

AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY NEWSLETTER
ISSUE #23 JANUARY, 2016

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 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

VI Annual Meeting of the African Economic History Network
New Approaches to African Economic History: History, Methods and Interdisciplinarity
The University of Sussex, Brighton, UK
Friday 21 - Saturday 22 October 2016

How can different disciplines and methodological approaches contribute to understanding long-term African economic development? Traditionally, the historiography of Africa's social and economic past has been shaped and enriched by a cross-fertilization of disciplines. Due to the lack of written records and the paucity of reliable quantitative evidence for a considerable part of the continent's history, African economic historians engage in productive dialogue with historians, anthropologists, sociologists and economists. The conference will devote particular emphasis to papers and contributions that bring issues of methodology and interdisciplinarity to the fore.

Keynote speaker: Professor Paul Lovejoy (York University, Toronto, Canada).

Please see more details of the call for papers in the newsletter.

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.

New Books in African Economic History

We will from now on also start featuring recent books, monographs and edited volumes in African economic history. If you have a book that was published in 2015 or 2016 please let us know.

NEW ABSTRACTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Articles

Carol Summers. *Slander, Buzz and Spin: Telegrams, politics and global communications in the Uganda Protectorate, 1945-55*

Ugandans, from the earliest days of empire, did not simply receive information and messages from a distant Britain. Instead, with methods rooted in pre-colonial understandings of communications as establishing personal, affective, social closeness and reciprocities, they invested in education, travel and correspondence and built wide-ranging information and communications networks. Networked, they understood imperial institutions and pushed their own priorities via both official and unofficial channels. By the 1940s, political activists combined these information networks with the modern technologies of newspapers, telegrams and global press campaigns to destabilize colonial hierarchies. Generating slanderous allegations, repeating them to generate popular buzz, interpreting and constructing evidence through repetition and spin, Ugandan information activists shaped the politics of the 1940s and 1950s through lobbying. The formal, structural characteristics of Ugandans' late colonial information activism help explain the failures of Britain's post-World War II scientific, progressive, centrally planned initiatives for development and control.

Carol Summers, 2015. ["Slander, Buzz and Spin: Telegrams, politics and global communications in the Uganda Protectorate, 1945-55"](#), *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, 16(3).

Working Papers

Ewout Frankema, Jeffrey Williamson and Pieter Woltjer. *An Economic Rationale for the African Scramble: The Commercial Transition and the Commodity Price Boom of 1845-1885*

This is the first study to present a unified quantitative account of African commodity trade in the long 19th century from the zenith of the Atlantic slave trade (1790s) to the eve of World War II (1939). Drawing evidence from a new dataset on export and import prices, volumes, composition and net barter terms of trade for five African regions, we show that Sub-Saharan Africa experienced a terms of trade boom that was comparable to other parts of the 'global periphery' from the late 18th century up to the mid-1880s, with an exceptionally sharp price boom in the four decades before the Berlin conference (1845-1885). We argue that this commodity price boom changed the economic context in favor of a European scramble for Africa. We also show that the accelerated export growth after the establishment of colonial rule deepened Africa's specialization in primary commodities, even though the terms of trade turned into a prolonged decline after 1885.

Ewout Frankema, Jeffrey Williamson & Pieter Woltjer, 2015. ["An Economic Rationale for the African Scramble: The Commercial Transition and the Commodity Price Boom of 1845-1885."](#) NBER Working Paper No. 21213.

Chris van Wyk. *An overview of Education data in South Africa: an inventory approach*

This paper provides an overview of the various datasets pertaining to education in South Africa that are informing or could inform policy making in education. The paper serves as an inventory for anyone interested in understanding what data is available, how it may be accessed, what the quality of the data is and in what formats it may be accessed. The paper is divided into three parts. The first part provides a description of existing education datasets and the basic data elements contained in each of these datasets. When discussing each of the existing education datasets, the paper addresses the quality of the education data available in South Africa. The first part also refers to the policy implications and the important role that data plays in policy-formulation. No information system on its own is comprehensive enough to provide all the information needed in strategic decision-making. Hence, part two of this paper discusses the need for data integration as an important data management strategy. The third part examines the effectiveness of implementing a learner unit record system nationally in comparison with the EMIS system that is currently in place and that is based on aggregate or summary institution-level data.

Chris van Wyk, 2015. ["An overview of Education data in South Africa: an inventory approach."](#) Stellenbosch Working Paper Series No. WP19/2015.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

ERSA Research Workshop

What church records can tell us about economic development
22-23 January 2016, Capetown

What church records can tell us about economic development Because colonial sources often lack adequate information about the lived experience of Africans, quantitative economic historians that are interested in the African experience are forced to find creative ways to identify the effects of colonial policies. Church records at the individual level provide one such recourse. We have invited Dr. Felix Meier zu Selhausen from the University of Southern Denmark to share his experiences of collecting, digitising and transcribing Anglican parish records in eight African countries, and the remarkable results he has obtained from these records. The workshop will focus on similar work for South Africa and data sources that are still to be utilised in the region. This will require the interdisciplinary input of historians, theologians and church ministers, and we invite them to apply for the workshop. We also invite those development economists interested in the fields of gender and demography, as these records include information that could be applicable to them.

For further information, please contact workshops@econrsa.org

Call for Papers Women Researching in Africa

Expressions of interest are being requested for an edited book that will contribute to research methods as well as African studies. The focus is on being a woman researcher in Africa, the opportunities and challenges, a gendered study on researching Africa. Prospective contributors are invited to submit an abstract proposal by 31 January 2016 to Max Kelly at max.kelly@deakin.edu.au or Ruth Jackson r.jackson@deakin.edu.au.

For more information and full call for paper click [here](#).

VI Annual Meeting of the African Economic History Network New Approaches to African Economic History: History, Methods and Interdisciplinarity The University of Sussex, Brighton, UK Friday 21 - Saturday 22 October 2016

How can different disciplines and methodological approaches contribute to understanding long-term African economic development? Traditionally, the historiography of Africa's social and economic past has been shaped and enriched by a cross-fertilization of disciplines. Due to the lack of written records and the paucity of reliable quantitative evidence for a considerable part of the continent's history, African economic historians engage in productive dialogue with historians, anthropologists, sociologists and economists. The conference will devote particular emphasis to papers and contributions that bring issues of methodology and interdisciplinarity to the fore.

Keynote speaker: Professor Paul Lovejoy (York University, Toronto, Canada).

Call for papers

The organising committee of the VI Annual Meeting of the African Economic History Network ([AEHN](#)) launches a call for papers presenting frontier research in the field of African Economic History, with particular attention to innovative methods for evaluating Africa's social and economic development in historical and comparative perspectives, both at the micro and macro level. The committee also specifically encourages scholars from Africa to present their work.

The committee solicits both individual papers and proposals for sessions consisting of 3-4 papers. Session organisers and prospective chairs should send session titles along with the names and contact details of presenters, and titles and abstracts for each of the proposed papers.

Presenters should submit paper title and an abstract of no less than 500 words, or full papers.

Paper and panel proposals are to be submitted to: aehn2016@sussex.ac.uk

Deadline for submissions: 15 May 2016

Decisions on submissions can be expected at the end of May 2016.

Local organising committee:
[Alexander Moradi](#), [Felix Meier zu Selhausen](#), [Gerardo Serra](#)

Enquiries should be addressed to: aehn2016@sussex.ac.uk

OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

DST-NRF Fellowships for Early Career Researchers from the UK

Funding is available for Early Career Researchers from the UK to pursue academic research at South African universities or eligible research institutes. The deadline for applications is the 11th of January 2016 and details about the schemes and how to apply can be found [here](#).

Visiting Research Fellowship

The Centre of African Studies Cambridge University

The Centre of African Studies Cambridge invites applications for two Visiting Research Fellowships from candidates in all the disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. The aim of the Fellowships is to enable the fellows to focus on a period of research and writing in Cambridge.

Preference will be given to early- to mid-career candidates with a distinguished research profile. They are expected to be permanent residents in Africa. The appointments will take place from 1 October 2016 – 31 March 2017 and are non-renewable. Each award is worth up to £14,000; out of which travel, college accommodation, maintenance costs and medical insurance will be paid by the Centre on behalf of the fellow.

The closing date for applications is 15 January 2016

Download the application package [here](#).

For more info check the CASC website: www.african.cam.ac.uk or contact the Centre by emailing: centre@african.cam.ac.uk

College of Charleston, French/African-American

Professor or Associate Professor of French & West African Francophone Studies and Director of the African-American Studies Program

The College of Charleston invites applications for a senior faculty position in French and West African Francophone Studies tenurable at the rank of Professor or Associate Professor in the French, Francophone, and Italian Studies Department beginning August 2016. In addition, the successful candidate will be appointed as Director of our African-American Studies Program. The Director will manage the African-American Studies faculty, curriculum, and operational/programming budget; give visionary leadership to the Program; work closely with students, department chairs, other program directors, the Dean of the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs and other College of Charleston administrators. The Director appointment comes with a standard director's stipend and course release and is a year-round appointment, with the intent that the initial appointment be for three years with the possibility of renewal.

Qualifications:

Candidates should have an earned doctorate in the discipline or a closely related field. Additionally, successful candidates should have a proven academic and professional record commensurate with a tenured appointment at the Professor or Associate Professor rank. Professional competency in both French and English is expected. Applicants must have graduate training in French with a specialization in the area of West African Francophone Studies. Teaching experience is required in both the area of specialization and in lower-level French language classes. The successful candidate will teach introductory French language courses to majors and non-majors, upper level French courses in the area of specialization, and courses in West African Studies (in English) in interdisciplinary programs. We are open to a variety of theoretical and disciplinary approaches to the area of specialization. A comparative approach to Francophone Studies (West Africa and the French-speaking Caribbean) is desired. Candidates must have a commitment to teaching and advising in the liberal arts tradition at the undergraduate level and be engaged in a strong research program.

Application Details:

Applicants should apply online at MLA Interfolio ByCommittee. No paper or email materials will be accepted. A cover letter, curriculum vitae, three professional reference letters, a statement of teaching philosophy, and one representative publication must be submitted. The cover letter should include the candidate's experience, ability to design and assess learning outcomes, and research goals. Professional references indicated may be contacted by the College of Charleston via email or telephone for further information. Questions regarding the position can be directed to Dr. Robyn Holman, search committee chair, at holmanr@cofc.edu. Applications received by January 15, 2016 will be given fullest consideration.

Deadline to apply: January 15, 2016

Additional

Information: Please contact Dr. Robyn Holman, Search Committee Chair at holmanr@cofc.edu

University of Toronto -- Scarborough, Historical and Cultural Studies African History and the History of Development

The Department of Historical and Cultural Studies and the Centre for Critical Development Studies at the University of Toronto Scarborough invites applications for a two-year contractually limited term appointment in the area of African History and the History of Development (51% Historical and Cultural Studies / 49% Centre for Critical Development Studies). The appointment will be at the rank of Assistant Professor and will commence July 1, 2016 and end on June 30, 2018.

Applicants must have a Ph.D. (or equivalent) in History, African Studies, and/or Development Studies at the time of appointment or shortly thereafter. Specific fields of specialization might include the history of capitalist expansion in Africa, colonialism and development in Africa, rural or urban development, and/or gender, labour and development in Africa. The Department and the Centre are both committed to collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches to teaching and research.

Preference will be given to candidates with a demonstrated record of excellence in teaching and research, including practical experience with innovative research methods. Evidence of research excellence will be shown through research of an internationally competitive calibre, demonstrated by publications in leading journals in the relevant field, presentations at significant conferences, awards, and strong endorsements from referees. Evidence of excellence in teaching will be demonstrated by letters of reference, teaching evaluations, and the teaching dossier/syllabi submitted as part of this application. We also seek someone who will be able to communicate effectively as an undergraduate teacher and be willing to contribute to the intellectual life of the Department of Historical and Cultural Studies and the Centre for Critical Development Studies. The successful applicant will also contribute

to the African Studies minor program, which is based in the Department of Historical and Cultural Studies.

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

All qualified candidates are invited to apply at <http://uoft.me/academicopportunities> (Job#1501643). Applications should include a cover letter, a complete and current curriculum vitae, a writing sample, teaching dossier (including a statement of teaching philosophy and sample syllabi relevant to the position), a statement outlining current and future research interests. Applicants should also ask three referees to email letters directly to the Department at AfricaHisSearch@utsc.utoronto.ca. If you have questions about this position, please contact Prof. Donna Gabaccia, Interim Chair, Department of Historical and Cultural Studies (hcs-chair@utsc.utoronto.ca) or Prof. Paul Kingston, Director, Centre for Critical Development Studies (ccds-director@utsc.utoronto.ca). All application materials should be submitted online.

The UofT application system can accommodate up to 15 attachments per candidate profile (8.3MB file size limit per attachment); please combine attachments into one or two files in PDF/MS Word format. Submission guidelines can be found at: <http://uoft.me/how-to-apply>.

Deadline to apply: 1 February 2016

Additional Information: Prof. Donna Gabaccia, Interim Chair, Department of Historical and Cultural Studies (hcs-chair@utsc.utoronto.ca) or Prof. Paul Kingston, Director, Centre for Critical Development Studies (ccds-director@utsc.utoronto.ca). All application materials should be submitted online.

Princeton University, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies Postdoctoral Research Associate, African Humanities

The Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS), the Department of African American Studies (DAAS), and the Department of English at Princeton University invite applications for a postdoctoral research associate position (1 to 3 years beyond the Ph.D.) or an associate research scholar position (4 to 5 years beyond the Ph.D.) for the 2016–17 year (beginning September 1, 2016) from scholars working in any field of the humanities dealing with Africa or the African diaspora. Consideration will be given to candidates working in all disciplines in the humanities broadly defined, including anthropology, art and archeology, comparative literature, English, film and video history, literatures in other languages, music, philosophy, religion, and women and gender studies. Initial appointment is for one year with possibility of renewal for a second year pending satisfactory performance and continued funding. The successful candidate will be involved in the organization and activities of the African Humanities Colloquium and may be able to teach one course each year with the approval of the Dean of the Faculty.

Eligible candidates must have completed the Ph.D. by the start of the appointment.

The salary for the position will depend on the number of years beyond the Ph.D., not to exceed five. The research associate or associate research scholar will also receive a modest research and travel fund and will be eligible for benefits.

To apply, please link to <https://jobs.princeton.edu>, position requisition number 1501047. Applications should include:

- (1) cover letter with title and summary (200 words) of proposed research project;
- (2) research proposal (five pages; 2,000 words), including detailed description of project, timetable, and explicit goals;
- (3) selected bibliography;

- (4) curriculum vitae and list of publications;
- (5) sample chapter of the dissertation or other recent work;
- (6) a suggested syllabus for a course; and
- (7) names and contact information for three references from individuals who are not current members of the Princeton University faculty.

Application Deadline: February 29, 2016, 11:59 EST. Awards will be announced by March 31, 2016. This position is subject to the University's background check policy.

Deadline to apply: February 29, 2016

Additional

Information: Questions about the application process for this position may be directed to Beate Witzler at bwitzler@princeton.edu

**Howard University, African Studies
Chair, Department of African Studies
Washington, DC**

The Department of African Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences invites nominations and applications for Department Chair. Howard University, classified as a doctoral/research institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, is a comprehensive research university and a Historically Black College/University (HBCU). It is a residential campus of more than 10,000 students located in the heart of the nation's capital, Washington, DC.

The Department of African Studies consists of 11 faculty members and 1 staff member. It offers the BA, MA, and PhD in African Studies. It has field specializations at the M.A. and PhD level in Public Policy and Development, Africa in World Affairs and Language, Culture and Development. Faculty members are very active in the profession and conduct research in various areas of African Studies. Collegiality is a strength of the department. The Department is also home to the Center for African Studies, a National Resource Center established with Title VI funding from the U.S. Department of Education.

Position Description: The position is at the rank of Associate or Full Professor and reports to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences with responsibilities also to the Dean of the Graduate School. The Chair serves on the Dean's Advisory Council with responsibility for the administration of the Department and support for the College. The position is a 12-month, appointment beginning July 1, 2016, with a competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Like other faculty members, the Chair is expected to be a teacher/scholar engaged in productive scholarship, committed to excellence in teaching and learning, committed to professional service, and to have experience with, or interest in, working in diverse academic and professional communities with a special emphasis on the African American community. The ability to contribute to a positive work environment in the department, college, and University is also expected as well as a strong orientation to recruiting, advising, retaining, and mentoring qualified students.

Required Qualifications:

- Earned doctorate in social sciences or humanities from an accredited institution;
- Record of scholarship, teaching, and professional service commensurate with the rank of Professor or Associate Professor capable of advancing to Professor with 2 years
- Collaborative leadership style with an appreciation for the principles of shared governance;
- Evidence of successful interaction with the community outside the University;

- Effective communication and organizational skills; and
- Evidence of successful grant writing experience.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Evidence of successful academic administrative ability and effectiveness;
- Experience in the development and management of academic programs; and
- Experience with online delivery of academic courses and programs;
- Potential to lead the Department's efforts to maintain the funding and expand the activities and reach of the Title VI NRC Center for African Studies.

Screening of applications begins December 15, 2015, and continues until the position is filled.

The position starting date is July 1, 2016.

Howard University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access/Affirmative Action employer fully committed to achieving a diverse workforce. All individuals, including minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and protected veterans are encouraged to apply.

A complete application consists of a letter addressing the qualifications cited above; curriculum vitae; and the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of at least three professional references. Other documentation may be requested.

Only complete applications submitted electronically will be considered.

Applications and nominations should be sent by email to: Professor Robert Edgar at <mailto:redgar@howard.edu> and AFSTCHAIRSEARCH@HOWARD.EDU

Deadline to apply: February 29, 2016

Additional

Information: Please contact Robert Edgar, Chair, Search

Committee: <mailto:redgar@howard.edu> and AFSTCHAIRSEARCH@HOWARD.EDU

Visiting Research Fellowship: Nigerian Academics

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.

The Leventis Research Co-operation Programme is devised to assist younger scholars develop their research interests in collaboration with their counterparts in 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.

Deadline to apply: 31 March 2016

Additional Information: please contact cas@soas.ac.uk.

Mo Ibrahim MSc and PhD Scholarship

The Centre of African Studies offers 3 MSc and 1 PhD scholarship to African residents as part of the Governance for Development in Africa Initiative funded by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.

Find more information on how to apply to the MSc scholarships [here](#).
Find more information on how to apply to the PhD scholarship [here](#).

Deadline to apply: 30 April 2016

Additional Information: please contact cas@soas.ac.uk.

