

The Fragility of Growth in the Past, WG

Social Reactors Project Meeting
Santa Fe Institute

April 4-6, 2018

Participants:

Scott Ortman (*Colorado University, Boulder and Santa Fe Institute*)

Jose Lobo, (*Arizona State University-SFI Center for Biosocial Complex Systems*)

Michael Smith (*School of Human Evolution and Social Change, ASU*)

Luis Bettencourt (*University of Chicago and Santa Fe Institute*)

Jack Hanson (*Colorado University, Boulder*)

Zach Cooper (*Colorado University, Boulder*)

Agenda

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Evening: Arrival in Santa Fe, drinks/dinner in HSF lobby

Thursday, April 4 – 5, 2018

8:30am start of meeting (review of agenda for the two days)

9:00am: ***Smithian Growth I***

- questions motivating our interest in SG
- characteristics and drivers of SG
- relationship between SG and urbanization
- arguments for thinking that SG could have occurred in ancient (i.e., pre-18th century) societies
- empirical hallmarks of SG
- engagement with recent paper by Algaze using the notion of SG to explain early urbanization in Mesopotamia

10:30am coffee break

10:45am continuation of discussion

11:40am preview of presentation by Scott and Mike to SFI community

12:15pm presentation to the SFI community by Scott and Mike

1:30pm: ***Smithian Growth II***

- fragility of SG in ancient societies (specifically before the advent of the Industrial Revolution and the Scientific Revolution)
- model for SG with modest growth rates and subject to exogenous shocks
- evidence for "fragile SG" in Ancient Rome
- sketch of a possible paper on "fragile SG in Ancient Rome"

3:00pm tea break

3:30pm continuation of discussion

4:30pm review of the day and of next day's agenda

5:00pm meeting adjourned

7:00pm working dinner

Friday, April, 4 – 6, 2018

8:30am: ***Archaeological Proxies for Variables Highlighted by SST I***

- questions motivating our interest in archaeological proxies
- output measures, household measures, infrastructure measures, settlement measures: relationships and distinctions
- relationship between SST and common archaeological settlement measures
- Issues regarding exponents emerging from archaeological studies

12:00pm working lunch --- updates on (a) joint papers in progress; (b) relevant activities by group members

1:00pm: ***Archaeological Proxies for Variables Highlighted by SST II***

3:00pm tea break

3:30pm design of and preparations for August mtg. w/ Mayanists

4:15pm discussion of joint work plan for the remainder of 2018

5:00pm meeting ends