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CALL FOR PAPERS - Deadline: 15 July 2008

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**RAGS TO RICHES: FERTILITY, CULTURE AND EDUCATION IN  
THE TRANSITION TO SELF-SUSTAINING GROWTH**

**December 11-12, 2008**

**CREI, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Catalunya**

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On behalf of the organisers, I am writing to invite you to submit a paper proposal or express your interest in attending the two-day conference on 'Rags to Riches'. It will take place on 11-12 December 2008 at CREI-UPF, Barcelona, and will be organised by Matthias Doepke (Northwestern, CEPR and NBER), Nico Voigtlaender (UCLA-Anderson), and Hans-Joachim Voth (UPF, CREI and CEPR).

With support from the Centre de Recerca en Economia Internacional (CREI) at UPF, Barcelona, and the CEPR's Economic History Initiative, this workshop aims to bring together economic theorists, applied economists, demographers, and economic historians working on unified growth theory. It will provide a forum for discussion of recent research on what facilitated the transition to self-sustaining growth. Some of the possible topics include (but are not limited to):

- What can unified growth theory teach us about cross-sectional divergence in growth?
- What has been learned about the role of culture in long-run economic development?
- Do we have the *explananda* right in unified growth theory?
- Where does fertility restriction in Western Europe come from?
- Can the fertility transition in the 19<sup>th</sup> century be explained through greater demand for educated children?
- What is the role of government intervention in curtailing fertility and accelerating human capital formation?

Travel and accommodation expenses will be covered for all participants according to standard CEPR travel guidelines. If you can use research funds to pay for your own costs, this would free up funding for someone else. Please note that it may not be possible to accept all applications to attend this conference.

We would, at this stage, like you to simply confirm your interest in attending the meeting. To respond, please send an email to Joachim Voth at [jvoth@crei.cat](mailto:jvoth@crei.cat). The deadline for replies is **18:00 GMT on 15 July 2008**.