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World Congress PhD Seminar: Conducting and Critiquing Research in Accounting History

Accounting history has become an increasingly popular and respected domain of scholarly research. While many accounting academics are initially drawn to the area because of an inherent love of his-

ical) that comprise the current domain of accounting history research. The course also covers the characteristics of good accounting history research designs as well as key issues relating to writing-up



Seminar Participants: Patrizia Torrecchia, Sonia Granado Suarez, Christiana Dankwa, Tom Tyson, Manu Sehgal, Angélica Vasconcelos, and Michelle Hong

tory, few may have formal training in conducting and evaluating accounting history research and are often reluctant to press ahead. With this in mind, Dr. Tom Tyson, Professor of Accounting at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, NY designed a course that examines the major genres (subject areas) (biography, culture race and gender, genealogy/critical theory, practice/theory, and profession/professionalism) and the range of methodologies (archival, case study, oral history interviews, empirical, and theoret-

the results of an accounting history research project and getting it published! It is designed for all individuals seeking to conduct research in accounting history.

Dr. Tyson initially presented the course as a four-day PhD. Seminar at the Aarhus School of Business, Aarhus University in January 2010. It offered an opportunity for doctoral students to engage in the methodology of historical research in accounting. The attend-

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ants were students from Arhus PhD program as well as several international scholars. The course offered a mix of formal lectures on how to conduct and evaluate accounting history research and student engagement through group work assignments. The success of this doctoral course was positively affected by the Dr. Tyson's open sharing of personal experiences with the research process. His frank and open teaching style enabled the students to envision every tedious and yet rewarding step of design, data collection, write up and submission process. Dr. Tyson received the 2010 Academy of Accounting Historians Innovation in Accounting History Education Award for this course.

Dr. Tyson presented a one-day condensed version of the course at the 13th WCAH in Newcastle-upon-Tyne on July 16, 2012. The course was attended by six young and aspiring accountants from Australia, India, the Canary Islands, Italy, Angola, and Brazil. As the photo suggests, all of the participants felt the experience most worthwhile.

Articles Incorporated in the Seminar:

1. "Archival Research and the Lost Worlds of Accounting," by Sy, A. and Tinker, T. (2005), *Accounting History*, Vol. 10, No. 1, March, pp. 47-70.
2. "Straw Men and Old Saws – an Evidence-Based Response to Sy & Tinker's Critique of Accounting History," by Tyson, T. and Oldroyd, D. (2007) *Accounting Historians Journal*, Vol. 34, No. 1 (June) pp. 173-193.
3. "'Effective' Genealogical History: Possibilities for Critical Accounting History Research," by Macintosh, N.B. (2009), *Accounting Historians Journal*, Volume 36, Number 1 (June) pp. 1-27. (especially pp. 1-14)