



AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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Your bi-monthly update from the African Economic History Network

The AEH 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 aehtnetwork@gmail.com with 'member' in the subject line.

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

Best regards,

The African Economic History Network

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AEHN Website

We are pleased to announce the launch of the African Economic History Network website. Here you can find information about the network, its members, upcoming meetings, and issues of the AEHN newsletter. The website will also serve as platform for new data, research, and links to other societies and organizations aimed at fostering the growth of African Economic History.

For more information please visit us at www.aehnetwork.org

Stellenbosch Workshop

At this stage, the network arranges meetings twice annually. A workshop will be held in conjunction with the XVI World Economic History Congress in Stellenbosch, South Africa on July 7th, 2012. It will run from 10:30 to 16:20 and will be followed by the second AEHN meeting and dinner at 18:30.

The workshop is open to all AEHN members but space is limited. If you are interested in attending please RSVP to Johan Fourie at johanf@sun.ac.za

The provisional programme can be found [here](#)

AEHN Working Papers Series

The network will soon be launching its own working paper series. Its aim will be to disseminate new and exciting research within the network and beyond. The forthcoming titles are as follows:

Jerven, Morten; Austin, Gareth; Green, Erik; Uche, Chibuike; Frankema, Ewout; Fourie, Johan; Inikori, Joseph E.; Moradi, Alexander and Hillbom, Ellen, "Moving Forward in African Economic History: Bridging the Gap in Methods and Sources", *African Economic History Network, Working Paper No. 1*

Austin, Gareth "Vent for Surplus or Productivity Breakthrough? The take-Off of Ghanaian Cocoa Exports, c. 1890-1936", *African Economic History Network, Working Paper No. 2*

Jerven, Morten "Future challenges in measuring Africa's past: Lessons from estimating GDP for the Gold Coast, 1891-1954", *African Economic History Network, Working Paper No. 3*

Green, Erik "Land concentration, institutional control and African agency: Growth and stagnation of European tobacco farming in Shire Highlands, c 1900 - 1940", *African Economic History Network, Working Paper No. 4*

We will be issuing a call for papers once the working paper series is launched in August.

For any further question at this time regarding the WPS please contact Erik Green at Erik.Green@ekh.lu.se

NEW ABSTRACTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Articles

Olu Ajakaiye and John Page. Industrialisation and Economic Transformation in Africa: Introduction and Overview

The essays in this volume document in various ways the limited extent of structural change in Africa over the past 40 years. They also document and analyse the failure of Africa to industrialise while addressing the question of how policies might be reshaped to boost industrial development and accelerate structural transformation in Africa. Each of the papers explores one or more of the channels by which industrial development drives structural change. They pointed out that the idea that Africa should industrialise is not new as the continent's post-independence leaders – like those in many developing countries in the 1960s and 1970s – looked to state-led, import substituting industrialisation as the key to rapid economic growth. However, the industries they created were frequently uncompetitive and unsustainable, and efforts to spur industrial development in Africa largely vanished with the economic collapses and adjustment programs of the 1980s and 1990s. In contrast to the region's earlier efforts at industrial policy, it was argued that states must work with the market as public action moves beyond the regulatory reform agenda to addressing the physical, institutional and knowledge constraints limiting Africa's industrial development.

Olu Ajakaiye and John Page, 2012. "[Industrialisation and Economic Transformation in Africa: Introduction and Overview](#)", *Journal of African Economies* 21(2): 3-18.

Denis Cogneau and Léa Rouanet. Living conditions in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana 1925-1985: What Do Survey Data on Height Stature Tell Us

Survey data reveals that the pace of increase in height stature experienced by successive cohorts born in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana during the late colonial period (1925–1960) is almost as high as the pace observed in France and Great Britain during the period 1875 to 1975, even when correcting for the bias arising from old-age shrinking. By contrast, the early post-colonial period

(1960–1985) is characterised by stagnation or even reversion in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. This article argues that the selection effects linked for instance to measuring the height of women rather than men, mothers rather than women, and, most importantly, the interactions between height and mortality, cannot account for these figures. It then disaggregates these national trends by parental background and district of birth, and match individual data with district-level historical data on export crop (cocoa) expansion, urban density and colonial investment in health and education. Finally, it provides evidence that a significant share of the increase in height stature may be related to the early stages of urbanisation and cocoa production.

Denis Cogneau and Léa Rouanet, 2011. "[Living conditions in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana 1925-1985: What Do Survey Data on Height Stature Tell Us](#)", *Economic History of Developing Regions*, 26(2): 55-82.

Cati Cole. How Debt Became Care: Child Pawning and its Transformations in Akuapem, the Gold Coast, 1874-1929

Studies of slavery in Africa have noted the persistence of those relations in different forms, such as pawning, that allow social changes in power, status and wealth to be weathered more gradually. As pawning itself became less frequent, did other kinds of relationship take its place? Some scholars have argued that pawning was folded into marriage and fatherhood; others that there are continuities with fosterage and domestic servant arrangements today. This article examines the question of pawning's transformations in Akuapem, a region in south-eastern Ghana involved in forms of commercial agriculture that were heavily dependent on slave labour and the capital raised by pawning. Ultimately, it argues that debt became key to fatherhood and fosterage relations between children and adults, changing from a short-term exchange to more lifelong reciprocal relations of care.

Cati Cole, 2012. "[How Debt Became Care: Child Pawning and its Transformations in Akuapem, the Gold Coast, 1874-1929](#)", *The Journal of the International African Institute* 82(2): 287-311.

Jose de Sousa and Julie Lochard. Trade and Colonial Status

Does colonisation explain differences in trade performance across developing countries? In this paper, we analyse the differential impact of British versus French colonial legacies on the current trade of African ex-colonies. We initially find that former British colonies trade more, on average, than do their French counterparts. This difference might be the result of the relative superiority of British institutions. However, a core concern is the non-random selection of colonies by the British. Historians argue that with Britain, trade preceded colonisation. Using an instrument based on colonisation history to control for this endogeneity, we find no evidence of a systematic difference between the British and French colonial legacies with respect to trade. This finding suggests that the apparent better performance of British ex-colonies might be instead explained by pre-colonial conditions

Jose de Sousa and Julie Lochard, 2012. "[Trade and Colonial Status](#)", *Journal of African Economies*, 21(3): 409-439.

Emma Hunter. Our Common Humanity: Print, Power, and the colonial press in interwar Tanganyika and French Cameroun

If the concept of global civil society offers a way of thinking about the interwar period that does justice to the new linkages that were developing at the time, it also offers an opportunity to reflect on 'the varied, contingent meanings of the global – and the limits to such globalist visions', as this special issue makes clear. This article explores these themes in an African context in relation to two government periodicals, *Mambo Leo* and the *Gazette du Cameroun*, both of which first appeared in the early 1920s, and a settler-edited newspaper aimed at an African audience, *L'Éveil des Camerouniens*, published 1934–35. It argues that such official and semi-official publications serve to illustrate both the unexpected ways in which this period witnessed the birth of new forms of global connection and the limits of such connection.

Emma Hunter, 2012. "[Our Common Humanity: Print, Power, and the colonial press in interwar Tanganyika and French Cameroun](#)", *Journal of Global History* 7(2): 279-301.

Remi Jedwab and Denis Cogneau. Commodity Price Shocks and Child Outcomes: The 1990 Cocoa Crisis in Cote d'Ivoire

We look at the drastic cut of the administered cocoa producer price in 1990 Côte d'Ivoire and study to which extent cocoa producers' children suffered from this severe aggregate shock in terms of school enrolment, labour, height stature and morbidity. Using pre-crisis (1985-88) and post-crisis (1993) data, we propose a difference-in-difference strategy to identify the causal effect of the cocoa shock on child outcomes, whereby we compare children of cocoa-producing households and children of other farmers living in the same district or the same village. This causal effect is shown to be rather strong for the four child outcomes we examine. Hence human capital investments are definitely procyclical in this context. We also argue that the difference-in-difference variations can be interpreted as private income effects, likely to derive from tight liquidity constraints.

Denis Cogneau and Remi Jedwab, 2012. "[Commodity Price Shocks and Child Outcomes: The 1990 Cocoa Crisis in Cote d'Ivoire](#)", *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 60(3): 507-534

Priya Lal. Self-reliance and the State: The Multiple Meanings of Development in Early Development in Early Post-Colonial Tanzania

This article uses a key principle of the Tanzanian ujamaa project – self-reliance – as an analytical lever to open up the historical landscape of development politics in that national context during the 1960s and early 1970s. Throughout this period Tanzanians understood and experienced self-reliance in a variety of ways: as a mandated developmental strategy or a collective developmental aspiration, a condition of dignity or privation, a hallmark of national citizenship or a reflection of local survivalism, a matter of luxury or necessity. I trace these multiple meanings through three distinct but overlapping fields of inquiry: first, by cataloguing the plural ideological registers indexed by self-reliance within official development discourse vis-à-vis domestic and international politics; second, by illuminating a diverse range of rural elders' accounts of ujamaa villagization and self-reliance policy in the south-eastern region of Mtwara; and third, by examining the ambivalent position of self-reliance within public debates about

regional development in relation to the national scale. In doing so, I expose the dialectical friction between competing constructions of citizenship and development at the heart of ujamaa, and suggest new avenues forward for conceptualizing the afterlives of 'self-reliance' and the changing meaning of development in contemporary Tanzania and beyond.

Priya Lal, 2012. "[The Multiple Meanings of Development in Early Post-Colonial Tanzania](#)", *The Journal of the International African Institute* 82(2): 212-234.

Jennifer Lofkrantz and Olatunji Ojo. Slavery, Freedom, and Failed Ransom Negotiations in West Africa, 1730-1900

This article builds upon previous work on the impact of ransoming on processes of captivity, enslavement, and slavery in West Africa. Ransoming is defined as the release of a captive prior to enslavement in exchange for payment. It was a complicated process with no guarantee of success. This article examines the responses of families of captives to the failure of ransom negotiations. The ability to respond to failed ransom negotiations and the type of response chosen was dependent on the political climate and the resources available to those seeking the release of a captive.

Jennifer Lofkrantz and Olatunji Ojo, 2012. "[Slavery, Freedom, and Failed Ransom Negotiations in West Africa, 1730-1900](#)", *The Journal of African History* 53(1): 25-44.

Jan Luiten van Zanden. In Good Company: About Agency and Economic Development in Global Perspective

The paper discusses some evidence, based on a review of new literature on economic history, about what is coined the Sen-hypothesis, that increasing human agency (of both men and women) is a key factor in economic development. It briefly discusses various dimensions of agency (or its absence): slavery (as the absolute suppression of human agency), access to markets, agency concerning marriage, and political participation. This concept perhaps also

allows economic historians to move beyond the historical determinism that is central to much recent work in this field.

Jan Luiten van Zanden, 2012. "[In Good Company: About Agency and Economic Development in Global Perspective](#)", *Economic History of Developing Regions* 27(1)

Celestin Monga. Shifting Gears: Igniting Structural Transformation in Africa

Rarely has a country evolved from a low- to a high-income status without sustained structural transformation from agrarian or resource-based towards an industry- or services-based economy. Yet few African countries have been successful in this transformation. This raises many questions: Within agriculture, services or industry, how does the process of moving into higher quality goods and services happen? Within firms, why are some able to move into export markets and start producing new goods, while others languish? How do economies move up the value chain? What determines a country's ability to create jobs? What is the appropriate role for governments and markets in the growth dynamics? This paper summarises the intellectual progress achieved through several major waves of growth research and highlights the remaining challenges of understanding structural change. It then provides some empirical evidence of the limited structural transformation that has taken place in Africa since independence, and suggests a blueprint to help policymakers in Africa and elsewhere address them.

Celestin Monga, 2012. "[Shifting Gears: Igniting Structural Transformation in Africa](#)", *Journal of African Economies* 21(2): 19-54.

Linda A. Newson. Africans and Luso-Africans in the Portuguese Slave Trade on the Upper Guinea Coast in the Early Seventeenth Century

Using previously unknown account books, found in archives in Peru, of three New Christian Portuguese slave traders on the Upper Guinea Coast, this article examines the extent and nature of African and Luso-African involvement in the Atlantic trade during the early seventeenth century. Beads, textiles, and wine that figured most prominently among Portuguese imports

were traded predominantly by Luso-Africans. Meanwhile, slaves were delivered in small numbers by people from a diverse range of social backgrounds. This trade was not a simple exchange of imported goods for slaves, but was a complex one that built on pre-European patterns of exchange in locally-produced commodities.

Linda A. Newson, 2012. "[Africans and Luso-Africans in the Portuguese Slave Trade on the Upper Guinea Coast in the Early Seventeenth Century](#)", *Journal of African History* 53(1): 1-24.

Nathan Nunn. Culture and the Historical Process

This article discusses the importance of accounting for cultural values and beliefs when studying the process of historical economic development. A notion of culture as heuristics or rules-of-thumb that aid in decision making is described. Because cultural traits evolve based upon relative fitness, historical shocks can have persistent impacts if they alter the costs and benefits of different traits. A number of empirical studies confirm that culture is an important mechanism that helps explain why historical shocks can have persistent impacts; these are reviewed here. As an example, I discuss the colonial origins hypothesis (Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson, 2001), and show that our understanding of the transplantation of European legal and political institutions during the colonial period remains incomplete unless the values and beliefs brought by European settlers are taken into account. It is these cultural beliefs that formed the foundation of the initial institutions that in turn were key for long-term economic development.

Nathan Nunn, 2012. "[Culture and the Historical Process](#)", *Economic History of Developing Regions* 27(2)

Nathan Nunn and Diego Puga. Ruggedness: The Blessing of Bad Geography in Africa

There is controversy about whether geography matters mainly because of its contemporaneous impact on economic outcomes or because of its interaction with historical events. Looking at terrain ruggedness, we are able to estimate the importance of these two channels. Because rugged terrain hinders trade and most productive activities, it has a negative direct effect on income. However, in Africa rugged terrain afforded protection to those being raided during the slave trades. Since the slave trades retarded subsequent economic development, in Africa

ruggedness has also had a historical indirect positive effect on income. Studying all countries worldwide, we find that both effects are significant statistically and that for Africa the indirect positive effect dominates the direct negative effect. Looking within Africa, we also provide evidence that the indirect effect operates through the slave trades.

Nathan Nunn and Diego Puga, 2012. "[Ruggedness: The Blessing of Bad Geography in Africa](#)", *The Review of Economics and Statistics* 94(1): 20-36.

Timothy Parsons. Being Kikuyu in Meru: Challenging the Tribal Geography of Colonial Kenya

Faced with a confusing range of fluid ethnicities when they conquered Kenya, colonial officials sought to shift conquered populations into manageable administrative units. In linking physical space to ethnic identity, the Kenyan reserve system assumed that each of these 'tribes' had a specific homeland. Yet the reserves in the central Kenyan highlands soon became overcrowded and socially restive because they could not accommodate population growth and private claims to land for commercial agriculture. Although colonial officials proclaimed themselves the guardians of backward tribal peoples, they tried to address this problem by creating mechanisms whereby surplus populations would be 'adopted' into tribes living in less crowded reserves. This article provides new insights into the nature of identity in colonial Kenya by telling the stories of two types of Kikuyu migrants who settled in the Meru Reserve. The first much larger group did so legally by agreeing to become Meru. The second openly challenged the colonial state and their Meru hosts by defiantly proclaiming themselves to be Kikuyu. These diverse ways of being Kikuyu in the Meru Reserve fit neither strict primordial nor constructivist conceptions of African identity formation. The peoples of colonial Kenya had options in deciding how to identify themselves and could assume different political and social roles by invoking one or more of them at a time and in specific circumstances.

Timothy Parsons, 2012. "[Being Kikuyu in Meru: Challenging the Tribal Geography of Colonial Kenya](#)", *The Journal of African History* 53(1): 65-86.

Maren Radeny and Erwin Bulte. Determinants of Rural Income: The Role of Geography and Institutions in Kenya

We revisit the debate about the root causes of income divergence, and ask whether geographical variables or institutions are the main determinants of income. Complementing earlier cross-country work, we focus on the local level and seek to explain within-country income differences. Analysing Kenyan household data, we find that certain geographical variables appear to be more important drivers of per capita income levels than local institutions. Once we control for geography, our measures of community-level institutions do not seem to explain within-Kenya differences in income.

Maren Radeny and Erwin Bulte, 2012. "[Determinants of Rural Income: The Role of Geography and Institutions in Kenya](#)", *Journal of African Economies* 21(2): 307-341.

Working Papers

Emmanuel Akyeampong and Hippolyte Fofack. The Contribution of African Women to Economic Growth and Development: Historical Perspectives and Policy Implications

Bringing together history and economics, this paper presents a historical and processual understanding of women's economic marginalization in Sub-Saharan Africa from the pre-colonial period to the end of colonial rule. It is not that women have not been economically active or productive; it is rather that they have often not been able to claim the proceeds of their labor or have it formally accounted for. The paper focuses on the pre-colonial and colonial periods and outlines three major arguments. First, it discusses the historical processes through which the labor of women was increasingly appropriated even in kinship structures in pre-colonial Africa, utilizing the concepts of "rights in persons" and "wealth in people." Reviewing the processes of production and reproduction, it explains why most slaves in pre-colonial Africa were women and discusses how slavery and slave trade intensified the exploitation of women. Second, it analyzes how the cultivation of cash crops and European missionary constructions of the individual, marriage, and family from the early decades of the 19th century sequestered female labor and made it invisible in the realm of domestic production. Third, it discusses how colonial policies from the late 19th century reinforced the "capture" of female labor and the codification of patriarchy through the nature and operation of the colonial economy and the instrumentality of customary law. The sequel to this paper focuses on the post-colonial period. It examines the continuing relevance and impact of the historical processes this paper discusses on post-colonial economies, and suggests some policy implications.

Emmanuel Akyeampong and Hippolyte Fofack, 2012. "[The Contribution of African Women to Economic Growth and Development: Historical Perspectives and Policy Implications](#)", *Policy Research Working Paper No. 6051*

James Fenske and Namrata Kala. Climate, ecosystem resilience and the slave trade

African societies exported more slaves in colder years. Lower temperatures reduced mortality and raised agricultural yields, lowering the cost of supplying slaves. Our results help explain African participation in the slave trade, which is associated with adverse outcomes today. We merge annual data on African temperatures with a panel of port-level slave exports to show that a typical port exported fewer slaves in a year when the local temperature was warmer than normal. This result is strongest where African ecosystems are least resilient to climate change, and is robust to several alternative specifications and robustness checks. We support our interpretation using evidence from the histories of Whydah, Benguela, and Mozambique.

James Fenske and Namrata Kala, 2012. "[Climate, ecosystem resilience and the slave trade](#)", *Munich Personal RePEc Archive*, 1-21.

James Fenske. "Rubber will not keep in this country": Failed development in Benin, 1897-1921

Although Nigeria's Benin region was a major rubber producer in 1960, the industry developed slowly. The colonial government encouraged rubber production from 1897 until 1921, when it abandoned the industry. I explain why rubber did not take hold in this period. The government was unable to protect Benin's rubber forests from over-exploitation. Expatriate firms were reticent to invest in plantations, and private African plantations remained small to 1921. The colonial government promoted the development of "communal" plantations, but these suffered from labour scarcity, a weak state, limited information, and global competition.

James Fenske, 2012. "[Rubber will not keep in this country": Failed development in Benin, 1897-1921](#)", *Munich Personal RePEc Archive*, 1-42.

James Fenske. Trees, tenure and conflict: Rubber in colonial Benin

Tree crops have changed land tenure in Africa. Farmers have acquired more permanent, alienable rights, but have also faced disputes with competing claimants and the state. I show that the introduction of Para rubber had similar effects in the Benin region of colonial Nigeria.

Farmers initially obtained land by traditional methods. Mature farms were assets that could be sold, let out, and used to raise credit. Disputes over rubber involved smallholders, communities of rival users, would-be migrant farmers and commercial plantations.

James Fenske, 2012. "[Trees, tenure and conflict: Rubber in colonial Benin](#)", *Munich Personal RePEc Archive*, 1-47.

Johan Fourie, Robert Ross and Russel Viljoen. Literacy at South African Mission Stations

Accurate measures of education quality – primarily, years of schooling or literacy rates – are widely used to ascertain the contribution of human capital formation on long-run economic growth and development. This paper, using a census of 4500 missionary station residents in 1849 South Africa, documents, for the first time, literacy and numeracy rates of non-White citizens in nineteenth-century South Africa. The census allows for an investigation into the causes of literacy at missionary stations. We find age, residency, the missionary society operating the stations and numeracy, as a proxy for parental education, matter for literacy performance. The results provide new insights into the comparative performance of missionary societies in South Africa and contribute to the debate about the role of missionary societies in the economic development of colonial settings.

Johan Fourie, Robert Ross and Russel Viljoen, 2012. "[Literacy at South African Mission Stations](#)", *Working Papers 284, Economic Research South Africa*, 1-20.

Johan Fourie and Jan Luiten van Zanden. GDP in the Dutch Cape Colony: The national accounts of a slave-based society

New estimates of GDP of the Dutch Cape Colony (1652-1795) suggest that the Cape was one of the most prosperous regions during the eighteenth century. This stands in sharp contrast to the perceived view that the Cape was an “economic and social backwater”, a slave economy with slow growth and little progress. Following a national accounts framework, we find that Cape settlers’ per capita income is similar to the most prosperous countries of the time – Holland and England. We trace the roots of this result, showing that it is partly explained by a highly skewed

population structure and very low dependency ratio of slavery, and attempt to link the eighteenth century Cape Colony experience to twentieth century South African income levels.

Johan Fourie and Jan Luiten van Zanden, 2012. "[GDP in the Dutch Cape Colony: The national accounts of a slave-based society](#)", *Stellenbosch Economic Working Paper 04/12*, 1-31.

Johan Fourie and Stefan Schirmer. The Future of South African Economic History

This note reviews the state and future of South African economic history. We argue that although new techniques, archival sources, international interest and a greater propensity to collaborate within and across disciplines have stimulated new research over the last decade, overcoming our divided methodological and ideological past remains first priority if South African economic history is to make a contribution to future development theory and policy, in South Africa and across the developing world.

Johan Fourie and Stefan Schirmer, 2012. "[The Future of South African Economic History](#)", *Stellenbosch Economic Working Papers: 06/12*, 1-9

Elise Huillery, The Black Man's Burden: The Cost of Colonization of French West Africa

Was colonization costly for France? Did French taxpayers contribute a lot to colonies' development? This view has been widely accepted among French historians, though little empirical evidence has been provided. Using original data from the colonial budgets of French West Africa and the central budgets of France, this paper provides new insights into colonial public finances in this region. It reveals that the cost of colonization of French West Africa for French taxpayers was extremely low: French public aid to French West Africa accounted for 0.008 percent of annual total metropolitan expenses. Most of the expenses for French West Africa were for military conquest and central administration: including these costs raises the cost of French West Africa to 0.27 percent of total metropolitan expenses. This means that colonization was profitable for France as soon as its impact on domestic production exceeded

2,904 million 1914 Francs (total) over 1844-1957 (representing a 0.3 percentage points increase

of the average annual tax revenue). From the West African perspective, French taxpayers' contribution was almost negligible: public aid to French West Africa amounted to 0.4% of its revenue. However, metropolitan public investors provided 5.7% of French West Africa's revenue through loans and cash advances. On the contrary, colonization turned out to be a considerable burden for Africans since French government officials were paid by Africans taxpayers until 1956 and absorbed a disproportional share of the public expenditures.

Elise Huillery, "[The Black Man's Burden: The Cost of Colonization of French West Africa](#)"
Sciences Po, Department of Economics.

Remi Jedwab and Alexander Moradi. Transportation Infrastructure and Development in Ghana

We study the impact of transportation infrastructure on agriculture and development in colonial Ghana. Two railway lines were built between 1901 and 1923 to connect the coast to mining areas and the large hinterland city of Kumasi. This unintendedly opened vast expanses of tropical forest to cocoa cultivation, allowing Ghana to become the world's largest producer. This attracted migrants to producing areas and the economic surplus drove urbanization. Using data at a very fine spatial level, we find a strong effect of railroad connectivity on cocoa production due to reduced transportation costs. We then show that the economic boom in cocoa-producing areas was associated with demographic growth and urbanization. We find no spurious effect from lines that were not built yet, and lines that were planned but never built. We show that our results are robust to considering nearest neighbour estimators. Lastly, railway construction has durably transformed the economic geography of Ghana, as railway districts are more developed today, despite thirty years of marked decline in rail transportation.

Remi Jedwab and Alexander Moradi, 2011. "[Transportation Infrastructure and Development in Ghana](#)", *PSE Working Paper No. 2011-24*, 1-28.

Remi Jedwab and Alexander Moradi. Colonial Investments and African Development: Evidence from Ghanaian Railways

What is the impact of colonial public investments on long-term development? We investigate this by looking at the impact of railway construction on agricultural and economic development in Ghana. Two railway lines were built by the British to link the coast to mining areas and the hinterland capital of Kumasi. Using panel data at a fine spatial level (11x11 km grid cells) in 1901-1931, we find a strong effect of railway connectivity on the production of cocoa, the country's main export commodity, and development, which we proxy by population growth. The population effect is mostly explained by the growth of cocoa producing villages and the role of towns as trading stations for cocoa. We exploit various strategies to ensure that our effects are causal: we show that pre-railway transportation costs were prohibitively high, we provide evidence that line placement was exogenous, we find no effect for a set of placebo lines, and results are robust to instrumentation and nearest neighbor matching. Lastly, railway construction had a persistent impact: railway districts are more developed today despite a complete displacement of rail by other means of transport.

Remi Jedwab and Alexander Moradi, 2012. "[Colonial Investments and African Development: Evidence from Ghanaian Railways](#)", 1-36

Edward Kutsoati and Randall Morck. Family Ties, Inheritance Rights, and Successful Poverty Alleviation: Evidence from Ghana

Ghanaian custom views children as members of either their mother's or father's lineage (extended family), but not both. Patrilineal custom charges a man's lineage with caring for his widow and children, while matrilineal custom places this burden on the widows' lineage – her father, brothers, and uncles. Deeming custom inadequate, and to promote the nuclear family, Ghana enacted the Intestate Succession (PNDC) Law 111, 1985 and 1998 Children's Act 560 to force men to provide for their widows and children, as in Western cultures. Our survey shows that, although most people die intestate and many profess to know Law 111, it is rarely implemented. Knowledge of the law correlates with couples accumulating assets jointly and with inter-vivos husband to wife transfers, controlling for education. These effects are least

evident for widows of matrilineal lineage men, suggesting a persistence of traditional norms. Widows with closer ties with their own or their spouse's lineage report greater financial support, as do those very few who benefit from legal wills or access Law 111 and, importantly, widows of matrilineal lineage. Some evidence also supports Act 560 benefiting nuclear families, especially if the decedent's lineage is matrilineal. Overall, our study confirms African traditional institutions' persistent importance, and the limited effects of formal law.

Edward Kutsoati and Randall Morck, 2012. "[Family Ties, Inheritance Rights, and Successful Poverty Alleviation: Evidence from Ghana](#)", *NBER Working Paper No. 18080*, 1-50.

Jason Papaioannou and Jan Luiten van Zanden. The Dictator Effect: How Long Years in Office Affects Economic Development in Africa and the Near East

This paper contributes to the growing literature on the links between political regimes and economic development by studying the effects of years in office on economic development. The hypothesis is that dictators who stay in office for a long time period will become increasingly corrupt, and that their poor governance will impact on economic growth (which is reduced), inflation (which increases) and the quality of institutions (which deteriorates). This may be related to the fact that their time horizon is shrinking: they develop (in the terminology developed by Olson) from 'stationary bandits' into 'roving bandits'. Or they may get caught into a 'disinformation trap', caused by the 'dictator dilemma'. We test these hypotheses and indeed find strong evidence for the existence of a dictator effect: the length of the rule is negatively related to economic growth and the quality of democratic institutions, and positively related to inflation. This effect is particularly strong in young states and in 'single-party' regimes. The negative effect of years in office was almost constant in time and did not disappear after about 1992.

Jason Papaioannou and Jan Luiten van Zanden, 2012. "[The Dictator Effect: How Long Years in Office Affects Economic Development in Africa and the Near East](#)", *CEPR Working Paper*

Leandro Prados de la Escosura. Human development in Africa: a long-run perspective

Long-run trends in Africa's well-being are provided on the basis of a new index of human development, alternative to the UNDP's HDI. A sustained improvement in African human development is found that falls, nonetheless, short of those experienced in other developing regions. Within Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa has fallen steadily behind the North since mid-20th century. Human development improvement is positively associated to being coastal and resource-rich and negatively to political economy distortions. Contrary to the world experience, in which life expectancy dominated, education has driven progress in African human development during the last half-a-century and, due to the impact of HIV/AIDS on life expectancy and the arresting effect of economic mismanagement and political turmoil on growth, advances in human development since 1990 have depended almost exclusively on education achievements. The large country variance of the recovery during the last decade suggests being cautious about the future's prospects

Leandro Prados de la Escosura, 2011. "[Human development in Africa: a long-run perspective](#)", *Universidad Carlos III Working Papers in Economic History WP11-09*.

Bas Van Leeuwen, Jieli Van Leeuwen-Li and Peter Foldvari. Was Education a Driver of Economic Development in Africa? Inequality and Income in the Twentieth Century

In this paper, we tried to address the issue how education affect economic welfare. We find that in the long-run neither education nor physical capital affects per capita income growth. This seems to suggest that it were inspiration (i.e. TFP) rather than perspiration (i.e. education and physical capital) factors that drove economic development. However, TFP growth can be subdivided in the growth of general productivity (i.e. a productivity frontier that indicates the maximum possible productivity per capita), and technical efficiency (i.e. how efficient education and physical capital are [how far they are from the technical frontier]). We find that education does have a positive effect on technical efficiency (whereas physical capital has a negative effect) implying that education is necessary to adopt skill biased technology in the productive process. This leads to a small, but significant, effect of education on TFP growth. Yet, it remains clear that it is largely productivity growth, rather than anything else, that drives African economic growth. Combined with a decrease in technical efficiency (i.e. more countries stay further from the productivity frontier) this implies a strong increase in inequality in Africa. We

argue that there are basically three ways in which education may affect inequality. First, an increase in the level of education increases average income, which, ceterus paribus, reduces inequality. This has clearly been rejected since we hardly found any effect of education on per capita income. Second, a rise in education may reduce educational inequality. Since the private returns to education are positive, this suggests a reduction in income inequality. Thirdly, an increase in education may increase the supply of education and, as a consequence, lower the price of skilled labour, i.e. lowering income inequality. Testing the latter two effects, we found there was indeed a strong, non-linear, relationship between educational and income inequality. This implied that, reducing educational inequality in 2010 to zero, would have caused a decline in income inequality by no less than 81%.

Bas Van Leeuwen, Jieli Van Leeuwen-Li and Peter Foldvari, 2012. "[Was Education a Driver of Economic Development in Africa? Inequality and Income in the Twentieth Century](#)", Utrecht University, 1-25.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

“Frontiers of AEH” Workshop

September 11th – September 12th, Geneva

Program Overview

In 2012 the annual African Economic History Workshop will be hosted by the International History Department of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, with this year’s theme being “New Frontiers in Africa Economic History”. The organizer, Gareth Austin, will announce more details in the near future via his department’s website.

Additional Information

Website: <http://graduateinstitute.ch/international-history/home/conferences.html>

Email: gareth.austin@graduateinstitute.ch

Economic History Association 2012 Annual Meeting

Revisiting the Transportation Revolution

Sept 21-23, 2012 Vancouver BC

Program Overview

Generations of economic historians have written extensively about the economic impact of the transportation improvements. Nevertheless, new tools, new data, and new techniques derived from geographic information systems, economic geography, and the like continue to offer better measures of the impact of the improvements in roads, ships, railroads, and planes (and the infrastructure which support them). They also provide new insights into the short and long term effects of these changes and how they have shaped our world by diminishing the importance of space and place. Once upon a time, distance in the form of time and money protected producers and isolated communities and cultures. Improved communications and

transportation have eroded these—a process which continues to this day as these technologies evolve.

Additional Information

For further information, check <http://eh.net/eha/meetings/2012-meeting> or contact Meetings Coordinator Jari Eloranta at elorantaj@appstate.edu

Check out the EHA brochure [here](#)

ASAUK Biennial Conference 2012

The conference will run from 2pm on Thursday Sept 6th to 3pm on Saturday 8th September 2012 and is held in conjunction with Leeds University Centre for African Studies (LUCAS) at Leeds University.

A draft programme for the conference will be available on the 22nd of June 2012.

Selected Streams

Deborah Johnston (SOAS) and Morten Jerven (Simon Fraser University) on the database for African economic development.

Reassessing African macro-welfare statistics: national income estimates and beyond

Convenor: Morten Jerven, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada

Monitoring Human Capital Development in Africa: Population, Education, Health and Nutrition

Convenor: Morten Jerven, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada

Measuring Poverty in Africa: Improving poverty statistics and developing alternative methods

Convenor: Deborah Johnston, SOAS, London, UK

Labour market assessment in Africa - Better surveys and better questions

www.aehnetwork.org

Convenor: Deborah Johnston, SOAS, London, UK

Additional Information

For additional information please visit the website at

<http://www.asauk.net/conferences/asauk12.shtml>

55th Annual Meeting

Research Frontiers In The Study Of Africa

November 29th to December 1st, 2012

Program Overview

The ASA Annual Meeting is the largest gathering of Africanist scholars in the world. With an attendance of almost 2,000 scholars and professionals, the conference offers more than 200 panels and roundtables, scholarly and professional plenary and institutional events, awards and prizes, as well as discussion groups, an international exhibit hall, and an on-demand film to appreciate the teaching, research, and professional results of Africanist scholars and that of their colleagues. The Annual Meeting is held in cooperation with major colleges, universities and museums in different regions of North America and attracts participants from North and South America, Africa, Asia and Europe

Additional Information

For more information please visit the website at <http://africanstudies.org/>

If you have any question you can address them to asameeting2012@gmail.com

The 2012 preliminary program is available [here](#).

PEGNet Conference 2012

September 6-7, 2012

Dakar, Senegal

Program Overview

The Poverty Reduction, Equity, and Growth Network's (PEGNet) conference 2012 on "How to Make African Economic Lions: Tapping Africa's Growth and Poverty Reduction Potentials" will be held at Pullman Teranga Hotel Dakar, Senegal in cooperation with PEP - Partnership for Economic Policy hosted in Africa by the Consortium pour la Recherche Economique et Sociale (CRES).

The conference will provide a platform for high-level dialogue between development researchers, practitioners and policy-makers. The two conference days will feature parallel sessions based on invited and contributed papers as well as project presentations. These sessions will be complemented by a debate, a round-table discussion, and keynote speeches by renowned speakers from academia, economic policy and development practice. Confirmed speakers include Augustin K. Fosu (WIDER) for the main keynote, Hosaena Ghebru Hagos (IFPRI) for the young professional keynote and Mwangi S. Kimenyi (Brookings Institution) and Christian Wessels (Roland Berger Strategy Consultants) for the debate.

Program and Papers

The preliminary program can be found [here](#) (english) and [here](#) (french). There will be simultaneous translation English - French in all plenary sessions and selected parallel sessions.

Registration

The registration is now open. To register, please download the registration [document](#) and send it to pegnet@ifw-kiel.de

Registration deadline is on August 15. Local registration will take place on September 6 and 7 from 08:00-09:00. Conference badges and material will be provided at the registration.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND VACANCIES

AERC/Journal of African Economies

Visiting Scholars Programme

The AERC/Journal of African Economies Visiting Scholars Programme provides for short-term visiting fellowships to the Centre for the Study of African Economies at the University of Oxford. The programme will enable AERC network members to visit Oxford and distill a publishable journal article from their recent research.

It is intended that the fellowship will support independent research and study while in Oxford. Visiting fellows will interact with scholars and participate in the intellectual life of the Centre, the Department of Economics and St Antony's College. Fellows are expected to attend all CSAE seminars and to present at least one seminar on their own research while in Oxford.

Each visit would normally last for a period of two months, coinciding with one academic term at Oxford. **Closing date for applications: 31 July 2012.**

Additional Information:

For more information please visit <http://www.csae.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/JAE/> or email research@aercafrica.org

Leventis Fellowship

The Centre of African Studies of the University of London invites applications from Nigerian academics to take part in a scheme of collaborative research funded by the Leventis Foundation.

Sabbatical at the Centre of African Studies, University of London:

Applicants are invited to apply to spend three months as visitors of the Centre of African Studies in order to pursue their research in libraries and archives and to participate in the intellectual life of the Centre. The scheme might be particularly appropriate for scholars working up a PhD thesis into publishable form.

The Leventis Research Co-operation Programme is devised to assist younger scholars develop their research interests in collaboration with their counterparts in London. Applicants will be expected to submit a complete curriculum vitae and a statement of their current research interests (of not more than 1,000 words) specifying the aims to be achieved during the research period in London.

Applications are considered by a Steering Committee in London. Letters will be sent to the applicants informing them of the Committee's decision soon after the deadline of 31 May.

Deadline for Applications: 31 May 2013

Additional Information:

For more information on how to apply please visit

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/cas/sponsorship/leventis/>

SOAS Governance for Development in Africa Initiative PHD Scholarship

The Centre offers two PhD scholarships to African residents.

In order to apply for the PhD programme and the scholarship you would need to [download the SOAS PhD application form](#) Please state on the form that you wish to be considered for one of these scholarships and that admission tutors are kindly asked to liaise with the Centre of African Studies on this.

In addition to the application form, you would need to send a proposal of the intended research in 1000 words max. This should outline the research objectives, appropriate methods and research relevance. It should also make clear the relation between the proposed research and the core themes of governance and development in sub-Saharan Africa.

Deadline to apply: TBC

Additional Information

For further details please visit <http://www.soas.ac.uk/gdai/gdai-phd-scholarships.html>

Any questions can be addressed to Angelica Baschiera at ab17@soas.ac.uk

London School of Economics

Lectureships in Economic History (3-year fixed term)

The Department of Economic History hopes to appoint two Lecturers in Economic History from 1st September 2012. Following in a long, distinguished tradition of research and teaching, the Department of Economic History uses concepts and theories from the social sciences as a starting point for studying the development of real economies and understanding them in their social, political and cultural contexts. Teaching and research in the Department has a global emphasis, and the expertise of current faculty is diverse in subject matter, theoretical emphasis and methodology.

Applications are welcome from all fields of economic history in its broadest sense, but at least one of the lecturers will be expected to teach quantitative methods in economic history at both elementary and more advanced levels.

Applications must be received by 23:59 on the closing date of Thursday 5 July 2012.

Additional Information

Please see the instructions of how to apply, job description and person specification at www.lse.ac.uk/jobsatLSE