

AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY NEWSLETTER ISSUE #16 NOVEMBER, 2014

Your bi-monthly update from the African Economic History Network

The AEHN newsletter brings 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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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 and we will include your news in our bi-monthly round up.

Best regards,
The African Economic History Network

News and Announcements

Working Papers Series

The network has published a new working paper:

Michiel de Haas. [Measuring Rural Welfare in Colonial Uganda: Why Farmers Would Not Work for Wages](#), *AEHN Working Paper No. 18*

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.

New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop 2014, LSE, 25-26 October 2014.

The workshop took place a week ago. You can visit the website [here](#). The many interesting conference papers that were presented are included among the working papers in this issue.



NEW ABSTRACTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Articles

John Aerni-Flessner. Development, Politics, and the Centralization of State Power in Lesotho, 1960-75

The rhetoric of development served as a language for Sotho politicians from 1960–70 to debate the meanings of political participation. The relative paucity of aid in this period gave outsized importance to small projects run in rural villages, and stood in stark contrast to the period from the mid-1970s onwards when aid became an ‘anti-politics machine’ that worked to undermine national sovereignty. Examination of the democratic period in Lesotho from 1966–70 helps explain the process by which newly independent states gave up some of their recently won sovereignty, and how a turn to authoritarianism helped contribute to this process.

John Aerni-Flessner, 2014. [“Development, Politics, and the Centralization of State Power in Lesotho, 1960-75”](#), *Journal of African History*, 55(3): 401-421.

David M. Anderson and Øystein H. Rolandsen. Violence as politics in eastern Africa, 1940–1990: legacy, agency, contingency

Over the 50 years between 1940 and 1990, the countries of eastern Africa were embroiled in a range of debilitating and destructive conflicts, starting with the wars of independence, but then incorporating rebellion, secession and local insurrection as the Cold War replaced colonialism. The articles gathered here illustrate how significant, widespread and dramatic this violence was. In these years, violence was used as a principal instrument in the creation and consolidation of the authority of the state, and it was also regularly and readily utilised by those who wished to challenge state authority through insurrection and secession. Why was it that eastern Africa should have experienced such extensive and intensive violence in the 50 years before 1990? Was this resort to violence a consequence of imperial rule, the legacy of oppressive colonial domination under a coercive and non-representative state system? Did essential contingencies such as the Cold War provoke and promote the use of violence? Or was it a choice made by Africans themselves and their leaders, a product of their own agency? This article focuses on these turbulent decades, exploring the principal conflicts in six key countries – Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Tanzania.

David M. Anderson and Øystein H. Rolandsen, 2014. [“Violence as politics in eastern Africa, 1940–1990: legacy, agency, contingency”](#), *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, 8(4): 539-557.

John A. Doces. Saving Sudan, Starving Uganda: Aid, Growth, and Externalities in Africa

This paper presents an analysis of aid and growth in Africa, testing an idea emerging from a case involving Sudan and Uganda. Based on this case, the primary claims made here are first that there are negative external effects associated with aid flows across sub-Saharan Africa, and second that these externalities reduce growth rates. The statistical results from an analysis of all contiguous sub-Saharan African countries, covering the period from 1960 to 2009, indicate that a typical increase in aid to a country's neighbors reduces growth in the bordering country by anywhere from .50 to 1.25 percentage points. The policy implications associated with these findings are discussed in the concluding section.

John A. Doces, 2014. "[Saving Sudan, Starving Uganda: Aid, Growth, and Externalities in Africa](#)", *Journal of African Development*, 16(1): 61-81.

Ewout Frankema and Marlous van Waijenburg. Metropolitan Blueprints of Colonial Taxation? Lessons from Fiscal Capacity Building in British and French Africa, c. 1880-1940

The historical and social science literature is divided about the importance of metropolitan blueprints of colonial rule for the development of colonial states. We exploit historical records of colonial state finances to explore the importance of metropolitan identity on the comparative development of fiscal institutions in British and French Africa. Taxes constituted the financial backbone of the colonial state and were vital to the state building efforts of colonial governments. A quantitative comparative perspective shows that pragmatic responses to varying local conditions can easily be mistaken for specific metropolitan blueprints of colonial governance and that under comparable local circumstances the French and British operated in remarkably similar ways.

Ewout Frankema and Marlous van Waijenburg, 2014. "[Metropolitan Blueprints of Colonial Taxation? Lessons from Fiscal Capacity Building in British and French Africa, c. 1880-1940](#)", *The Journal of African History*, 55(3): 371-400.

Martin A. Klein. African Traditions of Servitude and the Evolution of African Society

This article starts by examining some key questions in the evolution of African slavery, in particular, the role of slavery in traditional African society and in the evolution of the African state. It looks at John Thornton's argument about why slavery was important in Africa, and the debate on whether the slave trade was beneficial for Africa. It makes the argument that the most important effect of the slave trade was not in the demographic drain, but in the importance of slaving to the African state and the use of slaves within Africa. The bulk of the article looks at the evolution of slaving structures, the place of the slave trade in the Senegal River economic system, and the success of the French in inserting themselves in and developing that river trading system. Slaves thus became important not only as an export but also as commercial labor and producers of gum. It then looks at the application of the French

abolition law in 1848 and the efforts to limit abolition outside Saint Louis and Gorée so it did not limit French expansion. The article describes the role of slavery and the slave trade in the conquest, particularly the use of slave soldiers and the gift of slaves as a reward for service. Once the conquest was completed, France took action to end slave raiding and trading, but was cautious about threatening slavery itself. About a million slaves left their masters and returned to previous homes, but even more continued to live in the places where they had been slaves. There was a slow process of emancipation, but the stigma of slave origins persists even in areas where economic obligations have disappeared.

Martin A. Klein, 2014. "[African Traditions of Servitude and the Evolution of African Society](#)", *Russian and East European Studies*, 2(2014): 27-45.

Martine Mariotti and Danielle van Zyl-Hermann. Policy, practice and perception: Reconsidering the efficacy and meaning of statutory job reservation in South Africa, 1956–1979

Building on a long history of racially discriminatory labour practices, South African governments instituted statutory job reservation through the Industrial Conciliation Act of 1924, and extended its scope through Section 77 of its successor Act in 1956. Section 77, which provided for direct government intervention in reserving certain occupations for specific racial groups, attracted widespread condemnation from apartheid critics throughout its tenure, and has been vilified in the historiography as one of the cornerstones of racial discrimination in apartheid South Africa. This paper evaluates contradictions between the application of the job reservation policy in practice and its perceived power amongst sections of organized labour. We contribute to the discussion on job reservation in South Africa in two ways: first, by assessing the actual impact of Section 77 on racial employment practices, and second, by examining the reaction of certain groups of organized labour to efforts to scrap the policy from the late-1970s. It shows that the impact of job reservation determinations in the period 1956 to 1979 was very limited in practice – yet a number of constellations of minority workers strongly defended the policy because of the perceived protection it offered them as workers vulnerable to competition from African labour. We conclude that, in this sense, Section 77 primarily provided symbolic rather than actual job protection to organized labour.

Martine Mariotti and Danielle van Zyl-Hermann, 2014. "[Policy, practice and perception: Reconsidering the efficacy and meaning of statutory job reservation in South Africa, 1956–1979](#)", *Economic History of Developing Regions*, 29(2): 197-233.

Working Papers

Kleoniki Alexopoulou. Metropolitan Vision Under Question: Colonial Policies and Fiscal Practices in Portuguese Africa

This paper aims to shed light on the colonial policies and fiscal practices in Portuguese Mozambique and Angola from the early colonial period (1890s) until their independence (1970s). Its added value derives from its comparative approach to long-term state (trans)formation, fiscalisation and citizenship in a rather understudied region. How concrete and dominant was the metropolitan vision on fiscalisation and state formation in Portuguese Africa? To what extent were fiscal patterns in Mozambique and Angola context-dependent? This paper contributes to the existing literature on colonial Africa by demonstrating various dimensions of colonial taxation and public investments, based on novel data from primary sources, such as the Statistical Yearbooks of Mozambique and Angola, covering more than half century. Tax per capita levels, types of taxation imposed, main revenue sources and expenditure patterns are identified. This aims to indicate trends, continuities, ruptures and varieties within Portuguese Africa as well as with respect to British and French Africa.

Kleoniki Alexopoulou, 2014. "[Metropolitan Vision Under Question: Colonial Policies and Fiscal Practices in Portuguese Africa](#)", *New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop* 2014, LSE, 25-26 October 2014.

Gareth Austin. Environmental Perspectives in African Economic History

Our present preoccupations do not alter what has already happened, but they legitimately lead us to ask different questions of the past, perhaps modifying the endings we give to old stories. In this light, the purpose of this paper is to propose that, in an age when the traditional object of our inquiries – economic development – is apparently putting at risk the environmental conditions which have made it possible, economic historians of Africa need to give more direct attention to problems of resource scarcity. The first two sections elaborate on the motivation of the paper and comment on various existing literatures. I then outline a way of framing what I think we know about the long-term course of human interactions with African environments, in both economic and political-economy terms, and suggest some specific lines of research.

Gareth Austin, 2014. "[Environmental Perspectives in African Economic History](#)", *New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop* 2014, LSE, 25-26 October 2014.

Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay and Elliot Green. Pre-colonial Political Centralization and Contemporary Development in Uganda

The role of pre-colonial history on contemporary development has become an important field of study within development economics. Here we examine the role of pre-colonial political centralization on contemporary development outcomes with detailed sub-national data from Uganda. We use a variety of datasets and obtain two striking results. First, we find that pre-colonial centralization is highly correlated with modern-day development outcomes such as

GDP, asset ownership and poverty at the sub-county, district and individual level; additional results using an instrumental variable approach confirm this finding. Second, we find that public goods such as immunization coverage and primary school enrolment, as well as perceptions of local government quality, are not correlated with pre-colonial centralization. These findings are thus consistent with a correlation between pre-colonial centralization and private rather than public goods, thereby suggesting the persistence of poverty and wealth from the pre-colonial period to the present.

Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay and Elliot Green, 2014. "[Pre-colonial Political Centralization and Contemporary Development in Uganda](#)", *New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop* 2014, LSE, 25-26 October 2014.

Peter Bent. Agrarian Change and Industrialization in Egypt, 1800-1950

Egyptian agriculture experienced significant changes through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As Egyptian industry experienced periods of growth, limitation, and decline, Egyptian agriculture developed along complementary lines. Throughout this time period, the main developments in Egyptian agriculture centered around the production of cotton for export. This tied Egyptian agriculture to particular industrial developments, and also implicated Egyptian agriculture in the initial under-development of Egyptian industry. This paper looks at these complex processes through the lens of Karl Kautsky's "agrarian question" in order to explore the impacts that these developments had on Egyptian peasants. It is found that Egyptian peasants experienced different challenges from their earlier European counterparts, as unique historical processes shaped the evolution of Egypt's agricultural and industrial sectors. Employing Kautsky's framework to study these developments presents an in-depth analysis of an important part of Egypt's integration into the global economy.

Peter Bent, 2014. "[Agrarian Change and Industrialization in Egypt, 1800-1950](#)", *New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop* 2014, LSE, 25-26 October 2014.

Stephen Broadberry and Leigh Gardner. Economic Development in Africa and Europe: Reciprocal Comparisons

Recent advances in historical national accounting have allowed for global comparisons of GDP per capita across space and time. Critics have argued that GDP per capita fails to capture adequately the effects of new technology on living standards, and have developed alternative measures such as the human development index (HDI). Whilst recognising that this provides an appropriate measure for assessing levels of welfare, we argue that GDP per capita remains a more appropriate measure for assessing development potential, encompassing production as well as consumption. Twentieth-century Africa and pre-industrial Europe are used to show how such data can guide reciprocal comparisons to provide insights into the process of development on both continents. (1) Research on the contribution of the welfare system to food security and structural change in Europe is used to illustrate how new strands of research on pre-industrial Europe can shed new light on development issues in Africa. (2) Survey evidence from Africa today can be used to understand the institutional changes that underpinned earlier European development, where the historical actors can no longer be questioned.

Stephen Broadberry and Leigh Gardner, 2014. [“Economic Development in Africa and Europe: Reciprocal Comparisons”](#), *New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop 2014*, LSE, 25-26 October 2014.

Liam Brunt. Property Rights and Economic Growth: Evidence from a Natural Experiment

In 1795 the British took control of the Cape colony (South Africa) from the Dutch; and in 1843 they exogenously changed the legal basis of landholding, giving more secure property rights to landholders. Since endowments and other factors were held constant, these changes offer clean tests of the effects on economic growth of colonial identity and secure property rights. The effects of both changes were immediate, positive and large. Other legal and institutional changes, such as the move to a common law system in 1827, had no such effects on economic growth.

Liam Brunt, 2014. [“Property Rights and Economic Growth: Evidence from a Natural Experiment”](#), *New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop 2014*, LSE, 25-26 October 2014.

Cornelius Christian and James Fenske. Economic Shocks and Unrest in French West Africa

We show that rainfall, temperature, and commodity price shocks predict unrest in colonial French West Africa between 1906 and 1956. We use a simple model of taxation and anti-tax resistance to explain these results. In the colonial period, the response of unrest to economic shocks was strongest in more remote areas and those lacking a history of pre-colonial states. In modern data spanning 1997 to 2011, the effect of economic shocks on unrest is weaker. Past patterns of heterogeneity are no longer present. The response of unrest to economic shocks, then, differs across institutional contexts within a single location.

Cornelius Christian and James Fenske, 2014. [“Economic Shocks and Unrest in French West Africa”](#), *New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop 2014*, LSE, 25-26 October 2014.

Angus Dalrymple-Smith and Kostadis J. Papaioannou. Capturing Continuity and Change: Long Term Patterns in Public Goods Provision in Nigeria

This paper investigates the relative importance of pre-colonial institutional capacity on long term development outcomes in an African context. It firstly questions the approach, often used in economic history, that relies on statistical regression analyses spanning a considerable time periods (the so-called ‘compression of history’), and secondly the use of data from the Murdock ethnographic atlas to accurately capture the realities of pre-colonial Africa. We construct a new measure of pre-colonial institutional capacity based on North et al. (2009) and apply a decade by decade analysis of public goods provision to a case study of Nigeria from 1900-2010. We use data on education, health and public works at a provincial level from a variety of colonial, missionary and Nigerian state sources. Our results provide evidence that colonial-era investments were strongly influenced by pre-colonial conditions and showed strong path dependency until the independence era. However,

contrary to other studies, instead of finding evidence of early colonial investments or pre-colonial centralisation impacting on current outcomes, we found that the post-colonial era saw a break in the pattern developed earlier in the century and demonstrate that this was due to factors unique to Nigeria. This suggests that future research on long term change in Africa should take local and temporal complexity into account when investigating the impacts of past variables on present day outcomes.

Angus Dalrymple-Smith and Kostadis J. Papaioannou, 2014. "[Capturing Continuity and Change: Long Term Patterns in Public Goods Provision in Nigeria](#)", *New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop* 2014, LSE, 25-26 October 2014.

Bas De Roo. The Blurred Lines of Legality. Customs and Contraband in the Congolese M'Bomu Region (1889-1908)

Recently, scholars working about the early colonial history of the Congo basin have been paying attention to the subject of customs and contraband. Their work focuses mainly on how smuggle networks operated across the borders of the Congo Free State (CFS). Because of this perspective on traffickers, the role of Leopold's administration tends to be oversimplified. Illicit trade is usually presented as an issue that the Free State tried but failed to curb. This representation of the colonial attitude towards trafficking is at odds with the general literature on contraband, which paints a rather different picture of the relationship between the state and smugglers. Rather than trying to stop trafficking, states usually tolerated contraband and did not even know about the majority of trafficking operations. Smuggling was tolerated because effectively monitoring and taxing transborder trade was not cost-effective or thought to be impossible. State rule also had to be negotiated with local elites in border regions who monopolized most local economic resources; an additional reason why trafficking was often tolerated. States were unaware of most trafficking because the same officials that were supposed to monitor transborder trade were usually involved in smuggling as well.

Bas De Roo, 2014. "[The Blurred Lines of Legality. Customs and Contraband in the Congolese M'Bomu Region \(1889-1908\)](#)", *New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop* 2014, LSE, 25-26 October 2014.

Sophia Du Plessis, Ada Jansen and Dieter Von Fintel. Slave prices and productivity at the Cape of Good Hope from 1700 to 1725: did everyone win from the trade?

This paper analyses the economic viability of slavery in the Cape Colony of southern Africa. It has been extensively documented that the affluence of elites was built on the importation of slaves. However, the Dutch East India Company or Verengide Oost-indische Companje (VOC), which administrated the colony, expressed concerns that free settlers had invested too much capital in the trade, so that some indications exist that profitability was not certain for all farmers. In this paper hedonic slave price indices and the value of their marginal productivity have been estimated, to construct annual returns, which are in turn compared with returns on other investments for the period 1700-1725. Hedonic price functions were estimated to remove the anticipated lifetime returns that slaves would yield, and to isolate buyers' perceived depreciation of the slave for one year. Cobb-Douglas production functions were estimated for average farmers, as well as at various quintiles along the distribution, to

evaluate scale effects. Large farmers enjoyed high returns to slavery over most of the period, confirming the assertions that the elite used slaves profitably. Small farmers, however, did not recoup slave costs from agricultural production: this suggests either that they overinvested in slavery relative to other capital goods (e.g. ploughs or wagons), or that they used slaves profitably outside of agriculture.

Sophia Du Plessis, Ada Jansen and Dieter Von Fintel, 2014. [“Slave prices and productivity at the Cape of Good Hope from 1700 to 1725: did everyone win from the trade?”](#), *Stellenbosch Economic Working Papers*: 17/14.

Yannick Dupraz. British and French Colonial Education in Africa: A Discontinuity Analysis at the Border between French and English Speaking Cameroon

Recent literature has stressed the importance of long term history for development and showed the persistence over time of the effects of historical shocks. In Sub-Saharan Africa, it has been argued that the British colonial legacy was more growth inducing than others, especially because it favored education and human capital formation: at the time of independence, the former British colonies of Africa had more average years of education than the ones colonized by the French and the difference persisted. However, cross-country comparisons are flawed by the problem of selection: the British might have colonized the richest regions of Africa, or the ones where demand for Western education was the highest. This paper uses the division of German Kamerun between a French and a British part after WWI as a natural experiment to identify the causal effect of colonizer’s identity on education outcomes. Using Cameroonian post-independence census data, I undertake spatial discontinuity analysis at the border between former British and French Cameroon. I find a discontinuity favoring the British side for cohorts born in the interwar period. However, in the late colonial period, the discontinuity inverts, favoring the French side. I claim that this pattern is explained by the supply side: before WWII, the British spent more than the French on education and incentivized the undertaking of formal education by religious missions through subsidies. However, in the last decade of colonization, French education expenditure in Cameroon surged, both in the form of direct expenditure on public school and of subsidies to private education. In Cameroon, the initial divergence in education did not persist because of a radical change in colonial policy.

Yannick Dupraz, 2014. [“British and French Colonial Education in Africa: A Discontinuity Analysis at the Border between French and English Speaking Cameroon”](#), *New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop* 2014, LSE, 25-26 October 2014.

Johan Fourie. Subverting the Standard View of the Cape Economy: Robert Ross’s Cliometric Contribution and the Work it Inspired

In the late 1980s Robert Ross and co-author Pieter van Duin reversed the widely accepted view of the Cape economy as a ‘social and economic backwater’ of widespread subsistence farming and overall poverty, scattered with small islands of relatively affluent farmers. Exploring the rich quantitative records kept by Dutch East India Company officials, they argued that the Cape had been more dynamic and progressive than earlier historians had assumed and that the market for Cape agricultural produce had been ‘much larger, more dynamic and quicker growing’ than previously thought, so that ‘a very considerable rate of

agricultural growth' had been possible. While their work was not immediately recognised, research conducted over the last decade using new archival sources and econometric techniques have largely confirmed their empirical observations. Yet, despite these rapid advances in our understanding of the Cape economy, the image that the early Cape Colony was a 'sleepy colonial backwater whose unpromising landscape was seemingly devoid of any economic potential' persists.

Johan Fourie, 2014. "[Subverting the Standard View of the Cape Economy: Robert Ross's Cliometric Contribution and the Work it Inspired](#)", *Stellenbosch Economic Working Papers* 16/14.

Giovanni Federico and Antonio Tena-Junguito. Lewis revisited: African tropical polities competing on the world market 1830-1938

Since the seminal work by W.A. Lewis, exports of primary products have been deemed the main or sole source of growth in tropical countries before the Great Depression. This conventional wisdom, however, has not so far properly assessed. This paper relies on a new data- base on world trade to estimate the causes of growth of exports with a constant market share analysis. Exports grew a lot, but less than total trade, while relative prices of tropical products and terms of trade remained roughly constant. We thus tentatively infer that trends in trade reflect an insufficient demand for tropical products. Thus, tropical producers faced a relatively hostile environment with rather different results. By and large, Asia performed well. African polities had a mixed record – better on the West than on the East of the continent and better after world war one than before. However, few polities really shone. The loser was (South) America, and most notably the Caribbean former slave colonies.

Giovanni Federico and Antonio Tena-Junguito, 2014. "[Lewis revisited: African tropical polities competing on the world market 1830-1938](#)", *New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop* 2014, LSE, 25-26 October 2014.

Johan Fourie and Alfonso Herranz-Loncan. The Efficiency of the Cape Colony Railways and the Origins of Apartheid

We provide a first quantitative investigation of the direct contribution of Cape Colony railways to economic growth during the late 19th and early 20th century. Built to buttress the burgeoning mining industry, the railways contributed to economic efficiency by reducing transport costs for imports to the South African interior where heavy capital goods were needed to extract the newly discovered mineral resources. The lines themselves, however, had distributional implications. They circumvented districts mostly inhabited by blacks and thus caused local black farmers' agricultural produce to be substituted with imports from abroad, and labour to be recruited from the northern Transvaal and Mozambique rather than from the Cape's black population. We show how the origins of segregation and apartheid can be found to some extent in the spatial legacies of South Africa's first railways.

Johan Fourie and Alfonso Herranz-Loncan, 2014. "[The Efficiency of the Cape Colony Railways and the Origins of Apartheid](#)", *New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop* 2014, LSE, 25-26 October 2014.

Katharine Frederick. Unravelling the African Textile Mystery: The Impact of Foreign Trade and Colonization on sub-Saharan African Cloth Production

In this paper, I present a detailed plan of my PhD project, which investigates how foreign imports into precolonial- and colonial-era sub-Saharan Africa affected domestic industry. I focus specifically on the case of textiles and attempt to assess the impact that increasing foreign cotton cloth imports had on traditional cloth production activity in various locations throughout east and west Africa. I evaluate the scale and composition of foreign cotton cloth imports into these areas from the early modern period through the colonial era. I then analyze how, exactly, these foreign imports affected local production (both positively and negatively) over time. Periodization of Africa's trade history will help ascertain if a historical pattern of de-industrialization began during the early modern period, when Africans first began to import foreign cloth, or should be linked to later periods of global trade, primarily the precolonial period of slave and ivory trading and/or the colonial-era rise of metropolis-dominated exchange characterized by African primary commodity exports and manufactured imports. A comparative east-west and coastal-interior perspective will reveal to what extent sub-Saharan Africa's industrial textile history represents a universally shared continental experience or rather, very diverse local and/or regional developments. With this project, I aim to shed light on an important, but still-obscured part of African development history. Furthermore, with the construction of a comprehensive cotton cloth import database, I intend to provide a new empirical foundation that will enable and encourage more concrete and nuanced analyses of a critical portion of global textile trade history.

Katharine Frederick, 2014. "[Unravelling the African Textile Mystery: The Impact of Foreign Trade and Colonization on sub-Saharan African Cloth Production](#)", *New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop* 2014, LSE, 25-26 October 2014.

Morgan Henderson and Warren Whatley. Things Fall Apart: Chiefs in Colonial Africa

We combine the date-of-observation found in Murdock's Ethnographic Atlas and a newly constructed dataset on the date-of-colonization at the ethnic-group level to study the effects of the duration of colonial rule on a variety of political, economic, and social characteristics of ethnic groups in Africa. We find that the duration of colonial occupation caused a dramatic shift in gender relations by increasing the relative status of men in lineage and inheritance rights but also reducing polygyny as a marriage system. A causal role for colonial duration is confirmed by a difference-in-difference analysis uses never-colonized ethnic groups as a control group, and by an analysis of changes in kinship terminology that tests for within-group changes in descent and inheritance rules.

Morgan Henderson and Warren Whatley, 2014. "[Things Fall Apart: Chiefs in Colonial Africa](#)", *New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop* 2014, LSE, 25-26 October 2014.

Remi Jedwab and Alexander Moradi. The Permanent Economic Effects of Transportation Revolutions in Poor Countries: Evidence from Africa

We exploit the construction and later demise of colonial railroads in Africa to study the impact of transportation investments in poor agrarian countries. Using new data on railroads

and cities over one century within one country, Ghana, and Africa as a whole, we show that: (i) railroads had large effects on the spatial distribution and aggregate level of economic activity during the colonial period, as they constituted a transportation revolution in a context where no modern transportation technology previously existed, and (ii) these effects have persisted to date, although railroads collapsed and road networks were considerably expanded post-independence, thus providing evidence for increasing returns. Our analysis contributes to our understanding of the heterogeneous impact of transportation investments. Initial investments may have large effects in poor countries with basic infrastructure and high trade costs. Then, as countries develop, increasing returns solidify their spatial distribution and subsequent investments may have lower effects on local economic development.

Remi Jedwab and Alexander Moradi, 2014. [“The Permanent Economic Effects of Transportation Revolutions in Poor Countries: Evidence from Africa”](#)

Dácil Juif, Joerg Baten and Ewout Frankema. Numeracy of African groups in the 19th century Cape Colony: Racial segregation, Missions and Military Privilege

The literature on South African economic history is heavily white-centred. Especially quantitative evidence concerning the African population is scarce and hardly ever distinguishes between ethnic groups. This paper fills this gap by analysing the possibilities of investing into education for the most important native ethnic groups of the 19th century. Moreover, we show that suffering from deprivation was not always a consequence of being isolated from the white population, but depended on the type of white-native relationship. We distinguish between different types of relationships and quantify their effect on human capital outcomes. We measure the numeracy of natives who could visit missions, African tribes that cooperated militarily with Europeans, “normal” farmhands who worked on white-owned farms, and inhabitants of native reserves with only indirect contact with Europeans.

Dácil Juif, Joerg Baten and Ewout Frankema, 2014. [“Numeracy of African groups in the 19th century Cape Colony: Racial segregation, Missions and Military Privilege”](#), *New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop* 2014, LSE, 25-26 October 2014.

Waldo Krugell. The Spatial Persistence of Population and Wealth During Apartheid: Comparing the 1911 and 2011 Census

This article examines the spatial distribution of people and wealth in South Africa over the period 1911 to 2011. Economic development is typically characterised by agglomeration, but Apartheid policies tried to separate people and disperse economic activity. Zipf’s Law is used to examine the balance of these forces. The results show that Apartheid’s interventions could not stop agglomeration, which seems to have continued to the point of over-concentration today. Wealth has become increasingly concentrated in places of initial white settlement and the large urban agglomerations.

Waldo Krugell, 2014. [“The Spatial Persistence of Population and Wealth During Apartheid: Comparing the 1911 and 2011 Census”](#), *ERSA Working Paper* 459.

Johannes Norling. Family Planning and Fertility in South Africa under Apartheid

During most of the twentieth century until the end of apartheid in 1994, the national government of South Africa set apart between nine and thirteen percent of the country as “black states” or “homelands.” All black South Africans were nominally citizens of these homelands, in which they were required to live unless they had explicit permission to work in a white area. From the 1960s through the 1980s, the government expanded its provision of family planning services, particularly for black residents of white areas, and the total fertility rate across all of South Africa fell by nearly half. Several past studies have argued for the importance of government support of family planning in helping to explain South Africa’s fertility transition (Brown 1987, Caldwell and Caldwell 1993, Kaufman 2000). For the first time, I employ a difference-in-differences strategy that uses geographic variation in service provision to document a substantial drop in fertility in response to the availability of family planning services. I find that much of this drop is due to a deferral of childbearing and increased spacing between births.

Johannes Norling, 2014. [“Family Planning and Fertility in South Africa under Apartheid”](#), *New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop* 2014, LSE, 25-26 October 2014.

Gerrado Serra. The Statistical Office, the Field and the Postcolonial Nation-State: A Social History of the 1960 Population Census of Ghana

Based on previously unused archival material collected in British and Ghanaian archives, the paper presents a social history of the 1960 Population Census of Ghana. Greeted as ‘the first modern census in contemporary Africa’ for the incorporation of United Nations statistical standards, the census emerged simultaneously as the icon of a technocratic vision of the economy and as a test of Ghana’s capacity to perform complex administrative tasks. Much literature in development studies and sociology of science analyses the relationship between statistics and state building by focusing on statistical offices’ capacity to ‘create’ states and national economies through the application of specific cognitive tools such as national income accounts. In contrast, the paper argues that the 1960 census’ contribution to the formation of the Ghanaian nation- state consisted, more broadly, in the establishment of a new set of social practices and institutions with far-reaching implications for school education, statistical practice and the exercise of political power by the state. This represented a radical reconfiguration of the interaction between the statistical office, the field and the nation-state at a time when the shift to socialism and one-party rule made the need for reliable and accurate statistical knowledge a pressing concern.

Gerrado Serra, 2014. [“The Statistical Office, the Field and the Postcolonial Nation-State: A Social History of the 1960 Population Census of Ghana”](#), *New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop* 2014, LSE, 25-26 October 2014.

Rebecca Simson. Government Employment in Post-Independence East Africa: Neopatrimonial settlement or failed developmentalism?

Africa’s poor economic performance since independence is frequently blamed on neopatrimonialism. Patronage, it is postulated, retards growth by reducing the provision of public goods in favour of unproductive government jobs that can be used to reward political supporters. Excessive growth of the wage budget, many have argued further, drove up deficits in times of crisis and reduced macroeconomic stability. This paper considers

expenditure performance in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Contrary to the neopatrimonialism school's predictions, government wage spending fell as a share of total expenditure in all three countries in the three decades after independence owing to wage decline. Neither is there evidence of continuous and unsustainable job growth. Government employment grew slower than GDP in all periods other than in the late 1970s and early 1980s, a pattern consistent with counter-cyclical fiscal policy at the onset of an economic crisis. Furthermore, new jobs were heavily concentrated in social and security services (education, health and police) and most required specific technical qualifications, thus limiting discretion in the allocation of jobs. Much like in industrialized countries, budget imbalances in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda appear linked to discretionary fiscal policy, excessive borrowing in the early independence period and a breakdown in budget discipline – shifts recognized to have taken decades to resolve in Europe despite a considerably less debilitating recession than in East Africa. Global trends in fiscal policy coupled with developmental and military spending needs provide plausible explanations for the East African wage bill outcomes without the need for Afro-specific institutional explanations.

Rebecca Simson, 2014. ["Government Employment in Post-Independence East Africa: Neopatrimonial settlement or failed developmentalism?"](#), *New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop* 2014, LSE, 25-26 October 2014.

Federico Tadei. Extractive Institutions and Gains from Trade: Evidence from Colonial Africa

A common explanation for African current underdevelopment is the extractive character of institutions established during the colonial period. Yet, since colonial extraction is hard to quantify and its exact mechanisms are not well understood, we still do not know precisely how successful the colonizers were in extracting wealth from Africans. In this paper, I tackle this issue by analyzing how trade monopsonies and coercive labor institutions reduced African gains from trade during the colonial period. By using new data on prices to agricultural producers in French Africa, I show that (1) the monopsonistic character of colonial trade implied a reduction in prices to producers way below world market prices; (2) coercive labor institutions allowed the colonizers to reduce prices even further; (3) as a consequence, colonial extraction cut African gains from trade by over 60%.

Federico Tadei, 2014. ["Extractive Institutions and Gains from Trade: Evidence from Colonial Africa"](#), *New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop* 2014, LSE, 25-26 October 2014.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

57th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association
RETHINKING VIOLENCE, RECONSTRUCTION, AND RECONCILIATION
JW Marriott Indianapolis Hotel, Indianapolis, IN
November 20-23, 2014

Violence has long been at the center of African Studies. We encounter its presence whether we study conflict, poverty or representations of the continent and its diaspora in literature, media, and popular opinion. Africa has seen protracted conflicts as well as creative efforts at reconstruction and reconciliation that offer the wider world models of working through traumatic pasts. Scholars across disciplines have called attention to the importance of understanding violence and the changing nature of conflict as well as the efforts of people, communities and organizations to rebuild civil society, including novel forms of witnessing and memorialization. They have called for the study of forms of conflict generated by extractive industries, non-governmental actors, and neoliberal economic policies. And, crucially, they have raised powerful questions around the study of the structural (silent) violence of poverty, including its relationship to military conflict and to the broader forces shaping the continent.

The 57th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association offers a unique opportunity for scholars across diverse fields to critically examine the locations of violence in Africa's past, present and future, and the creative responses to these forms and sites of violence, including new opportunities for reconstruction. We look forward to panels exploring the ways in which violence has been conceptualized, from Fanonian ideas of revolutionary resistance to genocide, and the forms of responses these may have generated in and outside the African continent; the emergence of new types and patterns of violence, including terrorism, and their connection to local, regional, and global forces; and to reflect on the narratives and other forms of artistic expression that have emerged from these times and how these may have evolved over the years.

Program Chairs

Odile Cazenave, *Boston University*

Clifton Crais, *Emory University*

Local Arrangements Committee

Bessie House-Soremekun, *Indiana University-Purdue University*

Maria Grosz-Ngate, *Indiana University*

Inquiries: ASAmeeing2014@gmail.com. You can follow the ASA on Twitter, [@ASAOnline](https://twitter.com/ASAOnline) and follow our [Annual Meeting page](#) on LinkedIn for updates and announcements for the 2014 Annual Meeting.

Middle East and North Africa Energy: The Dynamics of Power, Leadership and Production
Chatham House, London
January 26-27, 2015

The Middle East and North Africa is experiencing a period of sustained challenge to its stability and to its position as the primary global energy supplier. Territorial and political uncertainties continue to affect the region at the same time as the world's energy landscape appears to be moving away from traditional hegemonies.

This conference will deliver expert insight into the political, social and market developments affecting the region's policy-makers and oil and gas producers, including discussions on:

- 1 Power, leadership and security across the MENA region
- 2 The implications of energy interdependence between the Gulf and Asia
- 3 Domestic energy demand and balancing wider energy goals
- 4 Economic growth and progress towards political stabilization in North Africa
- 5 New production opportunities and prospects for upstream investment

Additional Information: <http://www.chathamhouse.org/conferences/Mena-Energy2015#sthash.layfe7gg.dpuf>

African Extractives: New Actors and Alliances to Overcome Enduring Challenges
Chatham House, London
March 16-17, 2015

Can Africa's resource riches be translated into sustainable and inclusive growth? There are significant challenges to ensuring that the extractive industries generate jobs, revenue and infrastructure. As the number of industry actors multiplies, new partnerships are required to deliver results.

In order to overcome these enduring challenges policymakers and business leaders must gain a fuller understanding of the societal, environmental and economic pressures facing African extractives.

This conference will ask the key questions for the future of the industry, including:

- 1 How are technological, demographic and democratic changes affecting Africa's extractive industries?
- 2 What immediate action is required to mitigate and manage long-term environmental impacts?
- 3 What legal frameworks and financial tools can maximise the economic potential of resource wealth?
- 4 Can new alliances share risk, attract investment and improve business practice?

Additional Information: Please visit <http://www.chathamhouse.org/conferences/African-Extractives#sthash.tSQre3gp.dpuf>

Economic History Society Annual Conference 2015
University of Wolverhampton, United Kingdom
March 27-29, 2015

New researcher sessions

The annual conference opens with papers presented by new researchers. They offer those completing (or who have recently completed) doctorates the opportunity to present their own work before professional colleagues and to benefit from informed comment. Preference will be given to proposals from speakers who have not participated in a new researcher session at a previous Economic History Society conference.

Academic sessions

The conference programme committee welcomes academic proposals on all aspects of economic and social history covering a wide range of periods and countries, and particularly welcomes papers of an interdisciplinary nature. Scholars are not expected to present a paper in more than one session and, when slots are limited, priority will be given to those who did not present in the academic sessions at the previous year's conference. Those currently studying for, or who have recently completed, a PhD should submit a proposal to the new researcher session.

Additional Information: Please visit <http://www.ehs.org.uk/events/economic-history-society-annual-conference-2015>

OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

University of the South, International and Global Studies
Assistant Professor of International and Global Studies

The International and Global Studies (IGS) program at Sewanee: The University of the South invites applications for two tenure-track assistant professorships to begin August 2015. We seek candidates who demonstrate a strong commitment to teaching and research on global issues such as the capitalist world system, media and the arts, migration, postcoloniality, social movements, urbanization, or youth cultures, with a preference for individuals who work on the Middle East, Africa or South or Central Asia. Candidates in any social science or humanities field are encouraged to apply.

IGS is a growing interdisciplinary program dedicated to the study of global issues from a variety of regional, transnational, and theoretical perspectives. The selected candidates will be expected to offer classes in their areas of expertise as well as to teach core courses in the program.

The University of the South comprises a highly-regarded College of Arts and Sciences and a distinguished School of Theology. It is an institution of the Episcopal Church that welcomes

individuals of all backgrounds. It is located on a striking, 13,00-acre campus on Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau within driving distance of Nashville and Chattanooga.

Deadline to apply: 9 November 2014

Additional Information: Please visit <http://www.sewanee.edu>

**University of Arkansas- Fayetteville, History
Assistant Professor of Modern Sub-Saharan Africa**

The history department of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville invites applications for a tenure-track **assistant professor position in Modern Sub-Saharan Africa** to begin in August 2015. The successful candidate will mainly teach upper-level and graduate courses in Modern Sub-Saharan Africa. Additionally, candidates must be willing to work closely with the African and African American Studies Program. Teaching load is 2/2. Deadline for applications is **November 15, 2014**. A Ph.D. in history is required by the time of appointment. The committee expects to interview at the American Historical Association Conference, January 2-5, 2015. Please upload a letter of application, curriculum vitae, and 3 letters of recommendation to Interfolio: <http://apply.interfolio.com/25191>. If you are unable to upload materials electronically, send your application materials to Modern Sub-Saharan Search Committee, c/o Brenda Foster, Department of History, 416 Old Main, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701-1201.

Deadline to apply: 15 November 2014

Additional Information: Please visit <http://history.uark.edu>

**City College of New York
Assistant Professor - African History (tenure-track)**

The Department of History at The City College of New York invites applications for a tenure-track position at the Assistant Professor level in African History. All periods and specializations are welcome except North Africa. Teaching responsibilities will include undergraduate and M.A. courses in the candidate's areas of expertise, as well as courses that contribute to the college's general education curriculum. Position begins August 26th, 2015. Minimum qualifications include Ph.D. by date of appointment; evidence of excellent scholarly potential; and commitment to teaching, research, and program service.

Deadline to apply: 28 December 2014

Additional Information: Please visit <http://www.cuny.edu/employment/jobsearch.html>

**Auburn University, Department of History
History of Sub-Saharan Africa and/or the African Diaspora**

The Department of History at Auburn University invites applications for a tenure-track position at the rank of assistant professor of Sub-Saharan African History and/or the African diaspora. The primary field of specialization is open in terms of geography and chronology. We seek candidates who can contribute to the department's programs in world history and

the university's Africana Studies program. The appointment will begin August 16, 2015.

Ph.D. in History before employment date is desired, but outstanding candidates who are in the final stages of dissertation writing (ABD) will be considered. Appointment to the tenure-track position at the rank of assistant professor, however, requires the earned doctorate by August 16, 2015. The appointee will be responsible for teaching undergraduate courses and graduate seminars in his or her areas of specialization, and world-history courses in the core curriculum.

Review of applications will begin on November 15, 2014 and continue until the position is filled.

The candidate selected for this position must be able to meet eligibility requirements to work in the United States at the time the appointment is scheduled to begin and continue working legally for the proposed term of employment; excellent communication skills required.

Deadline to apply: 30 December 2014

Additional Information: Please visit <https://aufacultypositions.peopleadmin.com/>

University of Pennsylvania, History Professor or Associate Professor of Economic History

Penn's History Department seeks an economic historian with primary research on topics post-1600 other than labor or banking systems, and with any non-U.S. geographic focus. The successful candidate will have a record of significant research and publication and effective teaching, and will be appointed to an endowed chair at the level of full or associate professor. Leadership skills are important: the position will involve close engagement with the department's program in trans-regional history, the Wharton School, the Lauder Institute, and the Huntsman Program.

Candidates should apply online at <http://facultysearches.provost.upenn.edu/postings/322>
Please attach a letter of application, CV, and research statement. The department will begin considering applications on 15 December 2014 and will continue until the position is filled.

Deadline to apply: 31 December 2014

Additional Information: Please visit <http://facultysearches.provost.upenn.edu/postings/322>

University of Massachusetts - Amherst Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Longue Duree Global and Postcolonial studies

The University of Massachusetts-Amherst invites applicants for a Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellowship linked to the Sawyer Seminar, "Beyond Medieval and Modern: Rethinking Global Paradigms of Political Economy and Culture." We seek a humanist or social scientist studying global connectivities within alternative periodizations or mappings of world history, political economy, or culture. We especially welcome applications from scholars with knowledge of world historiography who: study periods before western European hegemony and/or regions outside of western Europe, and give attention to the role of these periods or places in the so-called "rise of modernity" after 1500. Start date: August 2, 2015. Salary: \$50,000 plus benefits. Scholar will participate in the full seminar series, which will host eminent scholars in postcolonial, world-system, gender, world history, and IR studies.

Priority deadline November 10, 2014. Follow the Interview Exchange link below for more information.

Deadline to apply: 7 January 2015

Additional Information: Please visit

<http://umass.interviewexchange.com/jobofferdetails.jsp?JOBID=53122&CNTRNO=0&>

Stanford University, Sohaib and Sara Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies 2015-16 Postdoctoral Fellowship on Islam in Africa

Stanford University's Sohaib and Sara Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies invites applications for a one-year postdoctoral position for a scholar working on Islam in Africa in any time-period and region and in any discipline. The fellow will teach one course in the Department of History, pursue his/her own research, participate in the activities of Stanford Center for African Studies and Stanford Global Studies Division, and contribute to the intellectual life on campus.

Candidates must have completed the Ph.D. by the time of appointment on September 1, 2015. The recipient may not be more than three years beyond the receipt of doctoral degree by the time of the appointment. Scholars trained in disciplines other than History (including, for example, Art History, Political Science, and Music) whose work engages in historical analysis are welcome to apply.

Application materials must be submitted online at <http://apply.interfolio.com/27224> . Please submit a cover letter, CV, two-page description of your research plans, drafts of two course syllabi, and a writing sample of no more than 30 pages. Applicants should arrange to have three letters of recommendation submitted directly to Interfolio. Compensation includes an annual salary of \$55,000 – \$60,000, health coverage, and a \$1,500 research fund. Review of applications will begin on February 27, 2015. Inquiries may be addressed to Dr. Burcak Keskin-Kozat (Associate Director of the Sohaib and Sara Abbasi Program) at burcak@stanford.edu.

Stanford University is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to increasing the diversity of its faculty. It welcomes nominations of, and applications from, women, members of minority groups, protected veterans and individuals with disabilities, as well as others who would bring additional dimensions to the university's research and teaching missions.

Deadline to apply: 27 February 2015

Additional Information: Please visit https://www.stanford.edu/dept/islamic_studies/cgi-bin/web/2014/10/2015-16-postdoctoral-fellowship-on-islam-in-africa/

New Graduate Programme at University of Cape Town Department of Historical Studies Master of Arts in Economic History

About the Programme

This programme provides training in the methods of social science research and historical enquiry, with a strong focus on Africa. Students will be introduced to a growing and diverse body of literature and encouraged to explore the wealth of material preserved in various Southern African archives.

Programme Details

The MA programme runs over twelve months and consists of three components: two qualifying courses, two elective courses to be selected from a range of options in economic history and related disciplines, and a dissertation. The courses are divided into two semesters with the possibility of further specialization during the summer break.

Entrance Requirements

The programme is aimed at students with a background in the humanities, social sciences or commerce and an interest in examining issues of economic development. Applicants should have obtained 65% and above for an Honours Degree in economic history or a cognate discipline.

Compulsory Courses

The qualifying courses provide an opportunity to evaluate a range of different approaches to research in economic and social history, and also for the students to influence and respond to each other. These courses are intended to develop a common language among students from different backgrounds and to foster a close and friendly community in which ideas are shared.

Compulsory courses:

- 1) **An introduction to themes and approaches in economic and social history** focuses on social science methodologies and approaches and will be taught through a series of lectures and parallel seminars during the first semester.
- 2) **Quantitative methods for economic and social history.** Depending on previous experience, students will be allocated either to the Standard or the Advanced Course. These courses in quantitative methods will be offered jointly with the Sociology and Economics Departments. More advanced students will be able to take a quantitative methods course provided by the School of Economics.

Elective Courses

Students will be able to pursue their research interests through the completion of two **elective courses**, mostly taught during the second semester. Candidates are encouraged to select, according to their preferences, the courses cross-listed by cognate departments. These courses are intended to offer students the chance to explore in more detail the subjects they choose for their dissertations.

Dissertation

The final requirement will be a graduate dissertation of not more than 15,000 words to be submitted in February. The students will be encouraged to develop a clear research question, undertake research in archives where necessary, and build a dataset and a body of evidence in order to tackle their research question.

Links

The Departmental website can be found at www.historicalstudies.uct.ac.za
Information on postgraduate funding options at the university can be found at <https://www.uct.ac.za/apply/funding/postgraduate/applications/>