

# Supporting documents for the nomination of Professor Nuala Zahedieh as President of the Economic History Society

## Statement regarding the Presidency of the Economic History Society (Nuala Zahedieh)

As the Economic History Society approaches its centenary it can celebrate many successes in promoting economic and social history within both academia and the wider community. Membership numbers are healthy and growing; the *Economic History Review* is the premier journal in the field; the broad ranging programme offered at the annual conference, and diverse attendance there, reflect the international reach and dynamism of the membership; three book series, and a fourth in the pipe-line, provide a platform for a wide range of scholars; and a funding programme supports junior scholars and many other research initiatives. I have been heavily involved in all these areas of activity having served as a member of the editorial team of the *Review*, Chair of three core committees (Schools, Conference, and Publications [currently]), and in many other capacities. I understand the way the Society works and I feel equipped to take on the leadership role of President, overseeing and coordinating Committee work to expand on past success, encouraging participation from as many as possible among the membership, and liaising with cognate learned societies (and the triennial World Economic History Congress) in the UK, and elsewhere, as appropriate.

Few members operate in a separate Department of Economic and Social History and it is often difficult to protect specialist teaching and research. With these challenges in mind, I see the Society, led by the President, as playing a vital role in building community across disciplinary, institutional, and geographical boundaries to enhance opportunities for cooperation, collaboration, and advocacy. Care is needed to ensure that the Conference and *Review* remain welcoming spaces for work across broad thematic and methodological lines to build collective weight and voice. In addition, on the model of the Women's Committee, the Society can help members to set up other networking groups along regional, thematic, or methodological lines to encourage more regular contact and exchange than can be provided by the annual conference. Such core activities need to be supported and reinforced by an active, and inclusive, publications programme and an innovative website strategy to promote new initiatives in the interests of the discipline in the UK and beyond. I am especially concerned to extend support for Open Access publication as in the Publication Committee's recent success in reviving the series of *Studies in Economic and Social History*.

I see the provision of academic and financial support for the next generation as another core concern of the Society. Work begins with efforts to promote the subject in schools and, if elected, I would lend active assistance to the relevant Committee in providing talks, conferences, and the provision of web materials. The Society also provides crucial support to students and early career academics through the postgraduate training scheme, Poster and New Researcher sessions at the Conference, Post-doctoral Fellowships, and other initiatives. If elected, I would work to help, and expand, these activities.

Funding an active programme is always a challenge and income from the *Review* is set to fall over the next contract period. If elected, I would prioritize efforts to improve the Society's financial base and protect its future income. The Centenary celebrations in 2026 will provide an obvious opportunity to raise funds from a range of sources which should be seized with both hands. Social capital is also important in protecting the Society and can be strengthened through effective collaborations. I would work closely with other learned Societies, such as the Academy of Social Sciences, the British Academy, the Economic History Association, the Royal Economic Society, the Royal Historical Society, the Social History Society and others to build collective strength when advocating for our discipline. In conclusion, if elected, I would work hard to ensure that the Society moves into its second century in good health and builds on the success of the first.

## Service to the Economic History Society (Nuala Zahedieh)

I became a member of the Economic History Society (EHS) as a research student in the 1980s. Since that time, I have remained an active member of the Society, attending conference, giving papers, publishing in the *Economic History Review* (five articles) and helping to promote the discipline. I have been a member of Council for four terms (totalling 22 years) since I was first elected in 1992 and have served, and chaired, three core Committees. In 1999, I was a founding member of the new Conference Committee which, under Paul Johnson's lead, radically transformed programme arrangements including the initiation of a call for papers. I continued in that role for six years (1999-2005) and later served as Chair (2013-19) and was able to continue promoting a revitalized and broad programme including diverse geographies, time-periods, and methodologies and the introduction of poster sessions for PhD students.

Given the importance of supporting junior scholars, I was also pleased to act as Chair of the Schools and Colleges Committee from 2000 to 2006. We recruited a teacher member who helped us to organize three successful schools conferences and produce various electronic resources at an early stage in web development. During the same period, I took part in setting up the Society's annual postgraduate training course and acted as convenor for three years (2002-4). I later served on the post-doctoral awards panel (2011-14)

I was a member of the Publications Committee from 2000 to 2006 and, since 2022, I have served as Chair. This has involved liaising with the publishers of the Society's two book series - with Boydell & Brewer and Cambridge University Press - as well as formalising arrangements with the Royal Historical Society with which the EHS collaborates in an Open Access series. The Committee has launched six books during my tenure and renewed the contract with Cambridge University Press. We are now in the final stages of negotiations to revive the series of *Studies in Economic and Social History* to be published Open Access by a university press, supplying a global market with concise and authoritative guides to cutting-edge research in key topics taught in economic and social history courses.

As Chair of various Committees, I have sat *ex officio* on the Executive Committee in 2000-06, 2013-19, and 2022-5 and participated in their deliberations. I have served on the New Researchers' Prize Panel, the Initiatives and Conference Fund Panel, and I organized workshops for the Women's Committee in 1998 and 2007. I served as Book Review Editor for the *Economic History Review* from 1993 to 1998 and was a member of the Editorial Board from 2011-22.

### To summarise, my service to the Society has included:

- Member of Council: 1992-8, 2000-06, 2011-19, 2022-
- Member of Executive Committee: 2000-06, 2013-19, 2022-
- Conference Committee: Member, 1999-2005; Chair, 2013-19
- Schools and Colleges Committee: Chair, 2000-06
- Publications Committee: Member, 2000-06; Chair, 2022-
- Women's Committee: Workshop Convenor, *The Renaissance of Economic History*, 1998; *Union and Empire*, 2007
- *Economic History Review*: Book Review Editor, 1993-8; Member of Editorial Board, 2011-22
- PhD Residential Training Course: Tutor, 2001; Convenor (and tutor), 2002-4
- Post-doctoral Award Panel: Member, 2011-14
- Initiatives and Conference Fund Panel: Member, 2023
- New Researcher Prize Panel

## CV (Nuala Zahedieh)

### Current Role

2021- Research Associate, Cambridge University, AHRC funded project  
'The Royal Society, Slavery, and Early English Jamaica', working toward book  
*Silver and Sugar: Jamaica and the Atlantic Economy, 1655-1730*

### Education

London School of Economics  
1984 PhD in Economic History  
1978 MSc (Econ.)  
1975 BSc (Econ.)

### Career

2017-21 Professor of Economic and Social History, Edinburgh University  
2014-19 Director, Scottish Centre for Diaspora Studies, Edinburgh University  
1989-2017 Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Reader in Economic History, Edinburgh University  
1986-89 Research Fellow, London School of Economics

### External Appointments

2017-18 Visiting Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford  
2010-11 Inter-Americas Fellow, John Carter Brown Library, Brown University  
2008-09 Caird Senior Research Fellow, National Maritime Museum  
1998-99 Academic Visitor, London School of Economics  
1997-98 Leverhulme Research Fellowship  
1993-94 Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, Massachusetts Historical Society

### Professional Societies (by Election)

Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences  
Member of Academia Europaea  
Fellow of the Royal Historical Society

### Selected Publications since 2010

**Books:** *The Capital and the Colonies. London and the Atlantic Economy, 1660-1700*, (Cambridge, 2010)

### Journal Articles:

'Regulation, Rent-Seeking and the Glorious Revolution in the English Atlantic Economy',  
*Economic History Review* 63 (2010), pp. 865-90.

'Copper, Colonies and the Market for Inventive Activity, 1680-1730', *Economic History Review*,  
66 (2013), pp. 805-25.

'Defying Mercantilism. Illicit Trade, Trust and the Jamaican Sephardim, 1660-1730', *Historical  
Journal*, 61 (2018), pp. 77-102.

'Eric Williams and William Forbes: Copper, Colonial Markets, and Commercial Capitalism',  
*Economic History Review*, 74 (2021), pp. 784-808.

'Britain's Atlantic Slave Economy, the Market for Knowledge and Skills, and Early  
Industrialization' *Journal of the British Academy*, 9 (2021), pp. 283-9.

'A Copper Still and the Making of Rum in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World' *Historical Journal*, 65 (2022), pp. 149-66.

'The Rise of King Sugar and Enslaved Labor in Early English Jamaica', *Early American Studies*, 20 (2022), pp. 576-96.

### **Book Chapters:**

'Productivity in English Atlantic Shipping: Evidence from the Navigation Acts', in Richard Unger, ed., *Shipping Efficiency and Economic Growth, 1350-1800* (Leiden, 2011), pp. 117-34.

'Technique or Demand? The Revival of the English Copper Industry, 1680-1730', in Philipp R. Roessner, ed., *Cities-Coins-Commerce. Essays Presented to Ian Blanchard* (Stuttgart, 2012), pp. 167-74.

'Colonial Merchants and the Country House c. 1680-1730: Sir Gilbert Heathcote of Normanton Hall and Others', Madge Dresser and Andrew Hann, eds., *Slavery and the British Country House* (English Heritage Publications, 2013), pp. 69-77, 163-65.

'Monopoly and Free Trade. Changes in the Organization of the British Slave Trade, 1660-1720', *Proceedings of the Instituto di Storia Economica*, 44 (2014), pp. 651-62.

'Overseas Trade and Empire, 1700-1870' in R. Floud, J. Humphries, and P. Johnson eds., *Cambridge Economic History of Modern Britain* (Cambridge, 2014), pp. 391-419.

'Commerce and Conflict: Jamaica and the War of Spanish Succession', in A. B. Leonard and David Pretel, eds., *The Caribbean and the Atlantic World Economy: Circuits of Trade, Money and Knowledge* (London, 2015), pp. 68-86.

'Jamaica, Jewish Merchants and Spanish American Markets' in S. Middleton and J. Shaw eds., *Market Ethics and Practices, c. 1300-1850* (London, 2017), pp. 150-65.

'"The Pegs and Nails in a Great Building": The Sephardim in Jamaica's Illicit Trade, 1655-1730', in Jose Ignacio Martinez Ruiz, ed., *A Global Trading Network. The Spanish Empire in the World Economy (1580-1820)* (Seville, 2018), pp. 27-44.

'The Second Anglo-Dutch War in the Caribbean' in David Ormrod and Gijs Rommelse, eds., *War, Trade and the State. Anglo-Dutch Conflict 1652-89* (Woodbridge, Suffolk, 2020), pp. 185-202.

'Trade, Plunder and Irishmen in Early English Jamaica', in Finola O'Kane Crimmons and Ciaran O'Neill, eds., *Ireland, Slavery and the Caribbean: Interdisciplinary Perspectives* (Manchester, 2023), pp. 74-86.

'Copper, Capitalism, and Slavery in Industrialising Britain: Evidence in Support of the Williams Thesis' in Heather Cateau, ed., *The Williams Thesis* (Kingston, Jamaica, 2024 forthcoming).