



CAMBRIDGE SEMINAR
IN THE HISTORY OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS
AT CLARE HALL

XXXVIII CAMHIST Seminar

20 July 2017, 8:15 pm Clare Hall Meeting Room

Sieber as the First Russian Marxist

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Samuel H. Baron published in 1963 an authoritative intellectual biography on Plekhanov, the Father of Russian Marxism. In the same perspective, Soviet historiography indicated Plekhanov as the main protagonist of the birth of Russian Marxism. Yet it is possible to take an alternative view: Nikolai Sieber (1844-1888) could in fact be considered as the first Russian Marxist. Rather than dealing with the question of who came first, this paper addresses two issues. First it tries to explain the rationale behind Soviet historiography, sketching the new archival discoveries about Sieber's short but mysterious life. Second it characterizes Sieber's Marxism looking at four aspects: the relations between Marx and Sieber; the significance of being a Marxist in the 1870s; the place of Ricardo and of the history of economic thought in both Marx's and Sieber's work; and finally, the fate of Sieber's master dissertation: *David Ricardo's Theory of Value and Distribution* (1871).

Everybody is welcome to attend. For more information visit the CAMHIST website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/camhistseminar/Home>