



## **AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY NEWSLETTER ISSUE #10 NOVEMBER, 2013**

Your bi-monthly update from the African Economic History Network

The AEHN newsletter keeps you up to date with current and forthcoming events in African Economic History. It gives you a chance to publicise your new research and opportunities to the right audience.

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Do you want to become a member of the network and receive this monthly email? Send a message to the African Economic History Network at [aehtnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:aehtnetwork@gmail.com) with 'member' in the subject line.

Anything we missed? Want to publicise your own research, events or organizing a panel for an upcoming conference? Send a message to [aehtnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:aehtnetwork@gmail.com) and we will include your news in our bi-monthly round up.

Best regards,  
**The African Economic History Network**

## News and Announcements

### **Textbook on the History of African Development now available for free**

An online textbook for a new generation of African students and teachers, produced by the African Economic History Network (AEHN). [Available](#) for free on the African Economic History Network website. If you are willing to offer a contribution, please contact one of the editors:

Ewout Frankema, ewout.frankema@wur.nl; Ellen Hillbom, ellen.hillbom@ekh.lu.se

### **New population database for Africa 1850-1960**

A new revised population database for Africa 1850-1960 is now available. The database have been constructed by Ewout Frankema and Morten Jerven. Users of the dataset should refer to the Frankema, E. and Jerven, M. (2014). 'Writing History Backwards and Sideways: Towards a Consensus on African Population, 1850-present' *Economic History Review* 67, S1, (forthcoming). For direct access to the database, click [here](#).

For other data sets available see the [data page](#), and please do submit your own datasets.

### **Arthur H. Cole Prize for African Economic History**

Ewout Frankema and Marlous van Waijenburg have been awarded the Arthur H. Cole Prize for the best article in *The Journal of Economic History* (June 2012- June 2013) for their paper "Structural [Impediments](#) to African Growth? New Evidence from Real Wages in British Africa, 1880-1965." See [here](#) for the winning article.

### **Working Papers Series**

The network has published a new working paper. The new working paper as well as previous papers can be found [here](#):

Joseph Inikori, 2013. "[The Development of Commercial Agriculture in Pre-Colonial West Africa](#)", *AEHN Working Paper #9*.

Ewout Frankema and Morten Jerve, 2013. "[Writing History Backwards or Sideways: Towards a Consensus on African Population, 1850-present](#)", *AEHN Working Paper #10*.

If you have a paper you would like to submit for our consideration please send us an email. For questions regarding the WPS please contact Erik Green at [Erik.Green@ekh.lu.se](mailto:Erik.Green@ekh.lu.se).

## NEW ABSTRACTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

### Articles

#### **Saheed Aderinto. Where Is the Boundary? Cocoa Conflict, Land Tenure, and Politics in Western Nigeria, 1890s–1960**

This paper is about cocoa-induced conflict between the Ibadan and the Ijebu, two Yoruba sub-groups of southwestern Nigeria. Although historians have examined the socio-economic impact of cocoa, they have however downplayed how it created violent conflict. I examine the interrelatedness of the transformation of land tenure system and economics of cocoa production to show that although the colonialists, and the Ibadan and the Ijebu claimed that land/boundary was the main source of conflict, in reality it was cocoa. Cocoa conflict realigned an indigenous culture of political allegiance, created new methods of litigation and arbitration, and rendered the colonial legal system incapable of solving a conflict that had strong impact on the imperial treasury. As it turned out, the “conflict” not the “law” or “court” dictated the pattern of resolution and compromise. If crude oil is a major source of tension between the Nigerian state and the Niger Delta region since the 1970s, cocoa during the colonial period negatively impacted the colonial economy and reconfigured the pattern of relations between the natives and the British imperial authority.

Saheed Aderinto, 2013. [“Where Is the Boundary? Cocoa Conflict, Land Tenure, and Politics in Western Nigeria, 1890s–1960”](#), *Journal of Social History*, 47 (1):176-195.

#### **Matthew Bender. Being ‘Chagga’: Natural Resources, Political Activism, and Identity of Kilimanjaro**

This article argues that the emergence of Chagga political identity on Mount Kilimanjaro in the 1940s and 1950s can best be understood as a product of intensive debates over the control of natural resources and the nature of chiefly authority. As a result of perceived threats to the land and water resources of the mountain and resentment of the role of the chiefs in these issues, grassroots activists adopted a language of unity using the ethnic term ‘Chagga’ – a moniker long used by the colonial state but eschewed by the general population. With the rise of a paramount chieftaincy in 1951, the term shifted from being a symbol of colonial rule to one of common identity and resistance against the encroachment of the colonial state in local affairs.

Matthew V. Bender, 2013. [“Being ‘Chagga’: Natural Resources, Political Activism, and Identity of Kilimanjaro”](#), *The Journal of African History*, 54(2): 199-220.

#### **Ellen Hillbom. Cattle, Diamonds and Institutions: Main Drivers of Botswana’s Economic Development, 1850 to Present**

This study investigates the role of political as well as economic institutions, factor endowments and geography as main drivers of change in Botswana's long-term economic development, from 1850 to the present. The claim that we need to embrace multi-causal explanations giving equal explanatory value to all mentioned potential drivers is made. Further, in order not to compress history, we should give equal attention to the pre-colonial, colonial and post-independence eras. The study leads by example and provides a thorough analysis that enriches our understanding of the country's past and present.

Ellen Hillbom, 2013. ["Cattle, Diamonds and Institutions: Main Drivers of Botswana's Economic Development, 1850 to Present"](#), *Journal of International Development*, online version.

### **Judith Spicksley. Pawns of the Gold Coast: The Rise of Asante and Shifts in Security for Debt, 1680-1750**

In the seventeenth century, Europeans on the Gold Coast took gold pawns as security for debt, but from the early eighteenth century, they turned increasingly toward the use of human pawns. This shift was the result of a transformation in levels of demand for gold amongst African sellers, most notably the Asante, who began to secure control over local gold sources from c. 1700. The change in demand for gold was accompanied by a rise in slave prices on the West African coast, but it was the indigenous system of debt recovery that proved crucial to the success of European trade.

Judith Spicksley, 2013. ["Pawns of the Gold Coast: The Rise of Asante and Shifts in Security for Debt, 1680-1750"](#), *The Journal of African History*, 54(2): 147-175.

### **Christopher Vaughan. Violence and Regulation in the Darfur-Chad Borderland c. 1909–56: Policing a Colonial Boundary**

Recent literature has emphasised the political and economic opportunities afforded to peoples living in African borderlands by the existence of permeable inter-state boundaries. This article examines the history of the Darfur-Chad borderland under colonial rule and finds that serious risks existed for those attempting to circumvent state authority in order to take advantage of such opportunities. State-led attempts to control these borders, though always incomplete, were often characterised by considerable violence. The limits of state power did not therefore straightforwardly translate into an accommodation with border societies. That said, this was also a border zone characterised by complex interaction and negotiation between state and local forms of regulation, and by multiple forms of sovereignty. This led to the emergence of plural and hybrid forms of authority, now repeatedly observed in studies of contemporary African borderlands, but rarely fully historicised.

Christopher Vaughan, 2013. ["Violence and Regulation in the Darfur-Chad Borderland c. 1909–56: Policing a Colonial Boundary"](#), *The Journal of African History*, 54(2): 177-198.

### **Patrick Ziltener and Daniel Künzler. Impacts of Colonialism – A Research Survey**

The impacts of colonialism in Africa and Asia have never been compared in a systematic manner for a large sample of countries. This research survey presents the results of a new and thorough assessment of the highly diverse phenomenon – including length of domination, violence, partition, proselytization, instrumentalization of ethno-linguistic and religious cleavages, trade, direct investment, settlements, plantations, and migration – organized through a dimensional analysis (political, social, and economic impacts). It is shown that while in some areas, colonial domination has triggered profound changes in economy and social structure, others have remained almost untouched.

Patrick Ziltener and Daniel Künzler, 2013. [“Impacts of Colonialism – A Research Survey”](#), *Journal of World-Systems Research*, 19(2): 290-311.

## Working Papers

### **Jutta Bolt and Ellen Hillbom. Social Structures and Income Distribution in Colonial sub-Saharan Africa: The case of Bechuanaland Protectorate 1936-1964**

In this paper we quantify the level and inequality of incomes in colonial Bechuanaland building on social tables from 1936 to 1964. Based on information collected from the colonial archives and anthropological records, we construct four social tables for Bechuanaland Protectorate, one for each decade from 1930s onwards. This allows us to determine average income per social class, hence the distribution of income in society. We find first of all, that due to the development of a cattle export sector by the colonial government, cattle holdings became increasingly concentrated in the hands of the traditional elite. Combined with the more than quadrupling of the export prices for cattle, income became more and more concentrated in the hands of the large scale cattle holders. Secondly, we find that the people that worked for the colonial government, while representing a very small part of the population, received increasing salaries with the expansion of the colonial administration. Combined, European and African government officials earned around fifteen percent of total surplus income, despite the fact that they represented less than one percent of population.

Jutta Bolt and Ellen Hillbom, 2013. [“Social Structures and Income Distribution in Colonial sub-Saharan Africa: The case of Bechuanaland Protectorate 1936-1964”](#), *European Historical Economics Society*.

### **Stephen Broadberry and Leigh Gardner. Africa’s Growth Prospects in a European Mirror: A Historical Perspective**

Drawing on recent quantitative research on Europe reaching back to the medieval period, and noting a relationship between the quality of institutions and economic growth, this paper offers a reassessment of Africa’s growth prospects. Periods of positive growth driven by trade, followed by growth reversals which wiped out the gains of the previous boom, characterized pre-modern Europe as well as twentieth century Africa. Since per capita incomes in much of sub-Saharan Africa are currently at the level of medieval Europe, which did not make the breakthrough to modern economic growth until the nineteenth century, we



caution against too optimistic a reading of Africa's recent growth experience. Without the institutional changes necessary to facilitate structural change, growth reversals continue to pose a serious threat to African prosperity. Only if growth continues after a downturn in Africa's terms of trade can we be sure that the corner has been turned.

Stephen Broadberry and Leigh Bardner, 2013. "[Africa's Growth Prospects in a European Mirror: A Historical Perspective](#)", *The University of Warwick Working Paper Series No. 172*.

**Robin Burgess, Remi Jedwab, Edward Miguel, Ameet Morjaria, Gerard Padro i Miguel.**

### **The Value of Democracy: Evidence from Road Building in Kenya**

Ethnic favoritism is seen as antithetical to development. This paper provides credible quantification of the extent of ethnic favoritism using data on road building in Kenyan districts across the 1963-2011 period. Guided by a model it then examines whether the transition in and out of democracy under the same president constrains or exacerbates ethnic favoritism. Across the 1963 to 2011 period, we find strong evidence of ethnic favoritism: districts that share the ethnicity of the president receive twice as much expenditure on roads and have four times the length of paved roads built. This favoritism disappears during periods of democracy.

Robin Burgess, Remi Jedwab, Edward Miguel, Ameet Morjaria, Gerard Padro i Miguel, 2013. "[The Value of Democracy: Evidence from Road Building in Kenya](#)", *Centre for Economic Policy Research DP9627*.

### **Nicolas J. Duquette. Revealing the Relationship between Ship Crowding and Slave Mortality**

Historical accounts have linked the overcrowded conditions on the Middle Passage to slaves' ill health and high mortality. A large literature in economic history has failed to find such effects. This note demonstrates the importance of a statistical explanation: missing data. Studies finding no positive relationship between vessel crowding and Middle Passage mortality are driven by an unrepresentative sample of slave voyages. Using simple methods to correct for missing data on voyage duration, analysis of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database shows a strong and robust association between crowded voyages and slave mortality, consistent with historical accounts.

Nicolas J. Duquette, 2013. "[Revealing the Relationship between Ship Crowding and Slave Mortality](#)", *Department of Economics University of Michigan*.

### **Johan Fourie. The Quantitative Cape: Notes from a new historiography of the Dutch Cape Colony**

The digitisation and transcription of rich archival sources and the use of statistical techniques combined with modern computing power, have, over the last decade, allowed social scientists to reinterpret eighteenth-century Cape history. This review essay summarises the

main results from the burgeoning literature; assesses whether these new studies refute or support earlier hypothesis; shows how new quantitative evidence can inform our understanding of the process of economic development; and appeals to historians and economists to learn the language of the other.

Johan Fourie, 2013. ["The Quantitative Cape: Notes from a new historiography of the Dutch Cape Colony"](#), *ERSA Working Paper 371*.

### **Ewout Frankema and Morten Jerven. Writing History Backwards or Sideways: Towards a Consensus on African Population, 1850-present**

This paper aims to make an empirical and theoretical contribution towards the creation of a continent wide data set on African population extending into the pre-1950 era. We investigate the reliability and the validity of the current population databases with the aim of working towards a consensus on the long term series of African total population with a reliable 1950 benchmark. The cases of Kenya, Nigeria and Ghana are explored to show how uneven coverage census taking has been in colonial and post-colonial Africa and to demonstrate the need for an upward adjustment of the conventional 1950 benchmark. In addition, we discuss the advantages and disadvantages of Patrick Manning's approach of projecting population growth estimates backwards in time by adopting the available Indian census data as African 'default growth rates' and propose an alternative approach by incorporating the demographic experiences of tropical land abundant countries in South East Asia.

Ewout Frankema and Morten Jerve, 2013. ["Writing History Backwards or Sideways: Towards a Consensus on African Population, 1850-present"](#), *AEHN Working Paper #10*.

### **Joseph Inikori. The Development of Commercial Agriculture in Pre-Colonial West Africa**

This paper focuses on the development of commercial agriculture in pre-colonial West Africa. The evidence shows that subsistence agriculture was overwhelmingly dominant on the eve of European colonial rule. The historical explanation for this long-delayed development of commercial agriculture in the region is the central analytical task in the paper. Given the initial conditions of a predominantly subsistence agricultural economy, sustained long-run population growth and inter-continental trade are identified as the main drivers of the commercializing process in the long run. The analytical task, therefore, boils down to examining the development of these critical factors over long time periods. We find that both factors grew steadily (with some breaks as would be expected) up to the mid-seventeenth century, when population declined absolutely up to the mid-nineteenth century, at the same time that inter-continental trade in West African commodities also declined. The paper argues that these developments explain satisfactorily the delayed development of commercial agriculture during the period of study. We reject arguments in the literature which attribute the decline of population and inter-continental trade to West Africa's ecology. We argue instead that the violent procurement of millions of captives shipped across the Atlantic and their employment in large scale production of commodities in the Americas for Atlantic commerce — with the abiding support of mercantilist European states — had

profound adverse effects on West Africa's population and the development of the region's competitiveness in commodity production for Atlantic commerce.

Joseph Inikori, 2013. [“The Development of Commercial Agriculture in Pre-Colonial West Africa”](#), *AEHN Working Paper #9*.

### **Remi Jedwab and Alexander Moradi. Transportation Technology and Economic Change: The Impact of Colonial Railroads on City Growth in Africa**

What is the impact of modern transportation technology on long-run economic change in poor countries with high trade costs? Rail construction in colonial Sub-Saharan Africa provides a natural experiment: 90% of African railroad lines were built before independence, in a context where headloading was the dominant transportation technology. Using new data on railroads and cities over one century within one country, Ghana, and Africa as a whole, we find large permanent effects on transportation technology on economic development. First, colonial railroads had strong effects on commercial agriculture and urban growth before independence. We exploit various identification strategies to ensure these effects are causal. Second, using the fact that African railroads fell largely out of use post-independence, due to mismanagement and lack of maintenance, we show that colonial railroads had a persistent impact on cities. While colonial sunk investments (e.g., schools, hospitals and roads) partly contributed to urban path dependence, evidence suggests a world where shocks to economic geography can trigger an equilibrium in which cities will emerge to facilitate the accumulation of factors, and thus have long-term effects on economic growth.

Remi Jedwab and Alexander Moradi, 2013. [“Transportation Technology and Economic Change: The Impact of Colonial Railroads on City Growth in Africa”](#), *George Washington University and University of Sussex*.

### **Margaret McMillan, William Masters and Harounan Kazianga. Disease Control, Demographic Change and Institutional Development in Africa**

This paper addresses the role of tropical disease in rural demography and land use rights, using data from Onchocerciasis (river blindness) control in Burkina Faso. We combine a new survey of village elders with historical census data for 1975-2006 and geocoded maps of treatment under the regional Onchocerciasis Control Program (OCP). The OCP ran from 1975 to 2002, first spraying rivers to stop transmission and then distributing medicine to help those already infected. Controlling for time and village fixed effects, we find that villages in treated areas acquired larger populations and also had more cropland transactions, fewer permits required for cropland transactions, and more regulation of common property pasture and forest. These effects are robust to numerous controls and tests for heterogeneity across the sample, including time-varying region fixed effects. Descriptive statistics suggest that treated villages also acquired closer access to electricity and telephone service, markets, wells and primary schools, with no difference in several other variables. These results are consistent with both changes in productivity and effects of population size on public institutions.

Margaret S. McMillan, William Masters and Harounan Kazianga, 2013. [“Disease Control, Demographic Change and Institutional Development in Africa”](#), *NBER Working Paper No. 19245*.



## **Nonso Obikili. The Impact of the Slave Trade on Literacy in Africa: Evidence from the Colonial Era**

Recent studies have highlighted the importance of Africa's history of slave exporting to its current economic development. In this paper I show that differences in investment in education may be one of the channels through which that history has affected current development. I combine data on literacy rates of administrative districts from the colonial censuses of Nigeria and Ghana from the 1950's with data on slave exports of different ethnic groups. I find a negative and significant relationship between slave export intensity before the colonial era and literacy rates during the colonial era. I also use contemporary data on literacy rates from the 2010 Nigerian Literacy Survey and find that this negative relationship is still present and significant. Thus, I show that the slave trades affected development through channels other than inter-ethnic group conflict or formal nation-state level institutions.

Nonso Obikili, 2013. ["The Impact of the Slave Trade on Literacy in Africa: Evidence from the Colonial Era"](#), *RZA Working Paper #378*.

## **Ayodeji Olukoju. The Port of Lagos, 1850-1929: The Rise of West Africa's Leading Seaport**

The coastline of West Africa is characterized by the lack of natural harbours. Lagos, a lagoon port shielded from the open sea by a sand bar, epitomised by challenges of making the region's disadvantaged ports accessible to ocean shipping. Focusing on the period 1850-1929, this chapter highlights the interlocking roles of British colonialism, port engineering, mercantile pressure groups and global economic dynamics in the emergence of Lagos as West Africa's leading seaport by the late nineteenth century. It examines, among others, port development, coordination of services, tariffs and revenue, trade and shipping. The development of the port is shown to have fostered trade and shipping primarily in the service of British imperialism.

Ayodeji Olukoju, 2013. ["The Port of Lagos, 1850-1929: The Rise of West Africa's Leading Seaport"](#), *University of Lagos*.

## **Patrizio Piraino, Sean Muller, Jeanne Cilliers and Johan Fourie. The transmission of longevity across generations: The case of the settler Cape Colony**

The literature on parent-child correlations in socioeconomic status provides little evidence on long-term multigenerational dynamics. This is because most studies of intergenerational status persistence are based on two (at most three) successive generations. Our analysis adds to the intergenerational mobility literature by studying the correlation in longevity across multiple generations of a historical population. By using information on birth and death dates of eighteenth and nineteenth century settlers in South Africa's Cape Colony, we are able to estimate the intergenerational transmission of longevity, which is found to be positive and

significant. Our analysis confirms one of the most consistent findings in the social sciences: the correlation between the status of parents and that of their offspring is positive and significant.

Patrizio Piraino, Sean Muller, Jeanne Cilliers and Johan Fourie. 2013. [“The transmission of longevity across generations: The case of the settler Cape Colony”](#), *Stellenbosch Economic Working Papers: 14/13*.

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

### **Leiden African Studies Center Annual Public Lecture by Morten Jerven: Poor Numbers: How we are misled by African development statistics and what to do about it**

The ASC is proud to announce that its first Annual Public Lecture is to be given by Morten Jerven, author of *Poor Numbers: How We Are Misled by African Development Statistics and What to Do about It*.

On 07 November 2013, 18.30 - 20.00

Pieter de la Courtgebouw / Faculty of Social Sciences, Wassenaarseweg 52, 2333 AK Leiden  
Room 1A20

Full details [here](#).

### **The 56th African Studies Association Annual Meeting Marriott Baltimore Waterfront Hotel, November 21-24, 2013**

The theme of this year's Annual Meeting is Mobility, Migration and Flows. The theme statement read as follows:

On a geographically diverse continent, Africanists examine the multi-directional movement of people, things, capital, and ideas at many levels. We study not only the movements of people within the Global South and between the Global South and the Global North, but also the borders and the institutions created to police them, in relation to war, environmental change, and outside influence. We look at the transport of materials from one space to another by train, plane, and vehicle across mountains, deserts, lakes, and oceans. Increasingly we are discussing the fluid crossings of boundaries of identity in Africa, be they of religion, ethnicity, gender, language, or sexuality. In our era of social media and technology, we are examining the influence of mass media on the mobility of ideas, symbols, and material objects as well as their commoditization – both within Africa and between Africa and other continents. We look at the ways in which movement can create, sustain and reconfigure human relationships. Recent changes in governments prompt us to think about movement of power and privilege within and outside of state institutions.

All of this fluidity and movement comes with its antagonist obstruction. We see many impediments to physical movement of persons in the form of immigration and border control. The intention of refugee camps and detention facilities is to wall one population from another. Not only physical but also economic, social and cultural spaces within Africa are segregated. There are steep challenges in navigating cultural and social impediments to mobility in many African countries based on the identities mentioned above.

We invite proposals to the 56th ASA Annual Meeting to reflect on how we as researchers study a continent with multiple layers of mobility as well as evident obstruction. The conversation around these issues needs to ask questions about fluidity and obstruction as concepts in African society and culture that are rooted in historical contexts. Then we can begin to unpack the areas of movement and blockages of people, place, and power that are growing so prominent in African Studies. This situation calls for thinking that is itself mobile, and that can engage and transform existing categories.

The programme is available [here](#).

#### **PROGRAM CHAIRS**

Jamie Monson, Professor of History, Macalester College

Dianna Shandy, Professor of Anthropology, Macalester College

#### **LOCAL ARRANGEMENT CHAIRS**

Paul Landau, University of Maryland

Pier Larson, Johns Hopkins University

#### **INQUIRIES**

[asameeting2013@gmail.com](mailto:asameeting2013@gmail.com)

### **Call for papers: ECONOMIC HISTORY OF DEVELOPING REGIONS SPECIAL ISSUE: THE ECONOMICS OF APARTHEID**

#### **Deadline: 30 November 2013**

ECONOMIC HISTORY OF DEVELOPING REGIONS SPECIAL ISSUE: THE ECONOMICS OF APARTHEID

Apartheid remains a contentious issue. It's political, social and economic causes remain open to debate; its consequences a popular vindication for the slow speed of convergence between white and black incomes nineteen years after South Africa became a democracy.

Building on the 9<sup>th</sup> ERSA Workshop, this special issue hopes to attract high quality contributions that use new data sources, techniques and results on the economic causes, characteristics and consequences of South Africa's apartheid regime.

Contributions should not exceed 8000 words and should adhere to the normal journal guidelines. As is standard practice, each submission will be reviewed by two anonymous referees. All submissions should be submitted to Johan Fourie ([johanf@sun.ac.za](mailto:johanf@sun.ac.za)) before November 30, 2013.

### **Development as intervention and idea. XXII Congress of the International Committee of Historical Sciences, Jinan China 23 to 29 August 2015**

#### **Deadline for abstracts: 30 November 2013**

This specialized session at the International historical congress in Jinan in 2015 will address the long-term history of development interventions and the history of concept and idea of development underlying them. Development practice is here seen a remarkably a-historical endeavour, suffering from what can be called a collective amnesia. Yet a growing number of scholars around the world, in the North and in the South, suggest that the roots of development interventions go back at least to European colonialism in Africa and Asia if not further backward. This session starts from the premise

that development needs a genuine historical memory for which a knowledge of its long-term roots is essential. It will bring together the emergent work of the historians and development scholars in the field and present and assess its main trends. Papers are invited on topics such as colonial development and its relationship to the post-colonial development efforts; the origins development aid and development policy; and the history of the concept and idea of development behind diverse development interventions and its changing relation to nearby concepts, such as progress and civilization. Also historiographical works on interpretations of actual historical development processes are welcome. Papers can tackle these issues at the global, international, national or local scale. Works linking different spatial scales, as well as discourse and practice will be appreciated.

**Additional Information:** <http://www.cish.org/EN/congres/index.html>

**An ERSA Research Workshop**  
**A country of migrants: Advances in South African economic history**  
**North-West University Campus, Potchefstroom**  
**3-5 December**

South Africa is a country of migrants. From the Bantu migration, the arrival of Dutch settlers in the seventeenth century and British settlers in the nineteenth century to the internal movement of black tribes after the Mfecane, the Great Trek of settler farmers, and the inflow of African workers to the mines, South African history is characterised by a constant flux of people from outside and within the country's borders. This trend continues into the present: legal and illegal migration into South Africa has continued, mostly from war-torn and poverty-stricken regions elsewhere in Africa, settlers in search of a better life.

The economic causes and consequences of these past and present movements remain badly understood. This workshop aims to address this gap.

The workshop will also include a special meeting to discuss the current state and future direction of South African economic history. We invite all economists interested in longrun South African development, and historians interested in South Africa's economic past, to attend.

Date: 3-5 December 2012

Place: Potchefstroom (North-West University campus)

Number of participants: The number of participants will be limited to 15-20 delegates.

Funding: Travel expenses in South Africa will be covered and accommodation for the duration of the workshop will be provided by the ERSA Economic History Working Group.

Domestic Flights: To Lanseria or Johannesburg International Airport.

Requirements: Participants are required to submit an abstract of their current research, dataset they would like to use, or research idea they hope to work on in the near future, for inclusion in the workshop. An abridged CV must also be attached to their application. The abstract must be at least 300 words and set out the research field as well as main research questions.

Abstracts must be submitted by 12 October 2013. The ERSA Economic History Working Group will select participants and inform them by 18 October 2013. Send all abstracts to: [johanf@sun.ac.za](mailto:johanf@sun.ac.za).

**Additional Information:** please visit <http://www.econrsa.org/workshops>



**The 8th 'New Frontiers in African Economic History' Workshop "Inequality and economic development in Africa in historical perspectives"**  
**Department of Economic History, Lund University**  
**6-7 December 2013**

The relationship between economic development and economic growth is a fundamental question in economic history. A vast body of scholarly work argues that high levels of inequality are detrimental to long-term growth (e.g. Deininger and Olinto 1999; Barro 2000; North, Wallis and Weingast 2009; Acemoglu and Robinson 2012). However, as shown in world economic history the causality between economic growth and inequality is far from clear and varies over time (see Kuznets 1955, the Brenner debate 1976). Not only levels, but types of inequality matter. Questions such as who are the property holders, which sectors are they involved in, does the society contain a class of landless etc. are crucial for investigating the causal mechanisms between inequality and economic development. The conventional view in African economic history is that inequality was more widespread in commercial areas and settler colonies.

In the latter inequality created growth impeding institutions (e.g. Arrighi 1969, Bowden et al. 2008, Leander and Robinson 2012), while increased inequality in the commercial areas is seen as an outcome of the growth processes (e.g. Hopkins 1973, Mandala 1990). It thus looks as if the relationship between inequality and growth can be both positive and negative depending on the type of economy. We know very little about inequality in non-commercial areas, especially during the pre-colonial and colonial times (van de Walle, N., 2009). The 8th 'Frontiers in African Economic History' workshop aims at increasing our knowledge and understanding of inequality and economic development in Africa – past and present.

**Theme 1: Inequality and economic development in Africa**

The aim of the session is to fill our gap in knowledge about the origins and evolution of inequality and economic development in Africa. The workshop invites papers that discuss inequality and economic development in pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial Africa, from a wide range of perspectives and geographical settings. We especially welcome papers that try to detect the causal mechanisms between inequality and economic development.

**Theme 2: PhD-research**

The aim of the session is to give an opportunity for PhD-students to discuss their research in progress with scholars with a vast and divergent experience of doing research in African economic history. We invite PhD-students to present their research in progress or their research ideas. We welcome all kinds of papers as long as they deal with African economic history.

**Outcomes**

In order to document the workshop and contribute to the debate more broadly, we are aiming to compile papers that have a particular focus on the relationship between inequality and growth into an edited volume or a special issue. We have contacted publishers and journals and will update the participants as the work proceeds.

**Additional Information:** please contact

Erik Green, Associate Professor (main organiser)  
Department of Economic History  
Lund University  
[erik.green@ekh.lu.se](mailto:erik.green@ekh.lu.se)

Jens Andersson, PhD-student (assistant)

**The History of Poverty in Africa: A Central Question?  
Columbia University, March 6-7, 2014**

**Deadline for abstracts: December 10, 2013**

Keynote: Jane Guyer, George Armstrong Kelly Professor, Johns Hopkins University

In the popular mind, Africa exemplifies poverty. Media coverage focuses on destitution. Recent focus on a growing elite serves to emphasise the abject condition of the majority. This discourse depicts African poverty as timeless or as gripped in a worsening spiral. Africanist historians have long called for the historical study of the African poor with the argument that the most 'useful' or 'usable' aspect of African history could be to find solutions to poverty in Africa by developing historical understanding of the phenomenon.

The poor are difficult historical subjects: they leave behind them little evidence of their lives. This problem is compounded by orality, which endured longer among the poor. Nonetheless, historians have sought to write the history of the impoverished. This has resulted in work on topics from the importance of reciprocity in assistance to the particular ways people have responded to famines; from the gendered nature of poverty to the changes in poverty brought about by colonialism and neo-liberal reform.

But questions remain: how do we, how should we, approach the history of poverty? What definitions do we use to delimit the poor and how do those definitions shape our studies? How has 'wealth-in-people' shaped our understanding of economic inequality? How have ideas of poverty and wealth in Africa changed? To what extent is it meaningful to talk of 'African poverty'?

Nearly four decades after Terence Ranger's call for a 'usable African past' and over a quarter century since John Iliffe's history of the very poor in Africa, this is an apt moment to step back and consider these questions in light of the work that has appeared in the intervening years. This conference seeks to achieve that by bringing together a wide range of senior and junior scholars working on the history of the poor and of poverty in Africa, from the first millennium to the late twentieth century.

We welcome papers that touch on the following themes in particular:

- i. The Gender of Poverty
- ii. Poverty of Food
- iii. The Violence of Poverty
- iv. The (mis)Measure of Poverty

Please submit a 200-word abstract and 1 page c.v. to Rhiannon Stephens, Assistant Professor of African History ([rs3169@columbia.edu](mailto:rs3169@columbia.edu)) no later than December 10, 2013. Limited funding is available to help defray travel and accommodation expenses for invited presenters.

Co-sponsored by the Institute of African Studies, the Department of History and the Heyman Center for the Humanities, Columbia University.

**The 13th African Studies Conference: “Society and Politics in Africa: Traditional, Transitional, and New”  
27-29 May 2014**

On May 27-29, 2014 in Moscow the Research Council for the Problems of African Countries and the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences hold the 13th African Studies Conference titled “Society and Politics in Africa: Traditional, Transitional, and New.” The Conference will take place at the Institute for African Studies and the Institute for Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The working languages are Russian and English.

The conference registration fee in Russian rubles, equivalent to \$150 (\$75 in rubles for students) is to be paid in cash onsite upon arrival. The registration fee includes the visa application support (Official Invitation), the Conference Book of Abstracts, stationary items, reception and coffee-breaks. The fee for an accompanying person, equivalent to \$50 in rubles, includes the visa application support (Official Invitation) and reception.

The Organizing Committee can assist in booking accommodation, but independent reservation is encouraged. Please note that early hotel reservation is strongly recommended, as the Conference is to take place in tourist high season.

All the correspondence should be sent by e-mail for the Conference Organizing Committee, to the attention of Mrs. Natalia Bondar, Head, Center of Information and International Relations, Institute for African Studies ( [conf2014@gmail.com](mailto:conf2014@gmail.com); tel.: [+ 7 495 690 2752](tel:+74956902752)) – prospective international participants, or to the attention of Dr. Natalia Zherlitsyna, Secretary, Research Council for the Problems of African Countries ([ns\\_inafr@mail.ru](mailto:ns_inafr@mail.ru); tel.: [+ 7 495 690 6025](tel:+74956906025)) – prospective Russian participants.

**Additional Information:** please visit <http://www.inafran.ru/en/node/148>

**BUSINESS HISTORY IN AFRICA – LAUNCH OF A NEW INITIATIVE**

At the Association of Business Historians’ conference in Preston, Lancashire, 28 – 29 June 2013, a new initiative was launched to promote more research on the business history of Africa. At this initial meeting, four papers were presented that showed the variety of research in the field, but which also highlighted the challenge to create a more joined-up research agenda.

Kofi Takyi Asante, a PhD candidate from Northwestern University in the USA, presented his research on the role of African indigenous business leadership and the emergence of the colonial state in the Gold Coast. His paper “Collusion, Cooperation and Conflict: How Indigenous Gold Coast Merchants Shaped the Emergence of the State and Market Institutions, 1850-1950” offered insightful evidence on the entrepreneurial role of indigenous businessmen during the period of colonial settlement in the Gold Coast. The businessmen skilfully assessed market opportunities and aligned themselves with or in opposition to the colonial administration to serve their business strategies. The interesting observation is that African entrepreneurs developed strategies to shape both economic and political institutions during colonialism.

Another aspect of business agency was highlighted in the paper by Sheryllyne Haggerty, from the University of Nottingham. In her paper “Baubles and Gewgaws? The Terms of Trade on the West African Coast in the Eighteenth Century” argued that African leaders skilfully managed their business interests during the slave trade. By considering what we know about the business practices of African traders, a complex picture emerges. For a long period of time, certain coastal areas were able to

maintain control over crucial resources that protected their business activities and allowed them to manipulate the terms of trade. In this paper, as well as the paper by Asante, the entrepreneurial nature of African business emerged as a phenomenon requiring careful contextual analysis and reassessment.

Takai Tetsuhiko, from the University of Hokkaido in Japan, presented a richly illustrated paper on "Colonization & Decolonization of Business Archives: A case of Chambers of Commerce in Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Senegal and Madagascar" in which another dimension of business activities in colonial Africa was illustrated. This was the presence and activities of business organisations in a number of French African colonies. This paper highlighted the well organised structures of the business associations (or chambers of commerce) in the colonies, to which French as well as local businessmen belonged. Further work is needed in exploring the operation of these business associations, the collaboration and tension between businessmen in the colonies and the impact these associations had on the development of the African business communities in those French African colonies. This contribution was especially valuable, since it showed the preservation of the archives of those business associations in the African states, where primary research can be conducted. This is an important yet relatively under-explored source.

The paper by Suzanne McCoskey on "Cashing-in on the Promised Land? African-American Emigration to Liberia in Search of Economic Opportunity" similarly showed the importance of Africa's relationship with the rest of the world for the development of business communities on the continent. This paper dealt with the uneven experiences of Afro-Americans immigrating to Liberia during the years of the establishment of the new independent state in West Africa. The relationship between indigenous people and immigrants posed challenges for the development of the Liberian economy. This paper offered a valuable starting point for further investigation into the emergence of the business community in Liberia.

The different perspectives that emerged from the papers suggest the need for a clearer research agenda for African Business History. While there are many areas of common interest, research does not always fully engage with issues central to the challenges of business activities on the continent. This is partly related to the lack of a dedicated academic community concerned with the subject. While Africa is marginal to business history, business is frequently marginal to African Studies. We hereby invite scholars engaged in research in related fields to join this conversation. The relationship between business and politics, the role of colonialism or its absence, tensions among different business communities and their networks in domestic and overseas markets should all form part of a new research agenda. It should address both the unique issues of doing business in Africa and the more general concerns common to developing and emerging economies. Research around the concepts of entrepreneurship, markets, conflict and collaboration in domestic and overseas markets, the interaction between private and state enterprise in the context of the colonial state as well as the newly independent African states are themes we feel merit further research. We are interested in the management of African business enterprise and management's interaction with colonial administration, as well as with the new sovereign Governments after decolonisation. Are there sources and opportunities to consider the role of African economic activity for the pre-colonial period, as Haggerty's paper suggest? What were the experiences of Africans working for foreign multinationals, or businessmen and women competing or collaborating with them? These and many other questions could fruitfully expand our knowledge about business in Africa, and highlight its long and varied history.

We would like to invite scholars to join this debate and contribute their unique view to our network to create an inclusive platform where we share our research in this fascinating and emerging area of research.

**Additional Information:**

Stephanie Decker at Aston Business School, Birmingham ([s.decker@aston.ac.uk](mailto:s.decker@aston.ac.uk))

Grietjie Verhoef at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. ([gverhoef@uj.ac.za](mailto:gverhoef@uj.ac.za))



## **OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY**

### **Washington and Lee University, History Assistant Professor, Sub-Saharan African History**

Sub-Saharan African History. The History Department of Washington and Lee University invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professorship in Sub-Saharan African history beginning September 2014. Period and area of specialization are open. The successful applicant will be expected to teach introductory surveys of African history and intermediate and advanced undergraduate courses related to their areas of specialization. They will participate as well in Washington and Lee's Africana Studies Program. The department requires successful completion of the Ph.D by June 2014.

Apply electronically at our portal: <http://jobs.wlu.edu/postings/1586>. After filling out a cover sheet, you will be prompted to upload a letter of application, resume, graduate transcripts, and three letters of recommendation (or a credentials file). Review of applications will begin November 1, 2013. Finalists will be interviewed at the AHA convention. Address your application letter (and any questions) to Professor David Bello ([jobs@wlu.edu](mailto:jobs@wlu.edu)), Chair, African History Search Committee, Department of History, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA 24450. Washington and Lee and the Department of History are interested in candidates committed to high standards of scholarship and professional activities, and to the development of a campus climate that supports equality and diversity among its faculty, staff, and students. The University is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Deadline to apply:** 1 November 2013

**Additional Information:** please contact David Bello ([jobs@wlu.edu](mailto:jobs@wlu.edu)) or visit <http://jobs.wlu.edu/postings/1586>

### **Harvard Business School, Business, Government and the International Economy Tenure-Track Position: History**

Harvard Business School is seeking candidates with a Ph. D. in history for a tenure track position in the Business, Government, and the International Economy (BGIE) unit. We will consider candidates whose research interests and experience include economic history, history of economic policy and regulation, history of capitalism, or history of globalization. The search is open with regard to methodological approach and focus area. Candidates may come directly from Ph.D. programs or from the faculties of other universities. The appointment will begin on July 1, 2014.

#### **Requirements**

All applicants should have excellent academic credentials and a demonstrated potential for conducting outstanding research. The School is particularly interested in applicants with interdisciplinary interests in social sciences and strong records of, or potential for, excellence in teaching.

Successful candidates will, at the outset, teach a required first-year MBA course on the economic, political, and social environment of global business. Starting salaries will be highly competitive.

**Deadline to apply:** 15 November 2013

**Additional Information:** <http://www.hbs.edu/units/bgje/open-positions.html>

### **Bryn Mawr College, Growth and Structure of Cities Assistant Professor, Urban Studies/Global South**

The Growth and Structure of Cities Department at Bryn Mawr College invites applicants for a full-time, beginning tenure-track Assistant Professor to start August 1, 2014. We seek an urban social scientist specialized in the Global South, including Africa, Asia or Latin America, with a preference for those who work on Africa. The successful applicant should be a committed teacher and scholar to join our multidisciplinary exploration of cities around the globe and through history, teach core introductory courses, work with quantitative methods, and participate in our senior seminar. The candidate should have expertise in such areas as political economics, transnational flows, social movements and social change, housing, social justice and/or urban policy. Completed Ph.D. by the August 1, 2014, start date in economics, geography, anthropology, sociology, political science, planning, or related social science field is required.

Applicants should submit a single pdf document containing a cover letter, curriculum vitae, a writing sample and sample syllabi, including for a course that would involve substantial quantitative reasoning to Gary W. McDonogh, Chair, Search Committee, Growth and Structure of Cities, at [city\\_search@brynmawr.edu](mailto:city_search@brynmawr.edu). In addition, arrange for three (3) letters of reference to be sent via email. The search committee will begin reading applications on December 16, 2013 and applications received by this date will receive full consideration.

**Deadline to apply:** 5 December 2013

**Additional Information:** [www.brynmawr.edu/cities](http://www.brynmawr.edu/cities)

### **Yale Center for the Study of Representative Institutions with The MacMillan Center Jack Miller Post-Doctoral Associate**

The Yale Center for the Study of Representative Institutions in conjunction with the Jack Miller Center and the John Templeton Foundation seek to appoint a Post-doctoral Associate for a period of one year, commencing January 1 2014, and renewable up to 30 June 2016. Preference will be given to those working on aspects of economic, legal, or intellectual history relating to institutional innovation and economic development in the Atlantic world c. 1650-c.1850. The Post-doctoral associate will be expected to teach one course per term, to participate in an annual summer institute, to assist in the organization of conferences, speaker series, and symposia, and to produce a final synthetic essay on his/her work. Salary is \$50,000 per year plus benefits. Yale University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, and actively encourages applications from minority and women scholars. Applicants should submit a cover letter stating qualifications and field of interest, a CV, a writing sample of no more than 50 pages, and a sample syllabus of a proposed course. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. Applications and letters from three referees should be uploaded directly through.

**Deadline to apply:** 13 December 2013

**Additional Information:** <https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/3275>

### **Bard College at Simon's Rock, Social Studies**

## **Faculty member, Economics/Social Studies**

Bard College at Simon's Rock invites applicants for a regular full-time position in the Division of Social Studies beginning Fall 2014. We are interested in teacher-scholars whose interests and qualifications bring together economics and politics with methodologies broadly within the social sciences, and who have the ability to help students make connections between economics and other liberal arts disciplines. Applicants may have their primary research home in any of the social sciences, but must be able to teach the fundamentals of economics, as well as a range of intermediate and advanced courses of their own design. These courses will ideally integrate economics with other areas of inquiry, e.g., international political economy, history of economic thought, economics issues or topics in, international politics, international relations, public and social policy, legislation and government, urban politics, technology, or contemporary financial and political systems. The successful candidate will teach three classes each semester (including one per year in the College's interdisciplinary general education seminars) and supervise independent studies and senior theses.

An ongoing commitment to professional development is required. Ph.D. and some teaching experience are expected; advanced ABD candidates will be considered. Bard College at Simon's Rock seeks to broaden the range of perspectives within the faculty and encourages applications from members of underrepresented groups.

**Deadline to apply:** 16 December 2013

**Additional Information:** [www.simons-rock.edu](http://www.simons-rock.edu)

## **University of Pennsylvania, History Professor/ Associate Professor with tenure**

The History Department of the University of Pennsylvania seeks to hire a Professor or Associate Professor with tenure in economic history since 1700, who will also hold an endowed chair. The Department is particularly interested in historians who study global economic history from a comparative or transregional perspective. The successful candidate will have a proven record of teaching, research and publication at the highest level. Thematically, she or he may work on any area of economic or business history except for labor history and the history of banking systems. Geographically, the Department is looking for candidates specializing in any non-US domain. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the Department's program in transregional and global history as well as to work closely with Penn's established community of economic historians and other specialists at the School of Arts and Sciences, the Wharton School, the Huntsman Program and the Lauder Institute. The committee will begin considering applications on 15 November 2013 and will continue until the position is filled. Candidates are to apply online at <http://facultysearches.provost.upenn.edu/postings/16>. Include a letter of application, CV, teaching statement, and research statement. The University of Pennsylvania is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

**Deadline to apply:** 31 December 2013

**Additional Information:** Please contact Thomas Safley, Search Committee Chair at [tsafley@history.upenn.edu](mailto:tsafley@history.upenn.edu)