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Karine van der Beek

CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal Details

Name: Karine van der Beek

Date and place of birth: 20.04.1973, Jerusalem

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Employment History

- 2016- Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.
- 2009-2015 Lecturer, Department of Economics, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.
- 2007-2009 Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Economics, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.
- 2006-2007 Post-Doctoral Fellow, CEPR RTN UEE (Research Training Network 'Unifying the European Experience') at the Department of History, European University Institute, Florence, Italy (10/2006-2/2007) and at the Department of Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain (2-9/2007).

Research Field and Interests

Economic history, European economic history, economic growth with focus on the evolution of human capital, technological change and institutions.

Education

B.A 1997: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Economics and Political Science.

M.A 2002: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Economics (Direct Doctoral Program).

Ph.D. 2007: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Economics.

Advisor: Professor Nathan Sussman.

Dissertation title: *"Political Fragmentation and the Expansion in Watermill Construction in Medieval Europe: A Case Study from Ponthieu, France."*

Professional ActivitiesPositions in academic administration

2022-2024	Founder and chair of the Steering Committee of the Algotrading Initiative at BGU.
2021-2024	Head of the Recruiting Committee of the Department of Economics.
2020-2023	Founder and member of the Steering Committee of the Statistics Program.
2019-2022	Economics and Statistics Program Coordinator.
2018-	Member of the Human Subjects Research Committee at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
2018-2021	Member of The Hubert H. Humphrey Institute for Social Research steering committee at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
2014-2017	Head of the Economics Curriculum at The Academic Program for the IAF Flight Course, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
2012-2013	Recruiting Committee, Department of Economics, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
2009-2012	Departmental Seminar Organizer, Department of Economics, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Professional functions outside universities/institutions

2024	Member of the Managing Committee of The Israeli Economic Association.
2022	BA seminar supervisor for the Open University.
2021	Head of Scientific Committee of the tenth Meeting of the Economic History Association of Israel, 19 December 2021, Raanana.
2015-2022	Research Affiliate, Centre of Economic Policy Research (CEPR), London.

2015-2021 Trustee, European Historical Economics Society.
2012-2018 Steering Committee, Economic History Association of Israel.

Significant professional consulting

2024 Member of the Professional committee for the Israel Science Foundation (ISF).
2022 Reviewer for the Israeli Science Foundation: Individual Research Grant.
2019 Member of the Professional committee for the Israel Science Foundation (ISF).
2012 Reviewer for the Open University of an economic history textbook written by Mrs. Amira Ofer under the academic supervision of Prof. Joel Mokyr.

Ad-hoc reviewer for journals

Economic Journal, Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of Economic History, Economic History Review, Explorations in Economic History, European Review of Economic History, Financial History Review, The Review of Economics and Statistics.

Membership in professional/scientific societies

Economic History Association of Israel
American Economic Association (AEA)
European Historical Economic Society (EHES)
Economic History Society (EHS)
Economic History Association (EHA)

Educational Activities

Courses taught

“Practical Economics” workshop (for BA)
Academic writing in Economics (for BA)
Econometrics for undergraduates (for BA)
Topics in Economics History (for BA)
Institutional Economics (for MA)
The British Industrial Revolution (for MA)

Research students

Boaz Yemini, MA Thesis, 2011, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
Shir-Ran Shechter, MA Thesis, 2011, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
Idan Reichman, MA Thesis, 2014, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
Tal Sinko, MA Thesis, 2015, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (with Mark Gradstein).
Nofar Shamir, MA Thesis, 2016, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
Shlomi Ben-Artzi, MA Thesis, 2019, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
Chen Ganon, MA Thesis, 2019, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (with Naomi Gershoni).
Lior Farbman, PhD thesis, 2026, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
Nadav Magen, MA Thesis, 2026, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Scientific Publications

Editorship of collective volumes

Arnon, Arie, Young, Warren, van der Beek, Karine (Eds.). 2020. Expectations: Theory and Applications from Historical Perspectives. Springer International Publishing (238 pages).

Refereed chapters in collective volumes, Conference proceedings, Festschrifts, etc.

Van der Beek, Karine. 2014. "England's eighteenth-century demand for high-quality workmanship: Evidence from apprenticeship, 1710-1770", in Avner Greif, Lynne Kiesling and John V.C. Nye (eds.), *Institutions, Innovation, and Industrialization: Essays in Economic History and Development*, a festschrift volume in honor of Prof. Joel Mokyr, Princeton University Press, pp. 268-274.

Reviewed for EH.Net by Robert A. Margo, Department of Economics, Boston University.

Referred articles and refereed letters in scientific journals

Van der Beek, Karine. 2010. "The Effects of Political Fragmentation on Investments": A case Study of Watermill Construction in Medieval Ponthieu, France". *Explorations in Economic History* 47: 369–380.

Van der Beek, Karine. 2010. "Political Fragmentation, Competition and Investment Decisions: The Medieval Grinding Industry in Ponthieu, France (1150-1250)". *Economic History Review* 63(3): 664-687.

Van der Beek, Karine. 2015. "The Effects of the Political Space on Watermill Construction in 11th and 12th century Ponthieu, France". *Zmanim*, A Historical

Quarterly issue 129: 16-25 (Hebrew).

Justman, Moshe and Van der Beek, Karine. 2015. "Market Forces Shaping Human Capital in Eighteenth Century London". *Economic History Review* 68 (4): 1177–1202.

Feldman, Naomi and Van der Beek, Karine. 2016. "Skill Choice and Skill Complementarity in Eighteenth Century England". *Explorations in Economic History* 59: 94-113.

Ben-Zeev, Nadav, Mokyr, Joel and Van der Beek, Karine. 2017. "Flexible Supply of Apprenticeship in the British Industrial Revolution". *Journal of Economic History* 77(1):208-250.

Mokyr, Joel, Sarid, Assaf, and Van der Beek, Karine. 2022. "The Wheels of Change: Technology Adoption, Millwrights, and Persistence in Britain's Industrialization". *The Economic Journal* (132): 1894–1926 <https://doi.org/10.1093/ej/ueab102>.

Roni Bluestein-Livnon, Svoray, Tal, Dorman, Michael, and Van der Beek, Karine. 2023 "Economic Aspects of Urban Greenness Along a Dryland Rainfall Gradient: a Time-Series Analysis". *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* (in press).
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2023.127915>

Unrefereed professional articles and publications

Van der Beek, Karine. 2006. Review of Clé Lesger, *The Rise of the Amsterdam Market and Information Exchange: Merchants, Commercial Expansion and Change in the Spatial Economy of the Low Countries, C. 1550-1630*, Ashgate, 2006. *The Journal of Economic History* 69(3): 882-3.

Van der Beek, Karine. 2007. Review of Lawrin Armstrong, Ivana Elbl and Martin M. Elb (editors), *Money, Markets and Trade in Late Medieval Europe: Essays in Honour of John H.A. Munro*. EHNet Economic History Services.

Van der Beek, Karine. 2007. Review of John Langdon, *Mills in the Medieval Economy: England, 1300-1540*. EH.Net Economic History Services.

Van der Beek, Karine. 2019 Review of Adam Lucas, *Ecclesiastical Lordship, Seigneurial Power and the Commercialization of Milling in Medieval England*, Ashgate, 2014. *PARERGON* 36(2): 227-8.

Research in progress

"Enclosures and financial markets in eighteenth-century England" (with Tomer Ifergane, Walker Ray and Lior Farbman)

Land privatization, or *titling*, is a cornerstone of development policy. While titling is typically thought to improve allocational efficiency, its impact on financial markets remains less understood. We examine a gradual land privatization process in England from 1750 to 1830, focusing on the enclosure of land with common use rights to study their impact on financial markets. Informed by key institutional and financial features in England during this time, we develop a theory of the nexus between titling reforms, credit market access, and the use of land as collateral. Using a novel database of personal defaults, we find that titling land with common use rights raises local bankruptcies, a key prediction of our model. The effect is especially pronounced in industrialized regions and during downturns, highlighting that local economic conditions are pivotal in determining the success of land reforms. (first draft coming soon).

"The Spatial distribution of skills in eighteenth century England: new estimates using evidence on apprenticeship".

"Was steam engine technology skill-biased? The short-run effects of steam engine development on demand for skills in eighteenth century England"

Lectures and Presentations at Meetings and Seminars*Presentation of papers at conferences/meetings (oral or poster)*

- 2005 The Economic History Association Meeting, Poster Session, Toronto.
- 2005 The European Historical Economics Conference, Istanbul.
- 2005 The Economic History Society Annual Conference, Leicester.
- 2005 "Medieval Global Economies," University of Western Ontario, London Ontario.
- 2006 First Summer School of the CEPR RTN: 'Unifying the European Experience', European University Institute, Florence.
- 2007 The European Historical Economics Conference, Lund.
- 2009 FRESH Meeting. Oxford University.
- 2009 The European Historical Economics Conference, Geneva.
- 2010 The Economic History Association Annual Meeting, Evanston, IL.
- 2010 The Israeli Economic Association Meeting, Jerusalem (session chair).
- 2010 The 2010 Cliometrics Conference, La Crosse, WI.
- 2010 European Social Science History Conference, Ghent.
- 2011 European Historical Economics Society Conference, Dublin.
- 2011 Conference Honoring Professor Joel Mokyr, Evanston, IL.
- 2013 First CEPR Economic History Symposium 2013, Perugia.
- 2013 Conference on "Long Run Growth", University of Warwick.
- 2013 European Historical Economics Society Conference, London.
- 2014 CEPR Economic History Symposium 2014, Vienna.

- 2015 European Historical Economics Society Conference, Pisa.
- 2015 XVIIth World Economic History Congress, Kyoto.
- 2015 Keynote speaker at the 10th Sound Economic History Workshop, Lund.
- 2017 European Historical Economics Society Conference, Tubigen
- 2017 Conference organized by The Pinhas Sapir Economic Policy Forum: "The Long Shadow of History: The Role of Geographical, Institutional, Cultural, and Human Factors in Comparative Economic Development", Tel Aviv
- 2018 Conference in the Honor of Nicholas Crafts: "Nicholas Crafts @70 Conference" England
- 2018 Economic History Society Annual Conference, Keele University.
- 2018 הכנס השנתי של האגודה הישראלית להיסטוריה כלכלית.
- 2019 "מה יצא לי מזה? בין שוק העבודה לבזאר הרעיונות", כנס הפקולטה למדעי הרוח והחברה.
- 2020 The ASSA 2020 Annual Meetings in San-Diego.
- 2020 International Water History Conference, Delft University. Cancelled (covid-19)
- 2023 Economic History Society Annual Conference, University of Warwick.
- 2023 European Historical Economics Society Conference, Vienna.
- 2024 ICI (Kellogg Crown Family Israel Center for Innovation) Conference, Jerusalem.
- 2025 Annual workshop on "Growth, History and Development", Danish Institute for Advanced Study (DIAS), University of Southern Denmark, Odense.
- 2025 EHA/Clio sessions at the Western Economic Association International meeting, San Francisco.

Seminar presentations at universities and institutions

- 2005 History Department, European University Institute, Florence.
- 2005 Social and Economic History Seminar, Utrecht University, Utrecht.
- 2005 Economics Department Seminar, University of Western Ontario, London Ontario.
- 2005 Economic History Seminar, Oxford University, Oxford.
- 2006 Economics Department Economic History Seminar, UPF, Barcelona.
- 2009 Economic History Seminar, University of Copenhagen.
- 2011 Economics Departmental Seminar, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan.
- 2012 Faculty of Business and Management, Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva.
- 2012 Department of General History, Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva.
- 2012 Economics Department – empirical seminar, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem.
- 2012 Economics Department Seminar, Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva.
- 2013 Department of Economic Agriculture, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem.
- 2013 Department of Economic History, London School of Economics, London.
- 2013 Department of Economics, Oxford University, London.
- 2014 School of Economics, IDC Herzliya.
- 2014 Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management, ULB (Université libre de Bruxelles), Brussels.
- 2015 Economics Department General Seminar, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem.
- 2015 Economics Department, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan.

- 2018 Economics Department, Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva.
- 2018 Economic History seminar at PSE, Paris School of Economics, Paris.
- 2019 Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management, ULB (Université libre de Bruxelles), Brussels.
- 2021 Department of General History, Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva.
- 2023 Economics Department, University of Haifa, Haifa.
- 2024 Department of Economics, Queen's University, Belfast.

Research Grants

- 2006 Arthur H. Cole Grant, The Economic History Association, research grant. A total amount of \$1,500.
- 2011-2012 The Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) Inaugural Grant. "Technology-Skill Complementarity on the Eve of the Industrial Revolution: New Evidence from England 1710-1772" A total amount of \$22,600.
- 2011-2014 The Israel Science Foundation (ISF) Individual Research Grant. "The Development in Human Capital on the Eve of the Industrial Revolution (1710-1772)." A total amount of \$66,500.
- 2011-2014 (With Joel Mokyr). The U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF) Regular Grant. With Joel Mokyr from Northwestern University IL. "The Sources of Technology-skill Complementarity during the Industrial Revolution: 1710-1810." A total amount of \$84,000.
- 2021-2024 The Israel Science Foundation (ISF) Individual Research Grant. "The Collateral Channel of Britain's Industrial Revolution: The financial side of Land Enclosures" A total amount of \$112,300.
- 2024-2026 Israel National Insurance Institute. "Psychological Distress, Future Orientation, and Educational Aspirations of Young Adults: Anticipated Long-Term Consequences of October 7th" A total amount of 180,235 NIS.

Fellowships

- 2006 Blazeska Excellence Scholarship for Doctoral Students, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- 2003-2004 Marie Curie (The European Commission) Visiting Fellowship for Early-Stage Research Training at DELTA, Paris, France.
- 2000-2006 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Economics Department Fellowship.

Synopsis of research, including reference to publications and grants in above lists

My main field of research is economic history, with particular interest in the understanding of growth processes and in exploring the relationship between technological change, human capital, and political institutions. My dissertation concentrated on the relationship between medieval political structures and investment in machinery looking into watermill construction in eleventh- and twelfth century Ponthieu, a region in northern France. In 2010 I published two papers on this topic. In the first I show that there was a causal and positive relationship between political fragmentation and increased watermill construction and in the second, I explore the underlying economic mechanism for this phenomenon. I show that this could not have been a simple result of the break-up of large landholdings (as claimed by Marc Bloch, 1935) due to the fact that watermill construction was not profitable in small landholdings under conditions of competition in prices. Rather, it was caused by the need to increase labor working hours. I have recently begun a research project that uses insight from these two studies and examines the persistence of medieval political fragmentation. It uses evidence from Domesday Book (1086 England) on characteristics of landholding distribution to explain later differences in economic outcomes (expected completion October 2021).

My more recent research concerns the role of human capital during the Britain's Industrial revolution in the eighteenth century. I advanced a number of papers on this topic owing to the generous financial support from INET (Institute for New Economic Thinking), ISF (Israeli Science Foundation) and BSF (Binational Science Foundation). In one paper I use different sources to show that there was a significant increase in demand for people with mechanical skills relevant for machine construction (van der Beek 2014). In another paper I examine apprenticeship contracts throughout England between 1710 and 1772 and show that contrary to the existing view innovations affected the number of apprentices in all occupations on average, most significantly affecting the number of apprentices bound to masters with highly skilled mechanical occupations (Feldman and van der Beek, 2015). I also have two papers that examine the operation of the apprenticeship system in eighteenth century England and show that this market was effective and responsive to demand from the labor market. One paper (Justman and van der Beek 2015) uses information from a manual for parents from 1747 London to examine the relationship between wages and the tuitions that were paid for apprenticeship in different occupations, and the other paper, analyzes the response of tuitions for apprenticeship to changes in the annual number of apprentices between 1710 and 1805 and claims that this response reflects a high level of supply elasticity that seems to be unique to England's system of apprenticeship and may be one of the explanations to why England industrialized first (Ben-Zeev, Mokyr and van der Beek 2017). Another related study shows that the adoption of watermill technology in the early Middle Ages played a key role in the evolution of mechanical skills in England and had a persistent effect on later economic expansion and industrialization (Mokyr, Sarid, and van der Beek,

2022). I have additional ongoing research in this subject, that employs machine learning methods as well as econometrics to look into the role of human capital in the choice of location of steam engines in England, before the industrial revolution. My current main research project, “Land Reforms in Developing Financial Markets: Lessons from England's Land Enclosures 1750-1830”, funded by the Israeli Science Foundation (ISF), is in collaboration with Tomer Ifergane, Walker Ray, and Lior Farbman. The study focuses on the significant change in the structure of landownership in 18th and 19th century England, a change that has been studied thus far mostly on the agricultural productivity aspect, and examines its effect on capital markets and on access to credit. Thus, land should not only be viewed as a factor of production but also as collateral that enables access to credit markets.