask questions. 4. Many of the papers could have been further along.
- This format has survived for many years, and for good reason: it works. Having people read the papers ahead of time is ideal. The comments at Clio are much more focused and on point than at other conferences.

8. What was your overall evaluation of the conference?

- Excellent. My favorite conference.
- The quality is high. The pity for me is that most people knew each other before, while this is the first time that I attended this conference. It made me embarrassed to talk to people.
- Clio is the most congenial of the economics conferences that I have attended. Senior faculty make an effort to reach out to and nurture grad students and junior faculty. The format is also conducive to active participation, since we all have to read every article, and come armed with clever and insightful questions.
- These are always good conferences because of the careful and thoughtful curating by the program committee and the camaraderie of the attendees.
- Excellent
- A very good conference with what seemed to be excellent feedback for presenters.
- Excellent. A fantastic mix of very high level work and seriousness of purpose, backed up by wonderful organisation of every detail and truly welcoming atmosphere. I thought it superb and it has a big impact on me, particularly in being a little more ambitious in my work, and as a model for events I might help run. Very very well done.
- It was great - good mix of structure and social time.
- Well run -- keep up the good work. I like the mix of papers from scholars at all career stages and all topics.
- Great
- Really hard to beat this conference. I learned a lot both in formal presentations and informally during meals and breaks.
- Extremely satisfied. I have already recommended this conference to other Clio-sympathetic researchers.
- A very valuable event for a non-economist to see the way historical problems are addressed, the richness of data collection and the strategies for analyzing change over time.
- Excellent.
- One of the best--well done!
- Excellent!
- The conference was great, all the organizers did a wonderful job !!!!
- Excellent!
- I thought it was excellent. The papers were good, the discussion was good, and I got to meet some young academics.
- Wonderful. thank you!

- Terrific. The work-intensive format and the strong preference for younger paper presenters delivers high value added.
- Excellent.
- Very good conferee, nice groups of people. But a bit too short. 1 more paper would have been nice.
- Great.
- Great
- Clio is the only conference of its kind. Really useful.
- Positive
- It was a very good conference.
- Stellar.
- The conference was good overall. It's well run and fosters excellent collaboration.
- Although I do not get to attend as much as I would like, Clio is perhaps my conference. The papers and discussion are always top notch. Its great. I hope the NSF continues to fund us.