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HISCO workshop

Old and New Historical Population Databases: queries and challenges in the process of coding of occupations using HISCO

**Babeş-Bolyai University, Centre for Population Studies
Cluj-Napoca, Romania
June 18, 2016**

Keynote Speakers:

Kees Mandemakers (The International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

Richard Zijdeman (The International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

Marianne Erikstad (The Norwegian Historical Data Centre, contributor of the book HISCO. Historical International Standard Classification of Occupation, Tromsø, Norway)

Because of a lack of sources regarding education, income or wealth, the use of occupational titles remains an essential tool for capturing the social position occupied by individuals from the past. And by implication it also remains an important way of studying social mobility in the past.

Initially, this kind of research was seriously affected by linguistic and regional differences in the naming of occupations and by the changes occurring over time. The creation of an international standard classification scheme for historical occupations (HISCO) has helped to overcome these problems.

While the initial HISCO project gathered the most common 1000 titles of occupations extracted from databases belonging to eight countries (Belgium, Great Britain, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden), in recent years it has been implemented in other countries such as Portugal, Spain, Colombia, New Zealand, Russia and the US (<https://socialhistory.org/ru/projects/hisco-history-work>). Thus, HISCO has become an essential working tool and a standard used in the process of classification of occupations.



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The significant progress made lately in the field of historical population databases, resulting in the creation of databases for new geographical regions, has also presented new challenges in the organization, presentation and coding of data, especially from a comparative perspective. This issue is of great importance in the case of historical occupations, where the standardization and coding procedure is not an easy endeavor.

The aim of this workshop is to focus on the process of coding of historical occupations from the perspective of the HISCO scheme. It will include lectures regarding the theoretical and practical use of HISCO. In addition, other schemes used to analyse the social position and social stratification will be presented.

A significant part of the workshop will be devoted to discussions. The participants will be invited to share their own experiences in working with HISCO, problems encountered, proposed solutions, and other aspects that require more discussion. The workshop intends to be an open dialogue for the purpose of finding suitable solutions to the problems encountered, an exchange of experiences and best practices between participants with a richer or a more limited expertise in the use of the HISCO scheme. Last but not least, this workshop aims to look to the future in what regards HISCO, by proposing solutions for the expansion of the circle of specialists involved in the work of coding of occupations and for the creation of a more flexible environment that will encourage more dialogue.

How to apply: Application deadline is May 1st 2016.

Apply via email to Elena Crinela Holom (elena.holom@ubbcluj.ro) by sending a one-page statement of research interest and its link to the workshop.

There is no participation fee. Babes-Bolyai University will cover the lodging costs for 10 participants. Travel costs are expected to be covered by participants.