

## **Editors' Notes**

We are pleased to present our first volume of *Essays* as co-editors after succeeding Jason Taylor, to whom we are very grateful for his continuing support after the completion of his second three-year editorial term. After our 2018 issue went to print we received the news that *Essays* had been included for the first time in the Chartered Association of Business Schools' *Academic Journal Guide* as a '2'-ranked journal, and this is a fitting tribute to Jason's editorship.

In the last year *Essays* received 24 new submissions, with a further eight papers pending a decision from the prior year. Of these 32 papers, a decision was reached on 24 (with another eight pending). Eight papers were accepted while the remaining 24 were rejected, yielding an acceptance rate of 25 percent, in line with *Essays*' long-run average. Two of these accepted papers will be published in next year's volume and all accepted papers are published online on an open access basis as soon as the editorial process is complete. The mean time between submission and initial decision was 85 days, a significant increase from recent years and longer than we would like—we will be working to reduce this over the next year.

In addition to the change of editors this year, we are pleased to welcome Erik Lakomaa as an associate editor and Soudeh Mirghasemi as production editor. We are grateful for the support of all our associate editors, editorial board members, and the reviewers who review submissions on a double-blind basis. In line with *Essays*' usual practice of acknowledging reviewers on a biennial basis we will publish a full list of reviewers in 2020. We are also grateful to Billy Frank for his excellent work as webmaster for [ebhsoc.org](http://ebhsoc.org).

Finally, the Economic and Business History Society thanks Grand Valley State University and the Seidman College of Business for generous financial support toward the publication and production of this volume of *Essays*.

Mark Billings

Daniel C. Giedeman

Joint Editors, *Essays in Economic & Business History*, May 2019

## **President's Report**

### **Report on the 2018 Economic and Business History Society Conference**

We are pleased to report that the 2018 EBHS Conference in Jyväskylä, Finland was a great success. The conference included 40 panels, featuring 125 papers, and 136 registered participants, and we also held a teaching roundtable. All of the sessions were well attended and had productive intellectual discussions from scholars across the globe.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference was held at the University of Jyväskylä in Central Finland, and most of the attendees stayed in two conveniently located downtown hotels. We also featured two excursions on the final day of the conference, to the Alvar Aalto Museum and the Finnish Air Force Museum. Both tours were well attended and gave the visitors valuable insights into one of the greatest architects of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as well as the Finnish war experiences. In addition, we featured a cruise on the local lake and a reception at a historic village, with live music and tango lessons. A fun time was had by all!

Our first keynote speaker was the world-renowned scholar Deirdre McCloskey (University of Illinois, Chicago), who spoke about the importance of liberalism and ideas in shaping the modern world. The second keynote speaker was Uskali Mäki (University of Helsinki), an expert in the philosophy of history and economics, who reminded us about the importance of considering the value of history as a science.

We are deeply appreciative of the support provided by the University of Jyväskylä, Department of History and Ethnology, and especially Vice Dean Jari Ojala and Chair Heli Valtonen. We also gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies, the Scandinavian Economic History Review, and the Scandinavian Society for Economic and Social History. Moreover, the opening reception was sponsored in part by the Summer Seminar of Finnish Economists at the University of Jyväskylä and the School of Business.

Jari Eloranta, 2017-2018 EBHS President

Olli Turunen, 2018 EBHS Program Chair