African Economic History Newsletter
Issue #18 March, 2015

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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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 aehnetwork@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 aehnetwork@gmail.com and we will include your news in our bi-monthly round up.

Best regards,
The African Economic History Network
Call for Papers

The call for papers for the African Economic History Workshop 2015 is now out. Is Africa Growing out of Poverty? Africa’s Economic Transition in Historical Perspective will be held at 30-31 October 2015 at Wageningen University. The deadline for paper proposals is 30 April 2015. See inside for further details.

Working Papers Series

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.

Twitter

Please also note that we now have a twitter account, so that those of you that use twitter can follow us on http://twitter.com/AfEconHis

The bi-monthly newsletter will continue, but if you want to spread relevant African Economic History news immediately you should mention our handle in your tweet @AfEconHis
NEW ABSTRACTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Articles

Marcella Alsan. The Effect of the TseTse Fly on African Development

The TseTse fly is unique to Africa and transmits a parasite harmful to humans and lethal to livestock. This paper tests the hypothesis that the TseTse reduced the ability of Africans to generate an agricultural surplus historically. Ethnic groups inhabiting TseTse-suitable areas were less likely to use domesticated animals and the plow, less likely to be politically centralized, and had a lower population density. These correlations are not found in the tropics outside of Africa, where the fly does not exist. The evidence suggests current economic performance is affected by the TseTse through the channel of precolonial political centralization.


Kjell Hausken and Mthull Ncube. Determinants of Election Outcomes: New Evidence from Africa

Any election may result in six possible situations. The incumbent or challenger may win according to the official results. If the incumbent wins, he may remain in power, or a standoff or coalition may ensue. In contrast, if the challenger wins, he may become the new incumbent, or a standoff or coalition may ensue. Using a database of all presidential and legislative elections in Africa over the period 1960–2010, we found the following distribution of election outcomes: the incumbent wins with no contestation 63.9 per cent, coalition 6.4 per cent, and standoff 1.2 per cent. The incumbent loses and accepts defeat 15.9 per cent, coalition 12.3 per cent, and standoff 0.3 per cent. We have then tested empirically 22 hypotheses on the determinants of election outcomes in Africa using a discrete-choice multinomial logit model. We study the impact of the shape of the economy, the provision of public goods, education, social diversity, number of years in power of the incumbent, whether the incumbent is a military official or not, the strength of the opposition, natural resource endowment, colonial origins of the country, and whether the election is presidential or legislative.


Les ports ont constitué un élément clé dans l’expansion du capitalisme industriel en Afrique de l’Ouest. Ces ports furent reformés en vue d’acquérir des caractéristiques industriels comme la mise en place de réseaux ferroviaires qui connecteraient l’arrière-pays à la côte Atlantique. Donc, ces systèmes furent créés pour favoriser la croissance du commerce


Kara Moskowitz. ‘Are You Planting Trees or Are You Planting People?’ Squatter Resistance and International Development in the Making of a Kenyan Postcolonial Political Order (1963-78)

This article examines squatter resistance to a World Bank-funded forest and paper factory project. The article illustrates how diverse actors came together at the sites of rural development projects in early postcolonial Kenya. It focuses on the relationship between the rural squatters who resisted the project and the political elites who intervened, particularly President Kenyatta. Together, these two groups not only negotiated the reformulation of a major international development program, but they also worked out broader questions about political authority and political culture. In negotiating development, rural actors and political elites decided how resources would be distributed and they entered into new patronage-based relationships, processes integral to the making of the postcolonial political order.


Caleb J Stevens. The Legal History of Public Land in Liberia

This article demonstrates that there has never been a clear definition of public land in Liberian legal history, although in the past the government operated as if all land that was not under private deed was public. By examining primary source materials found in archives in Liberia and the USA, the article traces the origins of public land in Liberia and its ambiguous development as a legal concept. It also discusses the ancillary issues of public land sale procedures and statutory prices. The conclusions reached have significant implications for the reform of Liberia’s land sector.

Working Papers

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.


Sophia du Plessis, Ada Jansen and Dieter von Fintel. Slave Prices and Productivity at the Cape of Good Hope from 1700 to 1725: Did All Settler Farmers Profit 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.


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.


UPCOMING EVENTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Extractive Industries in Africa: New Approaches to Overcoming 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#
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.


The 10th New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop  
“Is Africa Growing out of Poverty? Africa's Economic Transition in Historical Perspective”  
Wageningen University  
30-31 October, 2015

CALL FOR PAPERS DEADLINE: 30 April 2015

Rapid economic growth in Africa over the past two decades has provoked intense public and academic debate about the nature and sustainability of Africa’s economic transition. Is this simply another commodity boom, or is current growth rooted in a more profound transformation of the African social and political fabric? Does it lead to greater inequalities within and between African countries? And to what extent is current growth related to institutional reforms and improved state capacity? Historical reflection on such questions is extremely valuable. Taking the long-term perspective allows us to assess these developments in the context of previous episodes of African growth and contraction and to adopt wider spatial and comparative perspectives.

The programme committee of the 10th New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop launches a broad call for papers presenting frontier research in the field African Economic History and a special call for papers that place the current rise of Africa in a long-term historical comparative perspective. The committee also specifically encourages scholars from Africa to come over and present their work. There are travel and accommodation funds available for scholars without access to alternative sources of funding conditional upon having a paper accepted for presentation. Paper proposals and fund applications can be submitted to: aehw2015@wur.nl  
Decisions on submissions can be expected around the end of May 2015.

Programme committee:
For some time the concept of capitalism has experienced a remarkable renaissance as well in public debate as in the social sciences. With respect to Africa, however, the term of capitalism is mostly used in the sense of a non-relationship or of an external, usually negatively connoted, force. As usual, investors and businessmen are well ahead of academics in this respect: for them the “African lions” constitute one of the last frontiers of capitalism. In contrast, in African Studies, capitalist actors such as entrepreneurs or institutions such as banks and stock markets are under-researched, and the question of indigenous African capitalisms seems to have been settled, in the negative sense, since the end of the Kenya debate. However, the concept of capitalism cannot be reduced to economic actors and economic institutions alone. Capitalisms are also cultural forms which correspond to a certain “spirit”. Religious orientations have been studied from this perspective. One might also ask whether the new spirit of network capitalism, based on mobility, disponibility, creativity, pluri-competence and virtuosity in the use of new media corresponds perhaps particularly well with local cultural practices in Africa. The panel will thus try to explore the historical and social conditions of capitalism in Africa in the 21st Century. Historical as well as contemporary perspectives, empirical as well as and conceptual ones, from all fields of African studies are solicited.

Panels include:

- **Brokering Africa's extraversion: Ethnography and governance in global flows of people and things** - Beuving Joost, Alpes Jill
- **Material Culture of Politics: Contestation, Resistance, Revolt?** - Dorman Sara
- **African Capitalisms** - Bierschenk Thomas
- **Beyond stigma: Mobilising around the issue of slavery in Africa** - Pelckmans Lotte, Hardung Christine
- **Horn of Africa since the 1960s: External Factors in Political Instability, Insurgencies, and Uprisings** - Zahorik Jan, Ylönen Aleksi
- **African Colonial Soldiers: Challenging the Limits of Their Historiography** - Zimmerman Sarah, Ruth Ginio Ben Gurion University, Richard Fogarty SUNY, Albany
Land governance in conflict-affected settings - van Leeuwen Mathijs, van der Haar Gemma

Agribusiness production, social control and resistances in african rural areas. A focus on peasant and wage-work mobilizations - Vadot Guillaume, Grassin Paul

Domestic workers in Africa (19th-21th centuries). Historical and socio-anthropological perspectives - Tissieu Violaine, Jacquemin Mélanie

(Post)colonial power, environment and resistance(s) in Afrique, XXe-XXIe centuries - Tiquet Romain, Henriet Benoît

Comparison of Political Cultures of Post-colonial Africa and Post-communist Europe - Skalnik Petr

Labor policies and practices across the colonial and post-colonial eras - Allina Eric, Keese Alexander

Under what conditions does economic development become politically attractive? From political capture to political mobilization - Mann Laura, Berry Marie

Economics of statelessness: Business and state formation in the Somali territories - Hagmann Tobias, Little Peter D.

Economic failure, political success? Long-term histories of development in Africa - Becker Felicitas

Under what conditions does economic development become politically attractive? From resource bounties to fiscal constraints - Akinyoade Akinyinka, Jones Will

Additional Information: Please visit http://www.ecas2015.fr/african-capitalisms/

Africa Land Grabbing International Conference
2015 Workshop: Dschang, Cameroon
3-7 August, 2015

Under the auspices of the Harvard Law School IGLP Doha - Santander Grants Program, an international conference: “Land Grabs in Africa: Economic Imperialism?” would hold on 3-7 August in Dschang, Cameroon. The Conference website is www.africaconferences.org. The conference aims to bring together scholars, practitioners, researchers and students from all areas of law, environmental sciences and other related disciplines. We welcome participation as presenter of one paper, chairing a session or mere attendee. The organizers are also coordinating a volume of collected articles on the same subject. We encourage interested attendees to develop their presentations into Book Chapters (12-20 pages).

While land grabbing is often synonymous with industrialized countries exploiting large chunks of land in developing countries, a new phenomenon of South-south imperialism has become prevalent and appears to be the new normal. This project investigates recent land acquisition patterns in Sub-Saharan Africa both by industrialized countries and other countries of the south such as Chinese and Indian investors; assessing the effects of these land deals on the proprietary rights of the African populace and the socio-economic impact on their livelihood. It is hoped that the conference / Book project would situate these land deals in the broader context of global public policy and economic hegemony. We anticipate that the analysis of these relatively new instruments of south-south economic hegemony may challenge the view that the third world is inherently anti-imperialistic,
enriching the literature on third world approaches to international law while questioning the wisdom among African political elites of considering China and India as “third world friends”.

Potential themes include but are not limited to:
- Land Deals and Food security
- Land tenures and Value of Land to African Communities
- When is a grab a grab or not a grab?
- Examining African land legislations in the light of land grabs
- Role of the media in the age of land grabs
- Consequences of land grabs to specific African Communities
- Activism and Human Rights response to African land Grabbing
- Land Deals: For development or Underdevelopment?
- Land grabbing for Biofuels
- Corruption and land grabbing Politics
- Land grabbing, FDI or capital flight?
- Gender and Land grabbing
- Neocolonialism: Is Africa up for grab?

Additional Information: Please visit http://africaconferences.org/

OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

University of Leipzig, Faculty of History, Arts and Oriental Studies
Professor, African History

The core responsibilities of the professorship are research and teaching in the field of African History while complementing and expanding the existing thematic and regional foci of the Institute of African Studies. The institute - with its interdisciplinary orientation - belongs to the Faculty of History, Arts and Oriental Studies; is part of area studies at the University of Leipzig; and is especially involved in the Research Profile Area “Global Connections and Comparisons”. The candidate should have a focus on cultural, social, or economic history as well as the history of entanglements of colonization and decolonization. Applicants should show a record of theoretically and empirically ambitious work in the field of African History. Cooperation in the Collaborative Research Centre (SFB 1199, in preparation) “Processes of Spatialization under the Global Condition” (“Verräumlichungsprozesse unter Globalisierungsbedingungen”) as well as experience with the acquisition of third party funding are expected.

Rights and obligations of the jobholder are explained within the Saxonian university law (Sächsisches Hochschulfreiheitsgesetz, SächsHSFG) and the Saxonian public service task regulation (Sächsische Dienstaufgabenverordnung, DAVOHS).

Applicants must meet the requirements of § 58 SächsHSFG.

The University of Leipzig emphasizes the equality of women and men. Handicapped applicants are encouraged to apply and given preference if equally qualified.

Applications enclosing a detailed CV, a list of scientific work and academic teaching including available records of teaching evaluations, a certified copy of the certificate of the highest acquired
academic degree, 1 or 2 academic articles of the candidate’s own choice, and an exposé/summary of current and future research interests should be sent before 03. April 2015 to:

Universität Leipzig  
Dekan der Fakultät für Geschichte, Kunst- und Orientwissenschaften  
Herrn Prof. Dr. Manfred Rudersdorf  
Schillerstr. 6  
04109 Leipzig  
Deutschland

**Deadline to apply:** 3 April 2015  
**Additional Information:** please visit [http://www.zv.uni-leipzig.de/unierte/stellen-und-ausbildung/stellenausschreibungen/hochschullehrer-und-leiter.html#c138933](http://www.zv.uni-leipzig.de/unierte/stellen-und-ausbildung/stellenausschreibungen/hochschullehrer-und-leiter.html#c138933)

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**Wilkes University, Global History**  
**Assistant Professor, Modern World History**

Wilkes University invites applications for a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor in Modern World History in the Division of Global History & Languages. This new division was created last year to coordinate and expand the teaching of history and languages at Wilkes University and further Wilkes’ commitment to preparing students to meet the challenges of an increasingly globalized world.

The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching four courses per semester: one or two courses in her or his area of expertise, as well as two or three world history survey courses. Although all non-U.S. and non-European fields will be considered, preference will be given to candidates with a specialty in the history of Asia, Africa or Latin America and those interested in working with the department’s programs in digital history, public history and/or study abroad. A Ph.D. in History by August 2015 is required; the ideal candidate will also have prior teaching experience at the university level. Continued scholarship, advising and university service are expected of all Wilkes History faculty. Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Wilkes University is an independent, comprehensive university dedicated to academic excellence in the liberal arts, sciences, and selected professional programs. The University has approximately 2,000 students at the undergraduate level and over 2,000 full time equivalent students at the graduate and first professional levels.

Its institutional focus is on developing strong mentoring relationships with each of its students and contributing vitally to economic development of Northeastern Pennsylvania. The University is located in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, a revitalized city that is located on the lovely Susquehanna River and is within two and one-half hours driving distance of New York City and Philadelphia.

To apply, visit [www.Wilkes.edu](http://www.Wilkes.edu) and click “Jobs at Wilkes”. Please be sure to include a cover letter, resume or curriculum vitae and three references. Review of applications will begin February 23, 2015, and will continue until the position is filled.

Wilkes University is constantly seeking to become a more diverse community and to enhance its capacity to value and capitalize on the cultural richness that diversity brings. The University strongly encourages applications from persons with diverse backgrounds.

**Deadline to apply:** 22 April 2015  
**Additional Information:** please visit [http://wilkes.edu/history](http://wilkes.edu/history) or contact Dr. John Hepp at [john.hepp@wilkes.edu](mailto:john.hepp@wilkes.edu)
University of Tennessee- Knoxville, History
Lecturer, African History

Lecturer Position. Non-tenure track appointment beginning August 1, 2015. PhD required. The Department of History at the University of Tennessee seeks a lecturer with research and teaching experience in modern African history (post-1500 CE). Must be able to teach survey and upper-division courses on African History; ability to teach African diaspora in the Caribbean and South America, and/or World History a plus. Appointment will be for one year with possibility of renewal. Applications should include a cover letter, CV, a chapter-length writing sample, and two letters of recommendation. Cover letter and recommendations should address both the applicant's research expertise and teaching experience. Materials should be submitted electronically to African History Search Committee at apply.interfolio.com/28943. Review of applications begins March 15, 2015.

Deadline to apply: 30 April 2015
Additional Information: Please visit http://history.utk.edu/

University of Cape Town, Historical Studies
Lecturer: Economic History

The Department of Historical Studies invites applications for an appointment at Lecturer level in Economic History with the start date 1 July 2015 or soon thereafter. The successful candidate will teach courses, supervise research and participate in the running of the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Economic History directed principally but not exclusively at Humanities students.

Requirements:

- A PhD or near completion in an area of Economic History broadly defined
- Willingness to work in a team
- Interest in the Economic History of the Global South

Responsibilities:

- Contribute to the development of the Economic History curriculum
- Teach at undergraduate and postgraduate levels
- Supervise Economic History research
- Undertake research in Economic History
- Carry out administrative responsibilities at departmental level
- Promote Economic History across the university

Preference will be given to applicants with:

- A proven track record in research and publication
- Proven undergraduate teaching experience
- Interest and expertise in African and South African Economic History

The annual remuneration package for 2015, including benefits, is R528 275.

To apply, please e-mail the below documents in a single pdf file to Ms. Lily Nombombo at recruitment02@uct.ac.za:
UCT Application Form (download at [http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/sapweb/forms/hr201.doc](http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/sapweb/forms/hr201.doc))
- Motivational letter, and
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)

**Deadline to apply:** 3 May 2015

**Additional Information:** please visit [http://www.uct.ac.za/](http://www.uct.ac.za/)

**Indiana Wesleyan University, History and Political Science History Faculty**

The Department of History and Political Science at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana, is seeking a historian to fill a position in non-Western history beginning Fall 2015. The candidate must have a Ph.D. by the time of employment or strong evidence of probable award of degree shortly thereafter. The specialization is open to areas such as Asian, Middle Eastern, African or Latin American history. The successful candidate will be expected to assist in the department’s general education and departmental world civilization courses, as well as a historiography course for our history majors, engaging in teaching, advising, and mentoring undergraduate students on the residential Marion, Indiana campus. Applicants should demonstrate an ability to combine engaged teaching with scholarly endeavors. Applicants who bring diverse ethnic, racial, and gender perspectives to their scholarship and teaching are especially encouraged to apply. All candidates must be dedicated to liberal learning and the integration of faith and learning within an evangelical, Wesleyan Christian perspective.

The Division of Social Sciences provides leadership in political science, economics, and history for the general education program of the College of Arts and Sciences on the Marion campus. The division offers the following majors: economics, history, international relations, political science, political science pre-law, social studies, and social studies education.

Pending budget approval, the position will be open for fall of 2015. Review of applicants will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Applicants must complete the online application, which can be found on our website, [www.indwes.edu/hr](http://www.indwes.edu/hr). The final candidate selected must have the ability to pass a comprehensive background screen.

**Deadline to apply:** 5 May 2015

**Additional Information:** Please visit [www.indwes.edu/hr](http://www.indwes.edu/hr)

**University of Puget Sound Visiting Assistant Professor of African History**

Appointment: Full-time, one-year visiting position in African History; begins Fall term 2015.

Responsibilities:

Position is full-time (3/3 load), teaching lower-division surveys of early and modern African history and upper-division courses in areas of interest.

Qualifications:

Ph.D. (ABD considered) in African history and a commitment to liberal arts education. Specialties in Northern Africa, Africa’s relation to the Middle East or Islamic World, or diasporic communities are particularly welcome.
Compensation and Benefits:

Rank: Visiting Assistant Professor

Salary is commensurate with education and experience.

Application Deadline: Search and selection procedures will be closed when a sufficient number of qualified candidates have been identified. Interested individuals are encouraged to submit application materials no later than March 6, 2015 to ensure consideration.

Required Documents:

Please submit curriculum vitae when prompted to submit resume. Additional documents can be attached within the application. Applications submitted without these documents requested below will not be considered:

• Curriculum vitae
• Letter of interest
• Sample syllabus
• Writing sample
• Three (3) letters of reference. You will be prompted to enter the contact information for three (3) reference providers. The system will automatically email these reference providers to request a letter.

All offers of employment are contingent on successful completion of a background inquiry.

Deadline to apply: 12 May 2015

Additional Information: For complete job description and application instructions, visit: http://aptrkr.com/579170