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Comments on Giovanni Federico's Introductory Lecture

Workshop on

***RESEARCH ON CENTRAL BANKING HISTORY
AND ON ITALIAN ECONOMIC HISTORY:
WHERE DO WE STAND AND WHERE ARE WE
HEADING?***

(Bank of Italy, Rome, October 18 2022)

- 1) Estimates
- 2) Then, interpretation
 - Pioneers: Gerschenkron, Fenoaltea, Zamagni, Carreras
(and Istat, of course)
 - Early followers: Federico, Malanima, Vasta, Vecchi, A'Hearn
 - Late followers: Alfani, Ciccarelli, Felice, Baffigi, Daniele, Rota
 - *Other countries:* Cinnirella, Nuvolari
 - A new generation, and new additions (many...)
- Mostly (for reasons of data), post-unification Italy

The new economic history of Italy

- (political) History
 - as the fabric of public discourse
- Economics
 - the contribution of history to “good economics”
- Moreover, issues in these two areas are often interrelated

Italy's new economic history in a broader context

- Why the economic history of modern Italy is relevant for public discourse? (and thus for history as a whole)
 - The North-South divide
 - The rise and decline of Italy
 - *a remarkable interest ad cross-breeding*

History

- Inequalities
 - Public intervention
 - Institutions (economic and political, formal and informal)
 - Free trade / protectionism
 - Finance
 - Varieties of capitalism
 - Ruling class (sociology)
- *however, much less interest*

Economics

- Political science (high)
- Sociology (high)
- Demography (low)
- History of science (low)
- Cultural history (low)
- Feminist history (low)
- Environmental history (null)

and... beyond history and economics?

- Good relations with political history, political science, sociology
- Low with all the rest (including economics)
- Null with environmental history

**Thus, new Italy's
economic history...**
