

ECON 460: Women, Work, and the World Economy

Reading Guide: “Witchcraft, Weather and Economic Growth in Renaissance Europe”

After reading the article, you should be able to answer the following questions:

1. When did the practice of persecuting witches begin?
2. What was the “little ice age” and when did it occur?
3. What is the main hypothesis that the author tests in the paper?
4. How is that hypothesis operationalized in Table 1? What is the empirical specification used in the regression analysis? What are the main findings?
5. How does the detailed data from Geneva complement the cross-country analysis?
6. How does the author measure economic growth in renaissance Europe?
7. What regression does the author run to explore the association between economic growth and the persecution of witches? What is the regression specification? What are the findings?