

Education

- 2016–Present PhD Economics, Queen’s University Belfast
2015–2016 MSc Economics, Queen’s University Belfast, *with Distinction*
2011–2015 BSc Economics, Queen’s University Belfast, *with First Class Honours*

PhD Thesis

- Title Innovation and Incentives in British Economic History
Supervisors Christopher L. Colvin and Christopher Coyle
Expected Summer 2019
Description I investigate how institutions shaped the economic incentives governing inventive behaviour in British economic history.

Visiting Positions

- March 2019 Visiting Student, Department of History and Art History, Utrecht University (supervised by Oscar Gelderblom) (scheduled)
March 2018 Visiting Student, Institute of Economics, Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, Pisa (supervised by Alessandro Nuvolari)

Teaching and Research Fields

- Primary Economic History, Economics of Innovation
Secondary Industrial Organisation, Machine Learning

Teaching Experience

- Autumn 2018 Lecturer and Tutor for *Economic History* (3rd year undergraduate)
Spring 2017 Teaching support for *Corporate Finance* (3rd year undergraduate)
Autumn 2017 Tutor for *Principles of Economics* (1st year undergraduate)
Autumn 2017 Tutor for *Excel and VBA* (2nd year undergraduate)
Autumn 2016 Teaching support for *Applied Econometrics* (postgraduate)

Academic Presentations

- 2019 Economic History Society Annual Conference, Belfast (scheduled)
2018 Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna Seminar, Pisa; Irish Economic Association 32nd Annual Conference, Dublin; 1st PhD Summer School on Applied Microeconomics, Lancaster; Economic and Social History Society of Ireland, Belfast (scheduled); Royal Economic Society PhD and Job Market Conference, London (scheduled)
2017 Centre for Economic History Seminar, QUB; Economic History Society Residential Training Course for PhD Students, Manchester

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Awards

- 2016–2019 Doctoral Studentship, Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland
2016 PACEC Prize for Best MSc Economics Dissertation, QUB

Research Papers

Title “That’s Classified! Inventing a New Patent Taxonomy” (with Alan J. Hanna) – Under review at *Research Policy*

Abstract We investigate how patent classification influences the interpretation of patent statistics. Innovation researchers currently make use of various patent classification schemas. Their classification methodologies are hard to replicate. Using machine learning techniques, we construct a transparent, replicable patent taxonomy, and a new automated methodology for classifying patents. We then contrast our new schema with existing ones using a long-run patent dataset. In a quantitative analysis of patent characteristics, we find strong evidence of classification bias; our interpretation of regression coefficients is schema-dependant. We suggest that much of the innovation literature needs to be re-examined in light of our findings.

Title “Patent Costs and the Value of Inventions: Explaining Patenting Behaviour between England, Ireland and Scotland, 1617-1852”

Abstract Ascertaining whether patents encourage invention necessitates understanding the incentives inventors respond to. The British patent system prior to its reform in 1852 was cumbersome and expensive. Whether it facilitated or delayed the Industrial Revolution is hotly debated. This paper’s contribution is to examine the incentives to patent, and the characteristics of patentees, by observing the entire population of British patents granted up to the patent reforms of 1852. I find inventors patented widely because they had valuable inventions. Their value was positively associated with the skills and wealth of patentees. Inventors responded to demand-side conditions, and the system’s expense did not hinder invention.

Title “‘War, What Is It Good For?’ The Industrial Revolution!”

Abstract Did the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars contribute to the Industrial Revolution? Recent scholarship argues warfare was an important factor in explaining Britain’s industrialisation, by encouraging the invention and diffusion of key technologies with military applications. I re-examine this hypothesis by analysing the patenting of military inventions and inventions considered to be economically valuable during the Industrial Revolution. I find war led to a permanent increase in the rate of military and valuable patenting. War likely created a demand for superior military technologies, while increased wartime production led to demands for more valuable technologies, which both stimulated the Industrial Revolution.

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References

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