

## Call for papers for the workshop "Credit and State Formation in Europe, c. 1500–1800". Sigtuna, Sweden, 4–5 June 2024

It is well-known that credit was necessary to finance large increases in government expenditure, such as wars, during the early modern period. Despite this insight, research on state formation in Northern and Eastern Europe has largely concentrated on analyzing taxes, tax collection and army supply systems rather than credit. If scholars have studied credit, it has usually been seen as short-term ad-hoc solutions to solve liquidity problems and not as part of a long-term policy to strengthen the government's creditworthiness. Credit, on the other hand, has been viewed as central to the development of states in northern Italy, and in England and the Dutch Republic. Charles Tilly has summarized this view by emphasizing that two parallel systems of state formation existed in Europe: a system in northwestern Europe where capital played a central role, and a system in the northern and eastern parts of the continent where coercive means were more important.

The purpose of this workshop is to problematize Tilly's interpretation of European developments by focusing on the importance of credit for the development of states in Northern and Eastern Europe during the early modern period. As the states around the Baltic Sea participated in increasingly large wars, it became necessary for them to manage great increases in expenditure by borrowing resources. The state's creditworthiness and the creation of borrowing mechanisms that suited prevailing local power relations therefore became important political issues.

The aim of the workshop is also to increase the dialogue between researchers who have focused on England and the Dutch Republic, where credit has been seen as a central part of the state's development, and researchers who have concentrated their research on states around the Baltic Sea. This interaction will lead to new interpretations of overall European developments, but similarities and differences between different local contexts will also appear more clearly.

We invite proposals for papers of 20 minutes dealing with the relationship between credit and state formation during the early modern period. Please send abstracts up to 500 words together with a brief CV to Patrik Winton at Örebro University ([patrik.winton@oru.se](mailto:patrik.winton@oru.se)) by **Monday 2 October 2023**.

Thanks to generous financial support from *Riksbankens Jubileumsfond*, we will be able to cover the participants' meals and accommodation in Sigtuna as well as their travel expenses.

Organizers:

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