

**EC104 First Seminar**  
**The World Economy: History & Theory**  
**Pre-Modern Growth: pre-1500**

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# Welcome!

- I am Junxi Liu, a PhD student in the department of economics
- There are a total of four seminar classes for EC104, one every two weeks, and each class will cover two weeks' lecture material
- Communication with me: [junxi.liu.1@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:junxi.liu.1@warwick.ac.uk)
- Class materials, other seminar classes I teach, and office hour bookings can be found in my website: [junxiliu.com](http://junxiliu.com)
- Office hours: Tuesdays 2:30pm-4:30pm, S1.111, **book via my website**

# Logistics

- If you can't make one of the seminars, you can come to any other seminar ***I teach*** without asking for the department's approval: simply come and let me know which one you are supposed to be in.
- ***If you can't make any of the time slots I teach, you have to contact the UG office directly.***
- Full list of classes that I teach can be found on my website

# EC104 Seminars - Term 1

## Class Time

Group No.	Weeks	Day	Start Time	End Time	Location
5	3, 5, 7, 9	Monday	12:00	13:00	S0.10
9	3, 5, 7, 9	Thursday	15:00	16:00	R3.25
11	3, 5, 7, 9	Thursday	17:00	18:00	S1.39
18	4, 6, 8, 10	Tuesday	12:00	13:00	FAB4.73
20	4, 6, 8, 10	Thursday	14:00	15:00	R3.41
21	4, 6, 8, 10	Thursday	15:00	16:00	R3.25
22	4, 6, 8, 10	Thursday	17:00	18:00	S1.39

# Class Format

- You will be divided into groups to discuss 2-3 questions together, and questions are already posted on Moodle
- The goal is to get you to read, think, and speak
- Participation at least once per seminar will give you 10% of total marks
- At the start of each seminar, make sure you have the textbook (physical or online) and the lecture slides ready, so we are always on the same page (literally)

# Why EC104?

- This might be the one and only economics course in your undergrad that does not need math
- History is not only your learning outcomes, but also the start of your own economic thinking and research
- Make sure to
  - Read all required readings and review lecture slides before coming to the seminar: the textbooks contains mostly facts or conclusions that most researchers agree
  - Summarize and understand the reading: do not get lost in the details
  - Let the readings inspire you: what more could be done?

# Question 1

Koyama and Rubin, How the World Became Rich

Chapter 1: Why, When, and How Did the World Become Rich?

Chapter 2: Did Some Societies Win the Geography Lottery?

**Q: How and why have living standards changed since 1500?**

- Introduce yourselves in one sentence
- Each member propose one point you want to make
- Discuss all the points made, and all members are free to add new ideas and thoughts
- You will have 5 minutes to finish above tasks
- We will discuss this question together

# Question 2

Question from Lectures

**What is the Malthusian trap? What does it explain about the world before 1500?**

- Each member propose one point you want to make
- Discuss all the points made, and all members are free to add new ideas and thoughts
- You will have 5 minutes to finish above tasks
- We will discuss this question together