

# Gabriel F. Geisler Mesevage

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## Education

- 2011–2016 **PhD History minor in Economics**, *Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies*, Geneva.  
*Title*: Information Bubbles: The Market for Financial Information and the Railway Mania of 1845  
*Defended*: 19 September 2016, Summa Cum Laude  
*Committee*: Marc Flandreau, Rui Esteves, Jean-Louis Arcand, Carolyn Bilotft
- 2009–2011 **Masters in International Studies**, *Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies*, Geneva.
- 2005–2009 **MA International Relations and Anthropology**, *University of St. Andrews*, St. Andrews.

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## PhD thesis

- Title* *Information Bubbles: The Market for Financial Information and the Railway Mania of 1845*
- Committee* Marc Flandreau, Rui Esteves, Jean-Louis Arcand, Carolyn Bilotft
- Description* My thesis studies the railway mania of 1845, and the role of the financial press in contributing to the bubble. I constructed a new database of railway companies, allowing me to demonstrate how the bubble prompted the creation of low-quality and fraudulent concerns, and how these companies were able to market themselves on the equity market by advertising heavily in the press, and offering newspapers inducements to cover their stock favorably. I then show how the media market responded with a proliferation of start-up finance journals, created to help market railway stock. In the aftermath of the mania the market for information re-adjusted, with the newspapers that profited most from the mania being punished through a loss of market-share, and those newspapers created to promote the stock going out of business. The thesis offers a framework within which to understand the links between bubbles and the financial press, and offers important revisions to the way we understand the railway mania.

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## Employment

- 2015–Present **Marie Curie Early Stage Research Fellow**, *Department of Economics, University of Oxford*.  
Commenced a research fellowship on political corruption in mid-Victorian Britain jointly with Rui Esteves.  
Developed methods for the detection of vote-trading in the British Parliament using social network analysis and spatial econometric models.

October 2016 **Visitor in Economics, Caltech.**

Invited to present current research and visit at the University of Caltech.

2013–2014 **Teaching Assistant, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.**

Worked on a range of graduate-level courses, including:

- *History & Development*

- *Power, Poverty and Wealth in Africa from the Slave Trades to the Present*

2010–2012 **Research Assistant, Geneva Center for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, Geneva.**

Researched Parliamentary control of intelligence agencies by conducting interviews with relevant European MPs and civil servants. Organized training workshops on parliamentary oversight of intelligence agencies for MPs in the Balkans.

2009–2010 **Research Assistant, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.**

Worked on a research project led by Marc Flandreau comparing the economic history of the French and British press.

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## Publications

### *Peer Reviewed*

- with Marc Flandreau, “The Opaque Origins of the Business of Transparency: Mercantile Agencies, the Law and the Lawyers (1851-1916),” *Enterprise & Society*, Vol. 15, No. 2, 2014.
  - Winner of the Philip Scranton Prize for Best Article published in *Enterprise & Society* in 2014.
- with Marc Flandreau, “The Separation of Information and Lending and the Rise of Rating Agencies in the United States (1841-1907),” *Scandinavian Economic History Review*, Vol. 62, Issue 3, 2014.

### *Working Papers*

- with Rui Esteves, “Logrolling for Private Interest: British MPs during the Railway Mania of 1845,” October 2016.
- “Havas and the Foreign Loan Market, 1889 to 1921,” *Centre for Finance and Development*, Student Working paper Series, No. 2, 2013.

### *Policy Papers*

- “A Primer on US Government Shutdown,” *Current Affairs in Perspective, Fondation Pierre du Bois*, No. 7, 2013.
- with Hans Born, “Introducing Intelligence Oversight,” in Hans Born and Aiden Wills (eds.), *Overseeing Intelligence Services: A Toolkit*, DCAF, 2012 (Translated into Albanian, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, and Macedonian).
- with Hans Born, Aidan Wills and Matthias Erny, “External Oversight and Control,” in *Toolkit on Police Integrity*, DCAF, 2012 (Translated into Albanian, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, and Macedonian).

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## Talks

- “Bubble Companies: Fraud and the Railway Mania of 1845,” *Oxford, Warwick and LSE Workshop (OWL)*, London School of Economics, January 2017.
- “Logrolling for Private Interest: British MPs during the Railway Mania of 1845,” *Caltech Social Science History Seminar*, Pasadena, 2016.
- “The Political Economy of Regulation: The British Railway Mania of the 1840’s,” *Macrohist*

*Conference*, Geneva, 2015

- “The Separation of Information and Control and the Rise of Rating Agencies in the United States,” *Business History Conference*, Miami, 2015.
- “The Press and the Regulation of Investment Quality in the Railway Mania of 1845: The Case of the Times and the Railway Press,” *Economic History Society*, Warwick, 2014.
- “The Press and the Regulation of Investment Quality in the Railway Mania of 1845: The Case of the Times and the Railway Press,” *Oxford Seminar in Economic and Social History*, Oxford, 2013.
- “Havas and the Foreign Loan Market, 1889-1921,” *Pierre du Bois Conference on Government Debt Crises: Politics, Economics and History*, Geneva, 2012.

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## Workshops

- Business Cycle Analysis with Matlab, *Macrohist Marie Curie Workshop*, Universidad Carlos III and Bank of Spain, Madrid, 2016.
- Housing and the Economy, *Macrohist Marie Curie Workshop*, Humboldt University, Berlin, 2016.
- Introduction to Causal Identification, *Macrohist Marie Curie Workshop*, University of Oxford, Oxford, 2016.
- Programming for Historians, *British Library*, London, 2015
- Time Series Econometrics with Matlab, *MacroHist Marie Curie Workshop*, Paris, 2015.
- Allianz Summer Academy, The EU in the International Arena, Munich, 2011.
- Norges Bank Summer School, Finance, Institutions and History, Venice, 2010.

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## Academic Service

Junior Editor Oxford Economic and Social History Working Papers  
Conference with Gareth Austin, 2014 Pierre du Bois Conference  
Organizer

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## Awards

- Phillip Scranton Prize: For best article published in *Enterprise & Society*, 2015.
- Tuition Scholarship: Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Merit-based scholarship.
- Pirie Prize: University of St. Andrews, 2009. Awarded for best essay in the department of International Relations in my year.
- Leonard Marks Foundation Essay Competition, Runner-up Prize, American Academy of Diplomacy, 2009
- American Scholarship, St. Andrews, 2005-2009. Merit-based scholarship.

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## Languages

English Mother-tongue  
French Proficient

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## Computing

Advanced programming in R, including experience using R for data visualization, statistical modeling, geo-coding, GIS, web-scraping, and social network analysis. Familiar with Stata, and have basic Python and Matlab programming experience. Experienced with document preparation in Latex and Markdown. Proficient with MS Office and Open Office utilities including Excel/Powerpoint.