

AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY NEWSLETTER ISSUE #29 JANUARY, 2017

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

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.

Interview with Paul Lovejoy

We also encourage you to read the interview with Paul Lovejoy in our blog: <https://www.aehnetwork.org/interview-paul-lovejoy/>

We invite members to get in touch if they wish to contribute to our blog.



NEW ABSTRACTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Articles

Jens Andersson. Long-term dynamics of the state in francophone West Africa: Fiscal capacity pathways 1850-2010

This study identifies and analyses common and country-specific patterns in the evolution of the state in francophone West Africa through a detailed comparison of long-term fiscal capacity between Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Senegal. The study finds common patterns of long-term growth in fiscal capacity in the four countries since the early colonial period, which is indicative of a process of long-term economic development. It also finds significant differences in the historical fiscal pathways between the individual countries in spite of geographic proximity and common colonial heritage, which can be explained by country specific variation in economic and political context and in particular the prospects of key export commodities. These differences provide reasons to be cautious about generalizations about the history of the 'African state' and its capacity.

Jens Andersson, 2016. [“Long-term dynamics of the state in francophone West Africa: Fiscal capacity pathways 1850-2010”](#), *Economic History of Developing Regions*: 1-34.

Jutta Bolt and Ellen Hillbom. Long-term trends in economic inequality: lessons from colonial Botswana, 1921-74

This article contributes to the growing literature on colonial legacies influencing long-term development. It focuses on Botswana, a case where the post-independence diamond-led economy has been considered an economic success story, despite its high levels of inequality. Here it is argued that this pathway of rapid resource-driven growth combined with increasing socio-economic inequality had already started during the time of the colonial cattle economy, and that this older case is equally relevant for understanding long-term growth-inequality trends in Botswana and other natural-resource-dependent economies. Six social tables, covering the period 1921 to 1974, are constructed using colonial archives, government statistics, and anthropological records. Based on the social tables, income inequality is estimated in the colonial and early post-independence eras, capturing both the formal and informal sectors of the economy. The article demonstrates how the creation of a cattle export sector in the 1930s brought new opportunities to access export incomes, and how this led to a polarization in cattle holdings and increasing income inequalities. Further, with the expansion of colonial administration, government wages forged ahead, increasing income inequality and causing a growing income divide between public and private formal employment.

Jutta Bolt and Ellen Hillbom, 2016. [“Long-term trends in economic inequality: lessons from colonial Botswana, 1921-74”](#), *The Economic History Review*, 69(4): 1255-1284.

John A. E. Harris. Circuits of wealth, circus of sorrow: financing the illegal transatlantic slave trade in the age of suppression, 1850-66

Slave traders forced more than 1.65 million captive Africans aboard illegal transatlantic slave ships during the nineteenth century. This article focuses on the final phase of this brutal traffic, between 1850 and 1866. It argues that slave traders sustained their illicit industry, in large part, by strategically coordinating their financial arrangements against a rising tide of international suppression. One key tactic was for slave trade investors in the United States, Cuba, Africa, and Iberia to lower the risks of interdiction by joining forces and co-financing voyages. Another was to combine with an international cast of merchants and bankers, who helped them launder slave trade capital and transmit it to their distant allies. This capital was concealed within broader currents of global commerce, which was, in turn, spurred by the growth of free trade in the nineteenth century. These myriad alliances and capital flows undergirded the trade until its final extinction in the 1860s.

John A. E. Harris, 2016. [“Circuits of wealth, circus of sorrow: financing the illegal transatlantic slave trade in the age of suppression, 1850-66”](#), *Journal of Global History*, 11(3): 409-429.

Nonso Obikili. The trans-Atlantic slave trade and local political fragmentation in Africa

This article examines the possibility that the trans-Atlantic slave trade influenced the political institutions of villages and towns in precolonial Africa. Using anthropological data, it shows that villages and towns of ethnic groups with higher slave exports were more politically fragmented during the precolonial era. Instrumental variables are used to show that the relationship is causal. It is argued that this fragmentation is important for relative economic development because it still influences political institutions today. This argument is supported by the use of more contemporary data to show that in contemporary Nigeria and Tanzania, areas with higher levels of precolonial political fragmentation have a higher incidence of bribery.

Nonso Obikili, 2016. [“The trans-Atlantic slave trade and local political fragmentation in Africa”](#), *The Economic History Review*, 69(4): 1157-1177.

Working Papers

Gareth Austin, Ewout Frankema and Morten Jerven. Patterns of Manufacturing Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa: From Colonization to the Present

This paper reviews the 'long twentieth-century' development of 'modern' manufacturing in Sub-Saharan Africa from colonization to the present. We argue that classifying Africa generically as a 'late industrializer' is inaccurate. To understand the distinctively African

pattern of manufacturing growth, we focus our discussion on the dynamic interplay between the region's specific endowment structures, global economic relationships and government policies. We conclude that the case of Sub-Saharan Africa is best characterized as interrupted industrial growth instead of sustained convergence on world industrial leaders. This is partly because, until very recently, the factor endowments made it very costly for states to pursue industrialization; and partly because successive rulers, colonial and post-colonial, have rarely had both the capacity to adopt and the dedication to sustain policies that modified the region's existing comparative advantage in primary production, by using their fiscal and regulatory powers effectively to promote industrialization.

Gareth Austin, Ewout Frankema and Morten Jerven. [“Patterns of Manufacturing Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa: From Colonization to the Present”](#), *Centre for Economic Policy Research Discussion Paper 11609*.

Braziella Bertocchi. The Legacies of Slavery in and out of Africa

The slave trades out of Africa represent one of the most significant forced migration experiences in history. In this paper I illustrate their long-term consequences on contemporaneous socio-economic outcomes, drawing from my own previous work on the topic and from an extensive review of the available literature. I first consider the influence of the slave trade on the "sending" countries in Africa, with attention to their economic, institutional, demographic, and social implications. Next I evaluate the consequences of the slave trade on the "receiving" countries in the Americas. Here I distinguish between the case of Latin America and that of the United States. Overall, I show that the slave trades exert a lasting impact along several contemporaneous socio-economic dimensions and across diverse areas of the world.

Braziella Bertocchi, 2016. [“The Legacies of Slavery in and out of Africa”](#), *Centre for Economic Policy Research Discussion Paper 11620*.

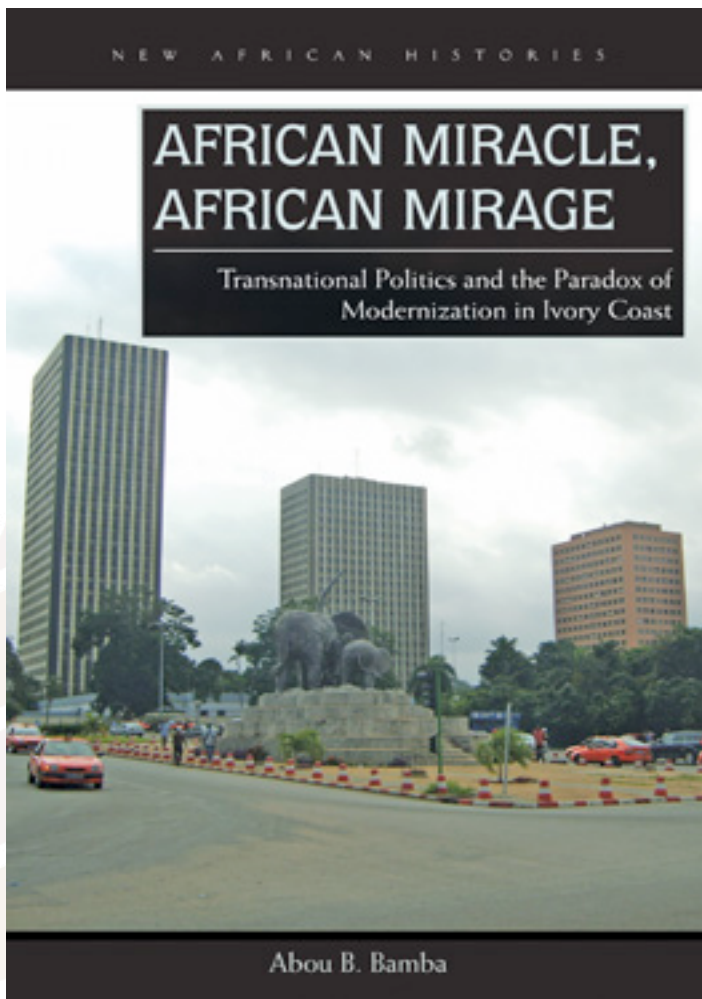
Stelios Michalopoulos, Louis Putterman and David Weil. The Influence of Ancestral Lifeways on Individual Economic Outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa

Does a person's historical lineage influence his or her current economic status? Motivated by a large literature in social sciences stressing the effect of an early transition to agriculture on current economic performance at the level of countries, we examine the relative contemporary status of individuals as a function of how much their ancestors relied on agriculture during the pre-industrial era. We focus on Africa, where by combining anthropological records of groups with individual-level survey data we can explore the effect of the historical lifeways of one's forefathers. Within enumeration areas and occupational groups, we find that individuals from ethnicities that derived a larger share of subsistence from agriculture in the pre-colonial era are today more educated and wealthy. A tentative exploration of channels suggests that differences in attitudes and beliefs as well as differential treatment by others, including differential political power, may contribute to these divergent outcomes.

Stelios Michalopoulos, Louis Putterman and David Weil, 2016. [“The Influence of Ancestral Lifeways on Individual Economic Outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa”](#), *Centre for Economic Policy Research Discussion Paper* 11366.

New Book

Abou B. Bamba. [*African Miracle, African Mirage: Transnational Politics and the Paradox of Modernization in Ivory Coast*](#). **Ohio University Press: OH.**



Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Ivory Coast was touted as an African miracle, a poster child for modernization and the ways that Western aid and multinational corporations would develop the continent. At the same time, Marxist scholars—most notably Samir Amin—described the capitalist activity in Ivory Coast as empty, unsustainable, and incapable of bringing real change to the lives of ordinary people. To some extent, Amin’s criticisms were validated when, in the 1980s, the Ivorian economy collapsed.

In *African Miracle, African Mirage*, Abou B. Bamba incorporates economics, political science, and history to craft a bold, transnational study of the development practices and intersecting colonial cultures that continue to shape Ivory Coast today. He considers French, American, and Ivorian development discourses in examining the roles of hydroelectric projects and the sugar, coffee, and cocoa industries in the country’s boom and bust. In so doing, he brings the agency of Ivorians themselves

to the fore in a way not often seen in histories of development. Ultimately, he concludes that the “maldevelopment” evident by the mid-1970s had less to do with the Ivory Coast’s “insufficiently modern” citizens than with the conflicting missions of French and American interests within the context of an ever-globalizing world.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Call for Papers: DIAL Conference on Development Economics

Paris, France

June 29-30, 2017

Deadline: January 31, 2017

The Université Paris-Dauphine (UPD) and the French Institute of Research for Development (IRD) are organizing their fourth joint international conference on international and development economics. The conference will be held in Paris, and will provide a forum to discuss innovative theoretical and empirical research in international and development economics. Interested researchers are invited to send a paper dealing with these topics.

Keynote speakers:

Guillaume Daudin, Université Paris-Dauphine

Eliana La Ferrara, Bocconi University

Rohini Somanathan, Delhi School of Economics

Preliminary versions of papers can be submitted, but abstracts alone will not be accepted. Please submit your proposals including keywords and a 150 word abstract in PDF form by January 31st 2017 via the conference web site.

The results of the selection process will be announced by April 2nd, 2017.

For more information please see <http://colloque-dial.dauphine.fr/en.html>

Call for Papers

European Historical Economics Society (EHES) Congress

Tübingen/Germany

1-2 September, 2017

Deadline: Midnight (GMT), Monday February 20th, 2017

The Twelfth European Historical Economics Society Conference will be held at the University of Tübingen, Friday-Saturday, September 1st/2nd, 2017.

The Conference Programme Committee invites proposals for individual papers on any aspect of European or global economic history covering a wide range of periods, countries and regions.

The Society encourages submissions from young scholars. There will be at least 15 bursaries of € 300-400 each to help PhD students cover the costs of travel and accommodation. Further details are soon available on the EHES website.

Program Committee
Jörg Baten (University of Tübingen)
Kerstin Enflo (Lund University)
Pierre-Cyrille Hautcoeur (Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales /Paris School of Economics)
Sibylle Lehmann-Hasemeyer (Hohenheim University)

Requirements:

For each proposed paper, an abstract not exceeding 500 words together with the institutional affiliation, the Email addresses of the authors and keywords about the period, country/region and topic should be uploaded by February 20th, 2017 via the Society's website (<http://ehes.org/ehes2017/ehes2017.html>).

Additional Information:

All submissions will be acknowledged. Notices of acceptance will be sent to corresponding authors by 10 April, 2017.

Sibylle Lehmann-Hasemeyer and Jörg Baten (and their teams) will participate in the local organization, Kerstin Enflo cooperates in her function as Secretary General of the EHES.

Questions may be addressed to: wisoge@uni-tuebingen.de with the subject line "EHES2017"

Call for Abstracts

Urbanisation and Africa's "Agrarian Question": Rural-Agricultural Development in the Twentieth Century
Bsel University
29 June – 1 July 2017

Sarah Kunkel and Julia Tischler (University of Basel) is organizing a session at the 9th European Conference of African Studies (29 June – 1 July, Basel University) on long-term trends of agricultural development in Africa. The abstract is available on the website (see link below). Please, contact Sarah Kunkel if you are interested in giving a paper, or spread this to others in your networks that may be interested. Her email address is s.f.kunkel@googlemail.com.

Papers can be proposed here:

<http://www.nomadit.co.uk/ecas/ecas2017/panels.php5?PanelID=4882>

OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Associate Professor, Economic History **Department of Economics, University of Oxford**

Associate Professorship of Economic History 2016 Department of Economics, Manor Road Building, Oxford – St Antony's College Grade 10a (36S): From £45,562 p.a. plus college housing allowance of £2,414.47 p.a.

The University of Oxford is seeking to appoint a full-time Associate Professor of Economic History within the Department of Economics for the academic year 2017/18. The University uses the grade of Associate Professor for most of its senior academic appointments. This grade is roughly equivalent to Associate Professor in the USA. Associate Professors are eligible for consideration through regular recognition of distinction exercises for award of the title of full professor.

The Associate Professor will be a member of both the University and the College community. She or he will be part of a lively and intellectually stimulating research community which performs to the highest international levels in research and publications and will have access to the excellent research facilities which Oxford offers. She or he will have a role to play in the running of the College as a member of the Governing Body and a trustee of the College.

The post is associated with a non-tutorial fellowship at St Antony's college. St Antony's College is a graduate college which focusses on research and post graduate teaching in global and regional issues. It provides an informal and multicultural environment for the interdisciplinary study of the modern history, politics, international relations, economics, sociology and culture of the regions of the world.

Duties will include undertaking independent research of a quality commensurate with publication in top ranked international journals with a focus on economic history, the securing and management of funding to support the Department's research activities, together with teaching and supervision responsibilities for the Department of Economics. Additionally, the role holder will take part in Department events and seminars as well as examining when required.

Applications are invited from candidates with a completed doctorate in economic history or a relevant field of economics, postdoctoral experience in an academic position and continuing interest and research in the field of economic history or related specialisation, a proven high standard of research with a record of peer-reviewed publication with ability to publish in top rated journals. Candidates must have a proven high standard of teaching with ability to provide tutorials and supervision to high achieving students, carry out student assessments and design and deliver degree programmes.

Additionally, candidates must be able to demonstrate that they possess the communication, interpersonal, time management and organizational skills necessary to undertake pastoral responsibilities. Candidates must have the ability to present research findings effectively to

fellow professionals or other informed members of the public. It is also essential that candidates have good team-working skills with a willingness to participate in and assist in college life and government as well as in the administration of the Department.

The appointment is for 5 years in the first instance, with reappointment to retirement upon completion of a successful review.

Candidates must submit applications online via:

<https://eh.net/?nltr=OTcyOzMzMTU7aHR0cHM6Ly9lY29uam9ibWFya2V0Lm9yZy9wb3N0aW5ncy5waHA%2FcG9zaWQ9NDIzODs7MjYzOTBkNzE0MTEyZWQ1OGZiMzY2ZGZmNjM3NTg5ZDg%3D> | <https://econjobmarket.org/postings.php?posid=4238>]

Deadline for applications: 16 January, 2017

Arthur H. Cole Grants

The Committee on Research in Economic History awards Arthur H. Cole grants-in-aid to support research in economic history, regardless of time period or geographic area. Awards typically are in amounts up to \$5,000, although higher amounts may be awarded in exceptional cases. Applicants must be members of the Association and must hold the Ph.D. degree. Preference is given to recent Ph.D. recipients. Please direct any questions about these grants to Professor Daniel Fetter, Committee on Research in Economic History, dfetter@wellesley.edu.

Submit electronically at:

<http://eh.net/?nltr=OTc1OzMzMTU7aHR0cDovL2VoLm5ldC9laGEvZ3JhbnRzLWV0Lm9yZy9wb3N0aW5ncy5waHA%2FcG9zaWQ9NDIzODs7MjYzOTBkNzE0MTEyZWQ1OGZiMzY2ZGZmNjM3NTg5ZDg%3D> | <http://eh.net/eha/grants-and-fellowships/>

Deadline for applications: 1 March, 2017

Assistant Professor of International Studies College of Charleston, International Studies/ School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs

The College of Charleston School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs (LCWA), invites applications for a Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of International Studies to begin August 16, 2017. The International Studies program seeks a candidate whose teaching and research focuses on the economic, social, and cultural development of the non-Spanish speaking Caribbean and/or West Africa. An interest in trade in the development of small states is desirable, but not essential.

The successful candidate must be able to teach our International Studies introductory course

as well as the major's cross-regional international studies course, and contribute to an area studies concentration in at least one of the above regions. An earned PhD in International Studies or related field by August 15, 2017 is required; candidates from International Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, Development Studies and Area Studies are specifically encouraged to apply. ABD candidates with degree completion expected by August 15, 2017 will be considered.

Applicants must apply online at JOBS.COFC.EDU. Submit: a letter of application, a CV, unofficial graduate transcripts, statements of teaching and research interests and philosophy, evidence of teaching effectiveness (including course syllabi and course evaluations), examples of scholarly research, and contact information for three references.

The College of Charleston is a co-educational liberal arts institution located in the heart of downtown Charleston, SC. The International Studies program began at the College in 2010 and is now the largest major in the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs. The program includes faculty from International Studies, Economics, Anthropology, Religious Studies, and Political Science and prides itself on multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary courses and research. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Deadline for applications: 30 April 2017

