World-Historical Dataverse:  
FEATURE PROJECTS IN HISTORICAL DATA

Each year the project concentrates on collecting and displaying historical data on a major commodity: **opium** (2010), **silver** (2011), **wheat** (2012), **rice** (2013)

**Opium** (collection year 2010)
- A commodity of great social and economic importance in past and present
- Documented in detail for 19th and early 20th centuries
- Now illegal, so documentation is no longer available
- Historical studies will provide valuable information on patterns of production, consumption, and trade

**Silver** (collection year 2011)
- Silver mines of Potosi (Bolivia) and Zacatecas (Mexico) provided most of the world’s silver supply from the 16th to the 19th centuries.
- With the Manila galleons from 1571, silver traveled around the world, providing currency for commerce and taxes worldwide, but especially in China.
- Synthesis of worldwide silver flows will provide an approximation of global money supply

Maps of global silver flows

Maria Theresa thaler (1780) restamped from a Mexican peso

1869 Mexican peso