



Stockholms
universitet

Institutionen för ekonomisk historia och internationella relationer

Sources and Source Criticism

PhD Course 7,5 hp

National Research School in Economic History

**Hosting department: Department of Economic History and International
Relations, Stockholm University**

Autumn 2021

ys/ng

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Sources and source criticism - overview

The structure is the following:

- 1) Boarding I
 - a. Introduction and discussion of the principles of source criticism
 - b. Introduction to individual production of material
 - c. Introduction to organizational production of material
 - d. Introduction to state production of material (local, regional, central)
 - e. Introduction to supra-state production of material
 - f. Visit to archive
- 2) Boarding II
 - a. Seminars on b-e
 - b. Visit to archive and introduction to final paper

(see schedule on page 12)

Formal requirements:

There is an introductory assignment to be undertaken before the first session (see page 4). This is to be sent in by e-mail yvonne.svanstrom@ekohist.su.se on September 10, 16:00 and will be discussed at the first seminar on October 21. Together with this you will send in a presentation of yourself (including what stage you are in your PhD-program), the working name of your thesis and aim of your thesis, the main area within which you are working and a presentation of the main material you are using. If possible, reflect on the material regarding its benefits and shortcomings. A maximum of 2½ pages to be sent to Yvonne.svanstrom@ekohist.su.se.

The different themes will be introduced by short lectures on at the first boarding. For the second boarding papers pertaining to each theme should be handed in, no later

than October, 11 at 16 pm the latest to yvonne.svanstrom@ekohist.su.se and to all participating doctoral students (4-5 pages per theme, a maximum of 5000 words for all four themes together). These papers will be discussed at the seminars at the second boarding. The final paper should be a maximum of 2000 words, handed in by e-mail to yvonne.svanstrom@ekohist.su.se by November 1. Written comments on these papers will be sent back to you by e-mail or mail.

Articles are to be downloaded. Other material can be found at various libraries. It is part of the assignments of this course to be able to attain the material.



Introduction

There is an introductory recorded lecture which will be made available to you via link through e-mail in August.

Assignment until September 10, hand in by e-mail. Maximum 4 pages.

1. Read the chapter/part that deals with source criticism in 1-2 of your own department's PhD-theses that has been produced lately. Look through these chapters critically by using Jordanova's and Tosh's general points regarding sources and source material and discuss how the writers have approached their material.
2. By using Cipolla, discuss the possibilities of mapping out the foreign trade in England from the end 1200s to the mid-1800s, and discuss what the difficulties are and how they could be solved.
3. Kaplan discusses the motives and the creation of archives, using archive material from the creation of the American Jewish Historical Society. Use Kaplan to critically discuss the formation and collecting of source material, especially the material pertaining to your own work.

Literature:

Cipolla, Carlo M. *Between history and economics: an introduction to economic history* (1991), pp. 97-177.

Jordanova, Ludmila *History in Practice* (2006) pp. 87-104, 150-172 (the chapters Status of Historical Knowledge and Historians skill)

Tosh, John *The Pursuit of History* (1984/2010), chapters 4 and 5, pp. 88-118, 119-146 (in the 2010 edition)

Kaplan, Elisabeth "We Are What We Collect, We Collect What We Are: Archives and the Construction of Identity", *The American Archivist*, Vol. 63 (Spring/Summer 2000), pp. 126-151.

For reference: Presnell, Jenny L., *The information-literate historian: a guide to research for history students* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007)

Total: 253 pages

Material produced by individuals

There will be an introduction to the individual's production of material. It will concern the conditions of production and if this entails special demands for source criticism and evaluation of sources. The introduction will also touch upon the possibilities and the difficulties of combining source material of an individual character with aggregated data sets. We will also discuss how to critically evaluate a material where the researcher is part of the creation. The use of pictures in other ways than as pure illustrations is also mentioned.

Assignments:

1. Baker Shearer and Ransel both have some critical discussions of diaries as source material. Review and analyze their discussions with a focus on the different character of the diaries, the time period and class and gender aspects of the writers. What differences and similarities are visible, and what do the researchers make of the material?

2. "Culture" can refer to several different things (national culture, high culture or mass culture). Discuss problems involved in identifying a set of writers as done by Weiner to be used as examples of the prevalent assumptions and attitudes concerning capitalist enterprise and innovation in late nineteenth-century Britain.
3. Burke discusses both portraits and what he calls material culture in the chapters you have read. Critically discuss the possibilities of using any visual material for your own dissertation work, and if there would be any added value of such a usage.
4. Bodnar and Sangster describes partly different experiences when it comes to the individuals they interviewed for their research. Conduct a source critical discussion regarding the possible reasons for these differences. Also critically discuss the differences and similarities between oral history and diaries. If you are using interviews in your own research, you could also take the opportunity to undertake source criticism regarding your material, using the articles by Bodnar and Sangster.
5. In Lintelman's text, where letters are the main source, the argument is that Swedish immigrant women's experiences from domestic work in the USA differed markedly from native-born women's. Critically discuss the possibilities and limits of using individual letters as source material particularly when making comparisons.

Literature:

Pictures

Burke, Peter *Eyewitnessing: the uses of images as historical evidence* (2001) pp. 21-33, 81-102

Fiction

Weiner, Martin J., *English Culture and the Decline of the Industrial Spirit 1850-1980* (1981), pp. 51-64

Voices

John Bornar, "Power and Memory in Oral History: Workers and managers at Studebaker, *The Journal of American History*, 75(4) 1989, pp. 1201-1221
Sangster, Joan "Telling our stories: feminist debates and the use of oral history", *Women's History Review*, Volume 3, Issue 1, 1994, pp. 5-28

Diaries and letters

Baker Shearer, Laura "I owe no one a penny": Labor and Female Subjectivity in the Working-Class Diaries of Lizzie Goodenough, *Legacy*, Vol.19, No. 1 (2002), pp. 62-70

Lintelman, Joy K. "America Is the Woman's Promised Land": Swedish Immigrant Women and American Domestic Service", *Journal of American Ethnic History*, Vol. 8, No. 2, Immigrant Women (Spring, 1989), pp. 9-23.

Ransel, David L., "The Diary of a Merchant: Insights into Eighteenth-Century Plebeian Life", *Russian Review*, Vol. 63, No. 4 (Oct., 2004), pp. 594-608

Total: 167 pages

Material produced by organizations

A short introduction will be given where the different orientation and focus of the organizations and its effect on the production of material is discussed. We will also discuss the differences and similarities between different organisations such as labour unions, business corporations, non-profit organisations et cetera. In focus is for whom the material is produced and preserved, and the accessibility to the material.

Assignments:

1. Goldgar scrutinizes price data and gives information on the trade in tulip bulbs. Use her scrutiny and information to discuss the attempt made by Garber to order available price data according to their reliability.
2. Discuss the possibilities and limitations of the types of source material generated from business activity and described in Dahl and Pollard.
3. Which are the main problems involved in using interviews with key figures in businesses (Welch)? Compare with the experiences of Bodnar and Sangster above.

4. Box uses source material about joint-stock companies that facilitates the tracking of individual companies over time. He discusses, in several contexts, the limitations of the sources. Summarize the discussions and evaluate to what extent these limitations weakens the conclusions in either ch. 7 or ch. 8.
5. Lapidus discusses his sources in a shorter text in the introductory chapter and in the article/chapter "An odd couple". Compare and critically evaluate his discussion of sources in these two contexts.

Literature:

- Box, Marcus *New Venture, Survival Growth: Continuance, Termination and Growth of Business Firms and Business Populations in Sweden During the 20th Century* (Stockholm 2005), pp. 16-23, 165-197 (extensive reading) [Electronic](#)
- Garber, Peter M *Famous First Bubbles: the Fundamentals of Early Manias* (Cambridge Mass 2001), pp. 25-32, 133-144. [Electronic](#)
- Goldgar, Anne *Tulipmania: Money, Honor, and Knowledge in the Dutch Golden Age* (Chicago and London 2007), pp. 4-7, 200-211, 222-233, 246-252, 328-329 (footnote 9), 371-372 (footnotes 10, 11). [Electronic](#).
- Pollard, Sydney *The Genesis of Modern Management: A Study of the Industrial Revolution in Great Britain* (Penguin books, 1965/1993), pp. 245-290.
- Dahl, Gunnar *Trade, trust and networks: commercial culture in late Medieval Italy* (1998), pp. 81-133.
- Welch, Catherine et al "Corporate elites as informants in qualitative international business research", *International Business Review*, 11 (2002), pp. 611-628.
- Lapidus, John "An odd couple: Individual wage setting and the largest Swedish trade unions", *Labor History*, vol. 56, no. 1, 2015, pp. 1-21 OR IN Lapidus, John *Social Democracy and the Swedish welfare: Ideational analyses of attitudes towards competition, individualization, privatization*, (Göteborg, 2015), pp. 113-138
- Total: 237 pagers

Material produced by the state (local, regional and central)

The introduction will discuss the principle of public access to official records in Sweden, something which is more or less internationally unique, and the Tabellverket and its data is introduced. Comparisons to other countries are made, and the possibilities for doing comparative studies when the principle of open access to state material differs. Some comments are made on court material and their special

character. The production of statistics in a historical perspective is discussed, as well as the goals with and usage of statistics.

Assignments:

1. What are the major deficiencies of the parish registers as a source for information on women's occupations and how and to what extent can these deficiencies be overcome (Vikström)?
2. Summarize the main shortcomings of the Swedish industrial statistics and their merits. Which are the problems involved in making the statistics comparable for longer periods of time and how can they be overcome (Jörberg)?
3. Carlén uses the minutes of the Kommerskollegium as his main source in analysing the establishment and use made of the state salt stores from 1774 onwards. Evaluate critically his use of this source for answering questions about how the stores operated and their consequences for the national economy.
4. Ågren uses court records to unveil and understand married women's property rights and the ways in which they were protected. In a critical way discuss her usage of the source material and her method of detection.

Literature:

Carlén, Stefan, "An Institutional Analysis of the Swedish Salt Market, 1720-1862", *Scandinavian Economic History Review*, 42:1, pp. 3-28

Jörberg, Lennart *Growth and Fluctuations of Swedish Industry 1869-1912: studies in the process of industrialisation* (Stockholm, 1961), pp. 33-37, 367-382

Vikström, Lotta *Gendered Routes and Courses. The Socio-Spatial Mobility of Migrants in Nineteenth-Century Sundsvall, Sweden* (Umeå, 2003) pp. 43-47, 246-271.

Ågren, Maria *Domestic Secrets: Women and Property in Sweden, 1600-1857* (Chapel Hill, NC, 2009), pp. 17-26, 104-39

Historisk statistik för Sverige Del 1. Befolkning 1720-1967, pp. 10-11,

http://www.scb.se/Grupp/Hitta_statistik/Historisk_statistik/Dokument/Historisk-statistik-for-Sverige-Del-1.pdf

Historisk statistik för Sverige Del 2. Väderlek, lantmåteri, jordbruk, skogsbruk, fiske t.o.m 1955, pp. 15-17

http://www.scb.se/Grupp/Hitta_statistik/Historisk_statistik/ Dokument/Vaderlek,-lantmater,-jordbruk,-skogsbruk,-fiske-tom-1955-Historisk-statistik-1700-talet-1800-talet-1900-talet.pdf

Historisk statistik för Sverige Del 3. Utrikeshandel 1732-1970, pp 5-6, 10-12

http://www.scb.se/Grupp/Hitta_statistik/Historisk_statistik/ Dokument/Utrikeshandel-1732-1970.pdf

Total: 125 pages

Supra-state produced material

The introduction to the supra-state level has the colonial archives as its starting point, and these colonial powers collection of information regarding their conquered territories. A brief summary of the content of the colonial archives will be presented. In addition some international organizations that emerged in the late nineteenth century are introduced, together with a discussion on the extensive production of statistics in this period.

Assignments:

- 1) Summarize and critically evaluate the quantitative macrodata that have been used to measure growth and income gaps between nations during the last 50 years (Baldwin, Sundaram & Baudot and Jerven).
- 2) Critically evaluate the two OECD-reports, by means of arguments from Mahon, Clifton and Broome & Seabroke. Focus on the agenda-setting role of international organizations, and how this may influence the material collected and how it is presented.

Literature:

Baldwin, Simon E., "The International Congresses and Conferences of the Last Century as Forces Working Toward the Solidarity of the World", *The American Journal of International Law* (1907) 1:3 pp 565-578

Broome, André & Leonard Seabroke, "Seeing like an International Organisation", *New Political Economy*, (2012) 17:1 pp 2-16

- Clifton, Judith & Daniel Diaz Fuentes, "The OECD and phases in international political economy 1961-2011", *Review of International Political Economy*, (2011) 18:5 pp, 553-569
- Jerven, Morten "An unlevel playing field: national income estimates and reciprocal comparison in global economic history", *Journal of Global History* (2012), 7, pp. 107-128.
- Mahon, Rianne, "The Jobs Strategy: From neo- to inclusive liberalism?", *Review of International Political Economy*, (2011) 18:5, pp 570-591.
- OECD, *Boosting Jobs and Incomes – Policy Lessons from Reassessing the OECD Jobs Strategy*, Paris 2006, pp. 1-26 <http://www.oecd.org/els/emp/36889821.pdf>
- OECD, *Economic Policy Reforms. Going for Growth*, Paris 2005 pp 11-36
http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/economics/economic-policy-reforms-2005_growth-2005-en#page1
- Sundaram, Jomo Kwame & Jacques Baudot *Flat world, big gaps: economic liberalization, globalization, poverty and inequality* (2007), pp. s. 1-18, 48-98

Final paper

Choose one of the assignments below.

- 1) Present a short critical evaluation of all the material you have used for your dissertation so far. Reflect on critical problems that you have met or may meet. Discuss how these problems best can be handled, and how alternative solutions may be used to overcome these problems (using other material, using "problematic" material in another way et cetera). This may later be used as a basis for a source critical section in your thesis.
- 2) From the literature and the material that have been discussed during the course, choose a problem and discuss this with regards to matters of sources, source criticism and how to conduct research in economic history.

Maximum of 2000 words, handed in by e-mail to and

yvonne.svanstrom@ekohist.su.se by November 1.

Schedule

Teachers: Nikolas Glover and Yvonne Svanström.

nikolas.glover@ekhist.uu.se and yvonne.svanstrom@ekohist.su.se



Boarding I			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Time and place</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Teacher</i>
Thu Sep 16	11:00	Lunch and presentation of participants, at Stockholm University. Location: meet at level 4, Södra husen, house A, entry level. Lunch at same location, self cost (see map on p 18).	
	13-15 D416	<i>Short introductory lecture. Seminar on the principles of source criticism, and of first assignment</i>	Yvonne Svanström (YS)
	15- 15:30	Coffee, self cost	
	15:30- ca 17:30 D416	<i>Introduction to individual actors' and organisations' production of source material</i>	YS
	18:30	Dinner on behalf of Dep of Economic History and International Relations, Location: TBA.	
Fri Sep 17	10- 11:30	Visit to archive, Arbetarrörelsens arkiv och bibliotek, Flemingsberg http://www.arbark.se/sv/kontakt/besok-oss/ Commuter train 40 or 41 for Södertälje, get off at station Flemingsberg. Associate Professor Silke Neunsinger will present.	YS
		Lunch	
	13:30- 15:30 D499	<i>Introduction to nation state and supranational produced material</i> (including breaks for coffee, self cost)	YS and Nikolas Glover (NG)
OBS! Before the next venue, the discussions of and responses to questions are e-mailed to YS and all participants, no later than October 11.			

Boarding II			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Time and place</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Teachers</i>
Thu Oct 21	Arrival in the morning		
	12-13:30	<i>Field visit to Centrum för Näringslivshistoria</i> https://naringslivshistoria.se/ Green line from T-centralen to Alvik. Then 12 minutes walk. Associate Professor Anders Houltz will present.	NG
	13:30- 14:30	Coffee and travelling to SU	
	14:45- 17:30 D499	<i>Seminar 1 on individual actors' and organisations' production of source material</i> Location	YS
		Dinner at TBA for those who wish, self cost.	
Fri Oct 22	10-11:30 E316	<i>Seminar 2 on nation state material</i>	YS
	11:30- 12:15	Lunch	
	12:15- 14:00 E319	<i>Seminar 3 on supranationally produced material</i> Introduction to final paper. Course evaluation. If time, we will discuss the different source material that the participants will use in their ongoing dissertation work.	NG and YS

OBS! Final paper by e-mail to YS by 1 November, feedback by e-mail/mail.

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Appendix 1. Some examples of different kinds of archive material, mainly Swedish archives

<http://www.nad.riksarkivet.se/> (catalogue over archives and where they are)

Material produced by the individual

Antikvarisk Topografiska arkivet (ca 140 personarkiv, samt bildmaterial)

Brevskrivarregister, www.svar.ra.se

Göteborgs universitetsbibliotek, handskriftsavdelningen (väsentliga delar av personarkiv efter västsvenska författare, konstnärer, tidningsmän samt lärare och forskare vid Göteborgs universitet)

KBs enskilda arkiv, handskriftsavdelningen

Kungliga samfundet för utgivande av handskrifter i Skandinaviens historia

<http://kungligasamfundet.se/>

Lantbruksuniversitetet i Uppsala (bondedagböcker)

Larsson, Bo *Svenska bondedagböcker: ett nationalregister* (Stockholm: Nordiska museet, 1992)

Lunds universitetsbibliotek, handskriftsavdelningen

Nordiska museets frågelistor

Riksarkivet, Enskilda brev och samlingar (bland annat med ett brevskrivarregister)

Se även <http://www.kb.se/samlingarna/Handskrifter/Lanksamling-handskrifter/> och

<http://www.ediffah.org/>

Organizations (examples of Swedish archives)

Arbetarrörelsens arkiv och museum

Centrum för näringslivsstudier

Riksarkivets enskilda arkiv

Stockholms stadsarkiv

Tjänstemanna- och akademikerorganisationernas arkiv (TAM)

Emigranter i svenska kyrkböcker [Emigranter i svenska kyrkböcker – EmiWeb](#)

Det medeltida Sverige [Digitala resurser - Riksarkivet](#)

State and judicial material

Overviews

Thyselius, E *Förteckning öfver komitébetänkanden. 2, 1895-1903 / utarbetad och på offentlig bekostnad*

Thyselius, Erik *Förteckning över statliga utredningar 1904-1945* (Stockholm, 1896-1904)

Holmstedt, Sven *Statliga betänkanden 1961-1965* (Stockholm, 1966)

Frykholm, Lars *Förteckning över statliga utredningar 1946-1965*

http://www.scb.se/Pages/List_259945.aspx

[Data \(census.gov\)](#)

[Nordic Statistics database](#)

Supra-state

International archives

- i. India Office (London)
- ii. Register General (Lnd)
- iii. Censusmaterial USA (pre and after the Civil War, at SCB)
- iv. David Lublin Memorial Library (Rom)
- v. Haag (material on Indochine)

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/censusdata/hiscendata.html>

(<http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/> Statistics from Food and Agricultural Organizations of the United Nations)

Global trade data <https://comtrade.un.org/>

Mitchell, Brian R. *International Historical Statistics: Europe, 1750-2005* (2007)

Mitchell, Brian R. *International Historical Statistics: Africa, Asia and Oceania, 1750-2005* (2007)

Appendix 2. Map over Frescati, Stockholm University

