



Università
di Genova

DIEC DIPARTIMENTO
DI ECONOMIA

Economics and Quantitative Methods PhD Seminar Series

“Exploring economic inequality while navigating through tax reforms. The Spanish case (18th and 19th centuries)”

JOSEP MAS FERRER (UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA)

Abstract

The aim of this seminar is to present and discuss different aspects related to the sources and methodology for studying economic inequality at the dawn of contemporary Spain. More specifically, it will focus on sources linked to direct taxation, especially those that aimed to measure individual wealth in order to subsequently apply a proportional tax. Starting with the Cadastre imposed by the Bourbons after their arrival on the Spanish throne in the early 18th century and ending with the tax reform of 1854, we will go through various attempts at tax reform and the documentary sources that they have all left to us. Although different figures and results will be shown as an outcome of quantifying economic inequality through fiscal sources, the ultimate goal of the communication is not so much to show the results of any case study as to offer some reflections that may be echoed in many other research contexts.

Wednesday 5 November 2025, h. 14.30

Aula Acquario