Department of Economic History

A. Overarching summary

The Department has a well-established reputation for wide-ranging research programmes with an emphasis on long-term processes, based on economic theory and with quantitative methods as important tools. The research topics are oriented towards issues of high relevance for society. Research at the Department is conducted in the following areas:

Economic growth, technological change, and inequality

Under this title, several successful research groups address issues such as economic growth, innovation and technological change at micro and macro level, globalization, urbanization and regional imbalances, and interpersonal inequality in income and wealth. In this broad research area, typical research questions address issues like whether spatial patterns of economic development are persistent and if there is room for policy interventions in regional outcomes in the long-run; the role of globalization and innovations; the possible interconnections between economic growth and inequality; the role politics and taxation, etc.

Economic demography

Researchers in this area study population issues from a social science perspective and how demography interacts with the economy. The research aims to improve knowledge and understanding of demographic processes from preindustrial times up to the present. Much of the research is based on a life-course approach using individual and family-level data in a variety of geographical contexts. Researchers in this area are affiliated with the Centre for Economic Demography (CED), which also gathers researchers from the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Medicine at Lund University.

Economic development of the Global South

In the current era of globalization, integration and convergence the study of economic development in the Global South from a long-term perspective is of increasing importance, both in the Global North and for the growing academic communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The research group aims narrow the gap between historical research on the Global South and the current development debate. The scope is broad in both time and space covering roughly the last 150 years and stretching over Africa, Asia and Latin America. One theme has a more historical character, sharing many of the classical research interests within the field of economic history of the Global North. Another theme interacts more closely with the field of development economics and the more contemporary development research, such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sustainability transformations over time and space

The mission of the group is to contribute with high-quality research on fundamental issues related to grand societal challenges of globalization and climate change, and transformations towards sustainability, such as, renewable energy transitions and social innovations in a global perspective. We bring together researchers from a variety of disciplines to understand how unsustainable practices and sustainability transformations unfold over time and at a global scale. In different projects, we explore the complex interrelations of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of transformations towards sustainable development. Specifically, we investigate the interrelations of energy, climate change, trade and inequality, and social, technological and institutional innovations in relation to transformations towards sustainability.

Historical labour markets

The study of labour markets in a historical perspective reveals comprehensive structural change and enormous progress regarding the compensation of labour with implications for economic growth and individual well-being.
We investigate the functioning of the labour market (e.g. wage formation, labour supply and the demand for labour), labour market outcomes for different groups and related gaps, and labour market policy and institutions. The research is both macro- and micro-oriented, with an emphasis on large databases and quantitative methodological approaches. Our research aims to improve knowledge and understanding of the functioning of labour markets; the evolution of labour force participation, unemployment and leisure; gender and immigrant gaps; and the role of policy and institutions by drawing on historical experiences. By linking the past to the present, we may better understand labour market issues of current, and even future, concern.

Financial history, banking and insurance

Relying upon empirical analysis, we conduct systematic studies on the nature of finance in relation to economic development and individual wellbeing. Our research topics emanate from important societal issues for today and tomorrow and our approach is data-driven, in terms of both quantitative and qualitative methods. To this end, we typically construct new databases (or employ existing databases) to help us understand a multitude of inter-related subjects, such as: i), financial challenges for structural changes (such as for a sustainable economy), finance-led growth and financial inclusion ii) causes and consequences of banking crises and crisis management, iii) corporate governance structures and financial regulation, iv) free banking, central banking and monetary policy, v) exchange rate regimes and currency unions, vi) alternate monetary systems, monetary complementarity and crypto-currencies, vii) public debt dynamics, sovereign default and debt management, viii) stock markets, insurance and retirement systems.

SWOT-analysis

The specific aspects of the SWOT-analysis are discussed later in the report, but the overall conclusion can be summarised in the following way:

The success of the Department when it comes to research grants and publications has given some strong positive effects. Most importantly, it has attracted many new talented young scholars who help to reinforce this development and help creating a critical mass for a dynamic and highly competitive international research environment. Lund is an international hub for research in economic history. The downside of this, given that our teaching assignment has not increased, is an increased risk exposure. The effect of a decrease in inflow of new research funding will be a decrease in the number of postdocs, PhD students, researchers and project assistants, and it will mean that permanent staff does less research since they teach instead. It will also mean a drastic, albeit temporary, increase in overhead costs.

Strengths	Weaknesses
• Ability to continuously attract external research grants • Great publication record • Critical mass for a dynamic international research environment achieved • The PhD programme evaluated 2019 with very good result • Focus on societal relevance in research and teaching; subject-related broadening of the discipline	• High proportion of the research staff on temporary employments • Teaching volume is limited • Balance between research and teaching has shifted, making it difficult to give doctoral students and postdocs enough opportunities to teach • Subject-related broadening – a threat to the Department's common identity?
Opportunities	**Threats**
• Highly untapped potential resource in the form of EU research grants • The Department's international reputation as a dynamic research environment in economic history • Renewed and attractive research-connected education portfolio	• Difficulty finding resources for non-project based doctoral positions • Low success rate for funding applications, often 7-8 % at major Swedish research agencies • Possible national decision on redistribution from research councils to basic resources

Important events and achievements during the last five years

Research grants. Our researchers have received SEK 260 million in external grants 2014–18. This is one of the best scores for any department within humanities and social sciences in Sweden. The two biggest single grants are the Landskrona-project (Martin Dribe, historical and economic demography, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, 35 million) and Swinno 2.0 (Astrid Kander, Swedish innovations, Vinnova, 14 million). We have two Wallenberg Academy Fellows: Kerstin Enflo and Jutta Bolt, and 23 unique successful applicants (10 women) each with one or more new grants >2 million during these five years, beside 10 three-year Wallander postdoc grantees, each 1.5–2 million.

Publications. We have more than doubled our research output 2014–2018. During these years, we had 225 publications in peer-reviewed journals, including 20 publications in the top 4 journals in economic history and 34 publications in journals with an impact factor above the best ranked in our discipline.

Internationalisation. Our scholars are increasingly active at international conferences, organising sessions, commenting, and presenting their research. We are often the single biggest group at major conferences, e.g. the World Economic History Congress in Kyoto 2015 (16 from EH Lund) and Boston 2018 (33), the European Historical Economics Society in Tübingen 2017 (16) and Paris 2019 (27). In addition, we are normally very well represented at conferences like PAA, SSHA, ESSHC, EHS and EHA. Internationalisation is also expressed in other activities, such as organising international conferences and networks (e.g. the WINIR conference 2019 with 160 participants), guest professors and guest researchers, and joint applications and publishing.

Benchmarks

In a global perspective, economic history stands strong in Swedish academia. The two strongest departments in Sweden are Lund and Uppsala, so the latter is a natural benchmark for us. Internationally we use to compare ourselves with two world-leading institutions, the Department of Economic History at the LSE and the Economic and Social History group at Utrecht University. Both these units have been an inspiration for us, e.g. LSE inspired us to create our own bachelor programme Economy and Society. By the end of 2018, the LSE, Utrecht and Uppsala units each had about 30 professors, lecturers, researchers and postdocs in economic history and Lund had 60. But five years earlier Lund was closer in size, although already by then the biggest of the four. In 2018 Lund and LSE had about 25 PhD candidates each, Uppsala 20 and Utrecht 10.

In this report, we will focus on the four institutions' publication performances in peer-reviewed journals 2014–2018. There are of course other ways to measure quantity and quality in research, e.g. influential monographs, highly cited working papers, citations per researcher, or more qualitative assessments on where and from whom ground breaking new research topics or methods are initiated. Utrecht has e.g. one highly influential professor within the discipline, with +10,000 Google scholar citations, something that Lund and other Swedish institutions still are missing. But for this format, publications in journals

A bibliometric analysis is shown in Tables 1 and 2. This is the crude number of publications from members of the four departments by type of journal; the figures are not weighted by co-authorships outside the unit. Impact factors comes from Scopus Scimago Journal Rank. Note that all peer-reviewed journals are not listed with an impact factor, nor are they all on the Norwegian list.

As can be seen, Lund is generally performing very well, and increasingly so. An interesting feature is that in spite of the fact that Lund overall publish in journals with higher impact factor, LSE has a higher share of its publications in level 2 journals according to the Norwegian list. This is largely based on publications in the top four journals within the discipline – European Review of Economic History, Explorations in Economic History, Economic History Review, and Journal of Economic History. The latter has the highest impact factor in the field, 2.12. Lund's 20 publications 2014–2018 in these four journals are impressive, but Lund also had 34 publications in journals above 2.12 (see some examples below under publication patterns), while LSE only had 12.

Table 1. Number of publications in peer-reviewed journals by journal ranking 2014–2018

	Uppsala	Utrecht	LSE	Lund
Total	69	111	96	225
Level 2 Norwegian list	16	36	70	85
Level 1 Norwegian list	52	56	23	124
Top-4 economic history journals	1	12	39	20
With impact factor (Scopus)	48	87	92	190
With impact factor >2.12	7	4	12	34
Average impact factor	0.78	0.92	1.32	1.61
Median impact factor	0.56	0.53	0.97	1.15

If we look at the most recent year (Table 2), Lund's strong position stands out even more. In 2018, Lund alone had a better overall publications record than all the other institutions taken together. This is true when it comes to total publication number, publications in level 2 journals, and Lund sky rockets in journals with impact factors above the best in our own discipline, with 15 publications, the other units have one each. The exception is still publications in the top four economic history journals, were LSE publish twice as much as Lund.

The figures in Table 2 can also be used to get a rough perception of journal publication "productivity", since the size of faculty, postdocs and researchers at the four units is known for 2018, see above. The math is simple – three of them were comparable in size, while Lund was twice as big. With this measurement, the LSE comes closer to Lund, but Lund remains at the top in most aspects.

Table 2. Number of publications in peer-reviewed journals by journal ranking 2018

	Uppsala	Utrecht	LSE	Lund
Total	15	15	20	62
Level 2 Norwegian list	4	5	16	33
Level 1 Norwegian list	11	7	4	28
Top-4 economic history journals	0	2	10	5
With impact factor (Scopus)	9	12	20	54
With impact factor >2.12	1	1	1	15

To summarise: among the world leading departments in economic history, the one at LSE is best at publishing in the leading core journals within the discipline, but Lund publish more, broader and generally in journals with higher impact factor.

Major changes within your unit during the last decade

The Department came out very well in the two previous evaluations 2008 and 2014, with the label excellent for most criteria. So did the Centre for Economic Demography that was evaluated separately, even though the core of its lecturers and professors were employed at EKH. It is now administered by the Department, but includes faculty, staff and PhD students from three different faculties at Lund University.

A striking change is that the Department has doubled in size since the last evaluation. The growth in numbers has foremost been among postdocs and researchers, the Department used to have a handful of them, now they are around 35. The number of research assistants has also increased; many of the running projects rely heavily on data collection. At the same time, the gender balance of faculty has changed. In 2008, the Department had 9 professors, all men; 2014 it had 8 professors, 2 women and 6 men, and in 2018 there were 6 professors, 3 women and 3 men. Among all the employed, the share of women currently is 44 percent.

By the time of the evaluation in 2008 the Department defined its research in three broad headings: economic and historical demography, economic growth and structural change, and growth and distribution in developing countries. Now we define ourselves in the six broad research areas mentioned above. Back then, the Department had one seminar series, running every Wednesday. This weekly seminar is still running, but now the research groups in addition organise four parallel lunch seminar series (bi-weekly or monthly): Economic Demography, Development research, Macro, and the Peasants and Workers seminar. However, there could be a downside of this development, when the common denominators weakens and the discipline is more fragmented. This is an ongoing discussion at the Department, and we are currently trying to find ways to re-strengthen the common seminar series.

B. Specific issues

B1. Leadership

On this matter, we ask you to describe how your unit is organised, and how goals for research are set and resources allocated. More specifically, we want you to comment on the issues in the bullet points below.
• What are your considerations for:

a. Priority setting of direct government research funding (totally 15.5 million 2018, se Appendix)

- PhD programme (41%). The lion share of the funding is allocated as payment for the last out of four years' salary for our PhD students; the other three years are funded by external grants.
- Base research salary for professors and lecturers (22%). This figure is low because of ample external project funding.
- Co-funding of external grants (14%). Many grants, e.g. from Riksbanken, the Wallenberg foundations and ERC, do not cover full OH costs. The Department's policy is to welcome all funding, regardless of covered OH-level, and hence we must budget an increasing share of government research funding for this co-funding.
- Internationally recruited postdocs (14%). This comes partly with a faculty level special contribution for internationalisation, partly from the Department's own initiatives in the same direction.
- Promotion of new research ideas and initial data collection (7%), see (b) below.
- Travel grants for PhD students and postdocs who present papers at conferences; language proof-readings of articles that cannot be paid by external funding (2%), see below

So, these priorities emanate from different ambitions: to give a stable base for our PhD programme, pay research time for faculty, attract new research grants, and promote new research ideas and internationalisation.

b. Research funding

Our activities when it comes to research funding aims at securing major grants with some longevity within highly relevant research areas, at the same time as we encourage all researchers to develop their research ideas and apply for funding. We have nourished new research ideas by special short-term incubator grants and one-month funding to research assistants for initial data collection. We have organised specific grant seminars, were potential applicants can present and discuss their ideas. The Department management is also actively engaging in tracking down strategic funding opportunities, putting together constellations of researchers and helping individual applicants. The quantitative goal for external research funding is to attract around SEK 40 million per year; that is what is needed to secure the Department activities at its present level.

c. Recruitment, promotion and succession

The recruitment and promotion policy at the Department is aimed at developing the Department as a dynamic academic environment and establish it as a world-leading hub for economic historians.

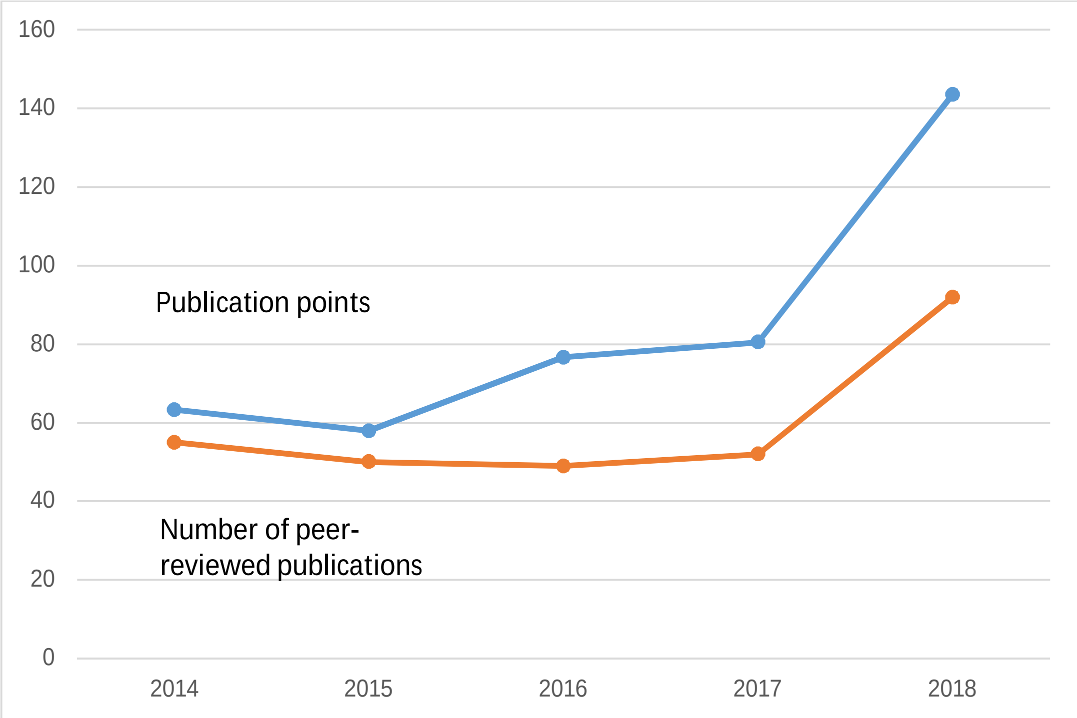
All calls for new positions are announced internationally and the number of applicants is normally high – a call for a postdoc without specific subject normally attracts 30–40 applications (which is high within our discipline) of which 70 percent are non-Swedes. Calls for permanent or tenure track positions is in principle done for replacement, e.g. in connection with retirements, but a small increase of faculty has been necessary to secure our teaching when the professors and lecturers use their external grants. During the period 2014–18 we have recruited 21 postdocs (13 women), 4 researchers (2), 6 associate senior lecturers (4), 2 senior lecturers (0), 2 guest professors (1) and 1 professor (1). The professor and one of the senior lecturers were internal transfers within Lund University in connection with the organisational dismantling of the Centre for Innovation Studies (CIRCLE).

In addition, the Department successfully applied for 10 (5 women) individual three-year postdoctoral stipends from Handelsbankens forskningsstiftelse for our own new PhDs. When it comes to promotion, 6 (3) lecturers were promoted to Docent. We had no promotions to professor 2014–18, but two of our senior lecturers, both women, have been accepted for external evaluation and possible promotion during 2020.

d. Publication patterns (size and scope, types of channels)

Beside the RQ20 bibliometric analysis (see Appendix), that includes all publications and papers unweighted, we will show publication points by the system that is used on faculty level to allocate parts of the research funding to the departments. With the Norwegian list, the journals and publishers are ranked, and the points are split up between co-authors. Both statistics (see Figure 1) shows that there has been a sharp increase in the Department's publication output from 2014/2015 to 2018 (and 2019 seems to end up at an even higher level). Among the roughly 300 peer reviewed publications, 75 % is in peer reviewed journals, and increasingly in the top 20 percent journals within each discipline (that is level 2 in the Norwegian list, which gives 3 publication points, level 1 gives 1 point). This is the major explanation why the increase in publications points (127%) is sharper than the increase in number of publications (67%).

Figure 1. Publication points and number of peer-reviewed publications



By breaking down the peer-reviewed journal publications by academic discipline of the journals, we can see some interesting patterns, presented in Figure 2 and Table 3. First, it is a striking feature that more than 80 percent of the publications target at journals outside our own discipline. Although the shares for economic history journals might fluctuate between individual years (Figure 2), they do not seem to have changed structurally with the raise in total publication output the last two years (Table 3). The shares, but rarely the total number of publications, for many of the other disciplines have declined, and this is due to the raise of three groups: sustainability and energy, economics, and “social sciences, others” (the latter is typically in sociology, economic geography and political science, but also in specialist journal, e.g. innovation studies or agricultural development).

Figure 2. Publications by type of journal

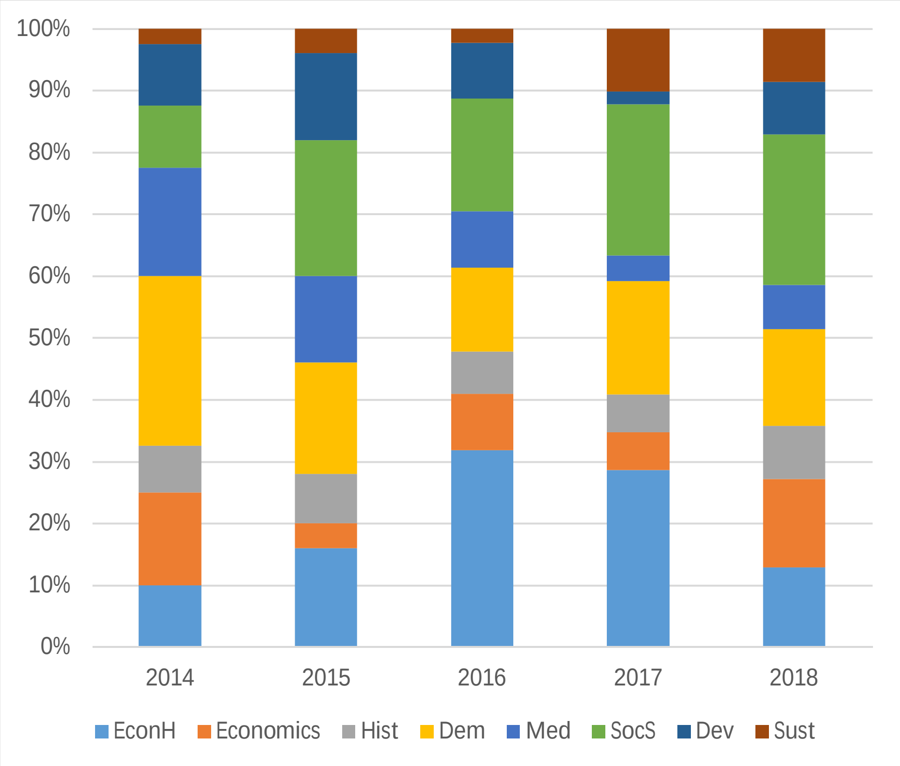


Table 3. Publications by type of journal (percentage)

	2014–16	2017–18
Economic history	19%	19%
Economics	9%	11%
History	7%	8%
Demography	19%	17%
Medicine	13%	6%
Social science, other	17%	24%
Development	11%	6%
Sustainability and energy	3%	9%

This in turn, is a reflection of two parallel processes, the increased focus on societal relevance in research and the subject-related broadening of the Department. This is also shown with an analysis of the impact factor of the journals we publish in. As mentioned in the benchmark analysis, we had 34 publications in journals with impact factors above the best in our own discipline, including The Lancet, Journal of Human Resources, American Economic Review, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Nature Climate Change, Nature Communications, Alzheimer's & Dementia, Global Environmental Change, International Journal of Epidemiology, Applied Energy, Journal of Development of Economics, and Research Policy.

e. The relationship and balance between activities in research, education and external engagement

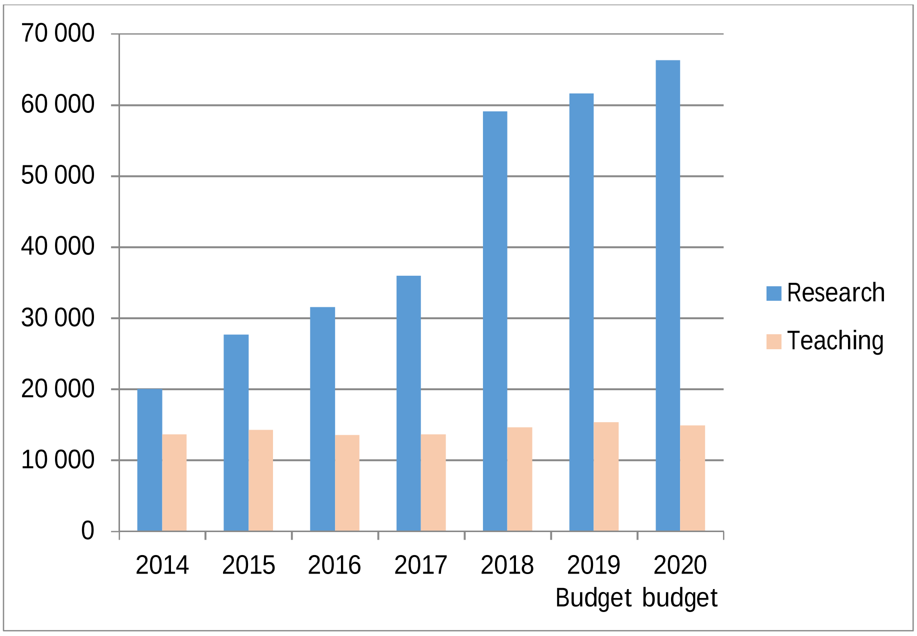
The relationship between research and education is strong at the Department, our living ideal is researched based teaching. Courses are offered within all the six above mentioned research areas. When programmes and courses are developed, this is done hand on by state-of-the-art researchers. Our professors and lecturers normally teach between 20 and 40 percent on annual basis, the rest is research and some administration.

The balance between research and education has shifted the last five years in favour of the former; over 80 percent of the Department's budget is now on research (see Figure 3). When it comes to externally funded research, we are the largest unit at LUSEM, but when it comes to teaching, we are one of the smallest, the total budget for teaching was SEK 14.7 million 2018. Today the Department is not involved in LUSEM's voluminous bachelor program in Swedish.

This does not mean that our teaching is suffering in terms of quality. On the contrary, huge efforts are made to renew and vitalise our own teaching portfolio. Today we run three masters' programmes with totally 120 students, we have started our own bachelor programme with 45 students; we run the development studies bachelor programme BIDS with 80 students per cohort together with three other departments in social sciences, and annually we offer some 17 single courses outside the programmes. All the programmes score high in popularity; our new bachelor programme Economy and Society made it directly into to the top ten list of most attractive international programmes in Sweden, all disciplines, just beside the BIDS programme, which already was on the list.

Nevertheless, the circumscription of the Department's educational assignment is a waste of resources, it makes it harder for us to achieve balanced excellence, and it creates problems in establishing reasonable employment conditions.

Figure 3. Total incomes to research and teaching 2014–2018 (SEK, thousands)



External engagement is rarely measured in time or budget for the Department as a unit, but comes as a natural part of the communication of research.

• Do you have an overarching research strategy? How was it formed and how is it used?

The Department's research strategy has been formed over the years, but has never before been written down. This evaluation gives an excellent opportunity to do that.

The research strategy is open and inclusive and it is founded in three key concepts: relevance, internationalisation, and building research infrastructure. The overall aim for the Department is to be world leader in economic history.

To be open and inclusive means to embrace and promote all kinds of good research ideas and applications within our field. It means welcoming initiatives from both senior and younger scholars at the department; it means transparency regarding the prerequisites for a relevant position connected to winning an external grant and it goes with a pledge to co-fund grants when necessary. That is why the Department spends more than SEK 2 million per year on direct co-funding.

The relevance of our research is constantly under trail – at our internal seminars, when we present our research at international conferences, when we publish, in outreach outside academia, and not least, when we in strong competition apply for and win external research grants.

The strategy of internationalisation has long been strong at the Department, when many other environments in humanities and social sciences were content with publishing in Swedish, Economic history in Lund strived for international outreach. This is reflected in our publication patterns, but during the last decade also increasingly in the recruitment of academic staff.

The strategy of building strong research infrastructures is manifested in the fact that many of the projects at the Department involves creating and maintaining major databases, which is of use for present and future research.

B2. Collegial culture

The Department is anchored in an academic collegial tradition of debate, discussion and criticism for improvement. By this, we mean that seminars, other types of peer review, methodological training, source criticism, scientific conduct, research integrity and research ethics all play an important role. We are part of a meritocratic system in which ambition, creativity and performance, but also collaboration and mutual support, are highly valued.

The overall perspective on these issues is described in the research strategy; in this section we follow the questionnaire and focus on some concrete patterns and outcomes.

a. Opportunities for junior scholars to develop their originality and independence

The Swedish research funding system, where a huge part of resources are allocated to projects in open calls, in combination with the Department's open and inclusive strategy when it comes to applications from researchers at all levels, is creating a powerful drive for junior scholars to develop their originality and independence. In our recruitment policy, the ability as independent scholar to win project grants in competition is stressed as a specifically important point when assessing application for positions.

One of the questions highlighted in the evaluation of our PhD programme 2019 was that the project based recruitment and financing may hamper the doctoral students' autonomy as researchers. To be fair, the reviewers also mentioned the project connection as a strength, in that it ensures a peer group of researchers with similar aims and interests, so that the students do not drift searching for viable topics. It also means that supervisors who also are project leaders have a strong interest that the students will finish their work on time with good results.

To prevent the PhD students from becoming intellectually limited we are ensuring a broad education in the discipline, in the course work and in the mandatory every week seminar. Moreover, it is the student's absolute right to change topic of thesis (and supervisor), and sometimes this happens. Finally, the department board recently decided to allocate funds to call for one or two direct government funded PhD positions 2020.

Most of our postdocs are also hired on project money and are expected to spend the lion share of their time working with project tasks, but the project leaders are entitled to also give them the opportunity to develop papers from their dissertation into publications and to work with future research ideas and funding. Besides this, we always have one or more postdocs on direct government research funding, using LUSEM's allotment targeted for recruiting international postdocs, and our own means in the same direction.

b. Sustainability and renewal of research strengths

The Department favours mobility among researchers, this is e.g. done by external recruitments of young researchers and with career talks with our PhD students and postdocs. The Department has also invited the other economic history departments in Sweden to nominate PhDs for postdoctoral grants among each other, which has led to that Uppsala this year is nominating a candidate from Lund, and vice versa.

But in order to sustain and renew our research strengths, we have never introduced any binding rules for mobility, and we are flexible when it comes to hiring researchers, temporary or until further notice, in order to build up and maintain strong research groups.

c. Academic networks and collaborations outside your unit

Our researchers' external networks are crucial for their success, more than half of the 225 peer-reviewed journal articles 2014–18 are co-written with one or more researchers outside the Department, most of them outside Lund University. These collaborations have also promoted joint applications and project funding, both in Sweden and internationally. We are increasingly part of major joint applications, such both on European and Scandinavian level (Horizon; ERC Synergy; Nordforsk) and Swedish level (Riksbanken Program and alike).

d. Diversity, integrity and ethics

The Department runs an active programme on equity and diversity. It is every year evaluating its action plan and status in this respect. This concerns the psychosocial work environment and the gender distribution of faculty, other staff and students. It also involves wages, recruitments and promotions, and the diversity in terms of internationalisation of staff. As mentioned above, the Department has taken major steps towards gender equality during the last ten years, this in spite of the fact that a majority (normally 60–75 percent) of those who apply for any position announced are men. The professors are already gender balanced, and in the permanent academic staff as a whole, the share of women are 42 percent. When it comes to diversity, the Department currently employs people from 34 countries of origin, and a majority of these around 100 people are non-Swedes.

e. Quality in applications and publications

This is of course a crucial part of the Department's work and collegial culture. Most of it is driven by the research groups and in cooperation between individual researchers, e.g. when they present their research ideas and papers at seminars and conferences. But as mentioned above the Department also actively supports quality work in applications and publications. This has been done by (1) short-term incubator grants, (2) one-month funding to research assistants for initial data collection, (3) specific grant seminars, and (4) active engagement from the Department management to open up for new application opportunities.

B3. Quality ecosystem

Within this section, we want you to identify how – if relevant – other tasks influence research activities in your unit. This includes linkages between your educational portfolio and research, as well as the impact of collaboration with partners outside the academic system on research quality in your unit.

a. How are your research strengths reflected in your educational portfolio? Reflect on potential improvements of the linkages.

We have a unique and broad profile in economic history, from bachelor to graduate programme, which is entirely built on our research strengths. Our aim is to constantly improve and develop our teaching.

b. Does your unit have external research collaborations (domestic and/or international), for instance, in industry, governments and states, county councils and municipalities, non-governmental organisations? If so, please reflect on how such collaborations influence the quality of your research, for instance in terms of generating research ideas, obtaining financial resources or exchanging staff.

Our external collaborations are foremost based on our ability to provide relevant research. The Department has a long tradition of external engagement, and its researchers have frequently been engaged in public debates and as experts in burning contemporary issues, may it be business cycles, the ageing population, climate change and economic growth, labour market, regional development, inequality, the European Union…

One of our professors, Maria Stanfors, has been specially appointed by the Swedish government to lead a public investigation about a national centre for knowledge and evaluation of work environment. The last few years, the Department also has engaged in a formalised collaboration with the regional government (Region Skåne), with the meaning that their research and development section shall use our department as a starting point when they need academic contact and collaboration. So far, we have organised seminars on innovations and regional development, and produced reports on their behalf.

The SWINNO project with the Swedish innovation database is run in close collaboration with Vinnova, the state agency for innovation, and their interest in the results and the database has stimulated the work over the years. Researchers in Swinno has frequently met with policy makers in Sweden and Finland to discuss research and receive inputs.

The energy, trade and climate research has got funding from the Swedish energy council for 6 years in two subsequent projects, and the results have been discussed in seminars at the agency as well as in the Swedish parliament.

c. How does the unit deal with integrity and ethics, including potential conflicts of interests, in relation to collaboration?

Since 2017, the Department has sharpened its policy and practice, when it comes to potential conflicts of interest, when grading and evaluation committees are appointed. Conflicts of interest in relation to external collaboration has never been a real issue at our Department, since our researchers rarely are engaged in activities that could cause it, e.g. engagements in business that could overlap or in other ways cause conflicts of interest.

During recent years, questions on research ethics, integrity and appropriate data use have come into focus and, as a result, we educate all our PhD-students in Research Ethics. This course, worth 3 credits, will be made compulsory at all PhD programmes at the School of Economics 2020. The Department is acting strongly at any occasion when research integrity and ethics is at stake.

d. What is the unit’s stance towards external engagement and outreach?
We promote and are actively engaged in external engagement and outreach (see above)

B4. Transversal themes:

In this section, we additionally enlist a number of questions that will be analysed by transversal external panels, devoted to areas deemed particularly critical to Lund University's future directions. These panels are appointed for the following areas:

• Management and leadership

How well do the faculty level and central University leadership support quality work in the unit?
Are guidance, adequate resources, and other forms of support provided?
Are there specific strengths and weaknesses in the current approach?

When it comes to research, the support from faculty level and central University align well with the Department's research strategy and development. At the faculty level, the School of Economics and Management recognizes the power inherent in the pursuit of bottom-up initiatives by individual researchers. The organization of research is therefore fundamentally decentralized. Nevertheless, both the School and central University pursue strategic initiatives to initiate and support research activities, primarily by means of ear-marked co-funding of external grants and support of recruitment efforts. Moreover, the Research Service at Lund University provides good support in specific application, namely to the Wallenberg foundations and for EU-grants.

• Infrastructures

If activities at the unit are critically dependent on research infrastructures, please describe which these are.
Reflect on the support you get to use and access such infrastructures, for instance if they are located in another faculty or department: is current support adequate or is there room for improvement?
Does the unit have plans for developing infrastructures, either individually or together with other units? If so, please briefly describe these plans.

Research at the Department is critically dependant on research infrastructure, which means databases. Examples of such databases are:

- SEDD – Scanian Economic Demographic Database
- SLI – Swedish Longitudinal Immigrant Database
- LU-MADD – Lund University Macroeconomic and Demographic Database
- Swedish Historical National Account 1300–2010
- Swedish Historical Regional Account 1571–2010
- SWINNO – Swedish Innovations 1970–2016
- HDSA – Historical Database of Scanian Agriculture 1702–1881
- Parliamentarian and farmer wealth database 1769–1895
- Strikes and Protests in the Swedish Labour Market 1859–1938
- Technology-adjusted consumption-based carbon accounts, Global series for the period 1995–2015

SEDD is part of the national infrastructure Swedpop, which aims at collecting, harmonizing and disseminating the totally unique Swedish historical population data (www.swedpop.se). It involves state-of-the-art work on data management and data structure, coding of occupations and causes of death, as well as creating extraction software for statistical analysis of complex population and socioeconomic data. SEDD is also part of an international collaboration for structuring, disseminating and analysing historical longitudinal population data (https://ehps-net.eu).

For our research in Financial history we have created several databases: One with Swedish Commercial Banks' aggregated balance sheets from 1834–1938, that now will be extended to a Bank level database. And, in collaboration with researchers at the National Institute for Economic and Social Research (UK) and Queen's University in Belfast, databases on 'Bank Failure Rates and Bank Population for Ireland and the UK (1750 – 1938)', 'Irish GDP (1842-1948)' and 'Irish Monetary Aggregates 1840-1921'.

Under construction is also the micro level longitudinal database on Sweden's industrialisation built on the Factory Censuses 1740–1914, as well as several databases built on probate inventories.

Most of these sources are created and built up at the Department, and dependant on external funding, although some funding from the faculty level is provided for SEDD and SWINNO. However, the all-university infrastructure work is mostly directed to activities within Science and Medicine.

All our databases are either made public at the Department web or accessible for other researchers after request, depending on the character of the database and if it contains restricted information about individuals.

- The relationship with strong and broad research areas

Does your unit align with any of the University's strategic research areas (SFO)? Or does it align with any other strong and broad research area, as defined by you? Please describe these areas. For an overview: https://www.lunduniversity.lu.se/research/research-excellence-areas/strategic-research-areas

If you align with any such environment, which opportunities do such connections create for your unit?
Is there room for improvements in the interface between your unit and these areas?
Are there strong and broad areas that you currently do not align with but that you would like to interact with in the future?

Professor Kirk Scott from the Department is on the steering committee of eSSENCE: The e-Science Collaboration. eSSENCE is a strategic research area representing collaboration between universities in Lund, Uppsala, and Umeå, with the overarching goal of promoting computational research in all disciplines, especially those which are not traditionally strong in quantitative research. Scott is also on the board of Lunarc, the high performance computing facility at LU. In these roles, Scott advances the department’s vision of integrating high-level quantitative skills and innovative approaches at all levels.

The Centre for Economic Demography together with scholars at the Department of Natural Geography, as eSSENCE applicants, received funding to introduce the micro-level geographic context into historical demographic analyses. These factors include population density, soil conditions, as well as closeness to wetlands and cities. It was accomplished by adding detailed location of all individuals using GIS methodology to the Scanian Economic-Demographic Database. The project involved researchers in geography and economic history. Apart from publications, the project have resulted in manuals and international courses in methods how to combine and make use of GIS in analyzing longitudinal micro-data.

In addition, the Department has initiated, developed and fostered other strong and broad research areas, including the two Linneaus research environments – the Centre for Economic Demography (CED) and the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIRCLE).

C. Final Remarks

Please indicate if something was missing in the self-evaluation and add any issue that you want to raise. Finally, we would like you to describe how you worked with this self-evaluation: who was involved? What were the critical issues? Were the instructions adequate?

The head of department has done most of the hands on writing, but the self-evaluation has been discussed several times in faculty and the process has included a referral of the draft to all Department members and inputs from many of them. We also had help with comments from the Dean and his office.