

AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY NEWSLETTER ISSUE #30 MARCH, 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

AEHN Call for Papers

The African Economic History Network,
in association with the Laboratory for the Economics of Africa's Past at Stellenbosch University,
Harvard University's Center for African Studies and Economic Research Southern Africa,
announces a

Call for Papers



'Innovation and the African past'

25-27 October 2017 • Stellenbosch, South Africa

Papers on all aspects of African economic history are welcome, but preference will be given to those that pertain to the conference theme. Abstracts of 500 words should be submitted to leap@sun.ac.za no later than 15 May 2017. A small number of bursaries will be available for graduate students and faculty from Africa. If applicable, please indicate this in your submission.



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.

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The latest working papers include:

Felix Meier zu Selhausen, Marco H. D. van Leeuwen and Jacob L. Weisdorf, 2017. "[Social Mobility Among Christian Africans: Evidence from Anglican Marriage Registers in Uganda, 1985-2011](#)" *AEHN Working Paper No.32/2017*

NEW ABSTRACTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Articles

Douglas L. Campbell and Ju Hyun Pyun. The Diffusion of Development: Along Genetic or Geographic Lines?

Why are some societies still poor? Recent research suggests that a country's 'genetic distance'—a measure of the time elapsed since two populations had common ancestry—from the US is a significant predictor of development even after controlling for an ostensibly exhaustive list of geographic, historical, religious and linguistic variables. We find, by contrast, that the correlation of genetic distance from the US and GDP per capita disappears with the addition of controls for geography, including distance from the equator and a dummy for Sub-Saharan Africa.

Douglas L. Campbell & Ju Hyun Pyun, 2017. "[The Diffusion of Development: Along Genetic or Geographic Lines?](#)", *Journal of International Development*, 29(2): 198-210.

Girma Negash. The rise and rise of agricultural wage labour: evidence from Ethiopia's south, c. 1950-2000

This article seeks to examine the dynamic transformation in the system of labour mobilization and the consequent intermingling of peoples of diverse cultural background in northern Sidama, Ethiopia. It investigates the different labour recruitment strategies deployed in the study area at different times, ranging from traditional to hired labour. In the former case, the household plays a major role in the recruitment and supply of agricultural labour, whereas in the latter case, 'trans-locality' reinforced by migration becomes central to the labour history of the region. In the 1940s and 1950s, Emperor Haile Selassie I granted large estates of land in the study area to absentee landowners who started schemes of commercial coffee farming. The subsequent expansion of commercialized coffee farming in a locality called Wondo Gänät (northern Sidama) from the 1950s onwards was responsible for the introduction of agricultural wage labour into the wider region. There was no local surplus labour to satisfy the labour needs of the new coffee farms. This void was later filled by Kembata, Hadiya and Wolayita migrant labourers who flocked into the study area from regions widely noted for their scarcity of arable land. This translocal movement of workers paved the way for the beginning of wage employment and eventually the commodification of farm labour in line with capitalist agriculture. Although commercial coffee plantations provided the initial stimulus for labour commodification in the study area, sugar cane-based cash cropping has helped it flourish even further. I argue in this article that the imperial land grants of the late 1940s and 1950s were an important milestone both for the agricultural history of the study area and for the organization of farm labour. Most importantly, I also argue that some of the social tensions and conflicts that often haunt contemporary northern Sidama are legacies inherited from the labour migrations of the 1950s and 1960s and the demographic heterogeneity that ensued.

Girma Negash, 2017. [“The rise and rise of agricultural wage labour: evidence from Ethiopia’s south, c. 1950-2000,”](#) *Africa*, 87(1): 36-52.

Kostadis Papaioannou and Michiel de Haas. Weather Shocks and Agricultural Commercialization in Colonial Tropical Africa: Did Cash Crops Alleviate Social Distress?

A rapidly growing body of research examines the ways in which climatic variability influences economic and societal outcomes. This study investigates how weather shocks triggered social distress in British colonial Africa. Further, it intervenes in a long-standing and unsettled debate concerning the effects of agricultural commercialization on the abilities of rural communities to cope with exogenous shocks. We collect qualitative evidence from annual administrative records to explore the mechanisms linking weather extremes to harvest failures and social distress. We also conduct econometric testing on a novel panel dataset of 143 administrative districts across west, south-central, and east Africa in the Interwar Era (1920–39). Our findings are twofold. First, we find robust evidence that rainfall anomalies (both drought and excessive precipitation) are associated with spikes in imprisonment (our proxy for social distress). We argue that the key causal pathway is the loss of agricultural income, which results in higher imprisonment for theft, unrest, debt, and tax default. Second, we find that the impact of weather shocks on distress is partially *mitigated* by the cultivation of export crops. Our findings suggest that, even in the British colonial context, smallholder export crop cultivation led to higher private incomes as well as greater public investment. Our findings speak to a topic of considerable urgency today as the process of global climate change accelerates, generating more severe and unpredictable climatic extremes. An increased understanding and identification of *adaptive* and *mitigating* factors would assist in targeting policy interventions and designing adaptive institutions to support vulnerable rural societies.

Kostadis Papaioannou and Michiel de Haas, 2017. [“Weather Shocks and Agricultural Commercialization in Colonial Tropical Africa: Did Cash Crops Alleviate Social Distress?”](#) ,*World Development*.

Helena Perez Nino. Migrant workers into contract farmers: processes of labour mobilization in colonial and contemporary Mozambique

As contract farming gains ground as a form of agricultural production in Southern Africa, there is growing interest in its effects on patterns of investment and production as well as in its potential to provide small farmers with access to export markets. However, the relation between contract farming and the region’s long history of labour migration has largely escaped analysts and scholars working on Southern Africa. This article traces the changing livelihoods of those who experienced the demise of the migrant labour system and displacement during the civil war, and who now engage in contract farming in Angónia, a densely populated district in Tete Province, central Mozambique. In the decades since the end of the war, contract farming thrived among former migrants with access to land and few alternative sources of income and employment. If historical labour migration from Angónia involved attempts by employers to externalize the responsibility for social reproduction onto households, contract farming amounts to the internalization by households of the

opportunities, risks and tensions involved in the production of high-value export commodities. By analysing farmers' accounts of producing under contract and linking this to their households' longer histories of labour mobilization, this article sheds light on people's experiences of working for wages, working on their own account and hiring workers, as households became the new sites of commodity production.

Helena Perez Nino, 2017. [“Migrant workers into contract farmers: processes of labour mobilization in colonial and contemporary Mozambique”](#), *Africa*, 87(1): 79-99.

Working Papers

Felix Meier zu Selhausen, Marco H. D. van Leeuwen and Jacob L. Weisdorf. Social Mobility Among Christian Africans: Evidence from Anglican Marriage Registers in Uganda, 1985-2011

This article uses Anglican marriage registers from colonial and post-colonial Uganda to investigate long-term trends and determinants of intergenerational social mobility among Christian African men. We show that the colonial era opened up new labour opportunities for our African converts enabling them to take large steps up the social ladder regardless of their social origin. Contrary to the widespread belief that British indirect rule perpetuated the power of pre-colonial African elites, we show that a remarkably fluid colonial labour economy actually undermined their social advantages. Sons of traditional landed chiefs gradually lost their high social-status monopoly to a new commercially-orientated and well-educated class of Anglican Ugandans, who mostly came from non-elite and sometimes lower-class backgrounds. We also document that the colonial administration and the Anglican mission functioned as key steps on the ladder to upward mobility, and that mission education helped provide the skills and social reference needed to climb it. These social mobility patterns persisted throughout the post-colonial era despite rising informal labour during Idi Amin's dictatorship.

Felix Meier zu Selhausen, Marco H. D. van Leeuwen and Jacob L. Weisdorf, 2017. [“Social Mobility Among Christian Africans: Evidence from Anglican Marriage Registers in Uganda, 1985-2011”](#) *AEHN Working Paper No.32/2017*

Kostadis Papaioannou and Ewout Frankema. Rainfall Patterns and Human Settlement in Tropical Africa and Asia Compared. Did African Farmers Face Greater Insecurity?

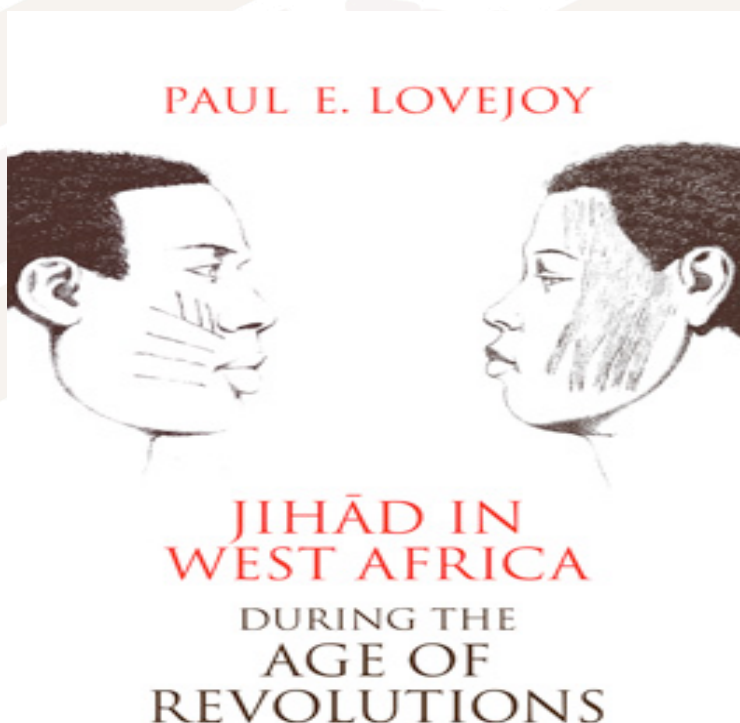
We explore a new dataset of annual and monthly district-level rainfall patterns to assess the longstanding idea that climatological conditions were more conducive to the development of dense rural populations in Asia than in Africa. We test whether there existed significant

cross-regional differences in both the frequency and intensity of rainfall shocks (i.e. annual mean deviations exceeding one standard deviation). Our results confirm that rainfall shocks in tropical Africa were both more frequent and more severe. Second, we test the separate effects of precipitation levels and variability on district-level population densities from colonial population censuses. We hypothesize that higher mean levels of precipitation facilitate agricultural intensification and human settlement, while unpredictability of rainfall has the opposite effect. Controlling for average rainfall levels, we find a strong negative effect of rainfall variation on population densities. This study thus lends further support to a wide literature arguing that the ecological conditions of agricultural intensification were more challenging in the African than in the Asian tropics.

Kostadis Papaioannou and Ewout Frankema, 2017. "[Rainfall Patterns and Human Settlement in Tropical Africa and Asia Compared. Did African Farmers Face Greater Insecurity?](#)" *CEPR Discussion Paper DP11795*

New Book

Paul E. Lovejoy. [Jihād in West Africa during the Age of Revolutions](#). Ohio University Press: OH.



In *Jihād in West Africa during the Age of Revolutions*, a preeminent historian of Africa argues that scholars of the Americas and the Atlantic world have not given Africa its due consideration as part of either the Atlantic world or the age of revolutions. The book examines the jihād movement in the context of the age of revolutions—commonly associated with the American and French revolutions and the erosion of European imperialist powers—and shows how West Africa, too, experienced a period of profound political change in the late eighteenth through the mid-nineteenth centuries. Paul E. Lovejoy argues that West Africa was a vital actor in the Atlantic world and has wrongly been excluded from analyses of the period.

Among its chief contributions, the book reconceptualizes slavery. Lovejoy shows that during the decades in question, slavery

expanded extensively not only in the southern United States, Cuba, and Brazil but also in the jihād states of West Africa. In particular, this expansion occurred in the Muslim states of the Sokoto Caliphate, Fuuta Jalon, and Fuuta Toro. At the same time, he offers new information on the role antislavery activity in West Africa played in the Atlantic slave trade and the African diaspora.

Finally, *Jihād in West Africa during the Age of Revolutions* provides unprecedented context for the political and cultural role of Islam in Africa—and of the concept of jihād in particular—from the eighteenth century into the present. Understanding that there is a long tradition of jihād in West Africa, Lovejoy argues, helps correct the current distortion in understanding the contemporary jihād movement in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Africa.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

**Call for Papers: The 7th Annual Meeting of the African Economic History Network
Stellenbosch, South Africa
October 25-27, 2017**

Call for Papers due 15 May 2017

The African Economic History Network, in association with the Laboratory of the Economics of Africa's Past at Stellenbosch University, Harvard University's Center for African Studies and Economic Research Southern Africa, announces a Call for Papers.

Papers on all aspects of African economic history are welcome, but preferences will be given to those that pertain to the conference theme. Abstracts of 500 words should be submitted to leap@sun.ac.za no later than 15 May 2017. A small number of bursaries will be available for graduate students and faculty from Africa. If applicable, please indicate this in your submission.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.aehnetwork.org/annual-meeting/>

**Call for Papers: DIAL Conference on Development Economics
Paris, France
June 29-30, 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 Ferrana, Bocconi University
Rohini Somanathan, Delhi School of Economics

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

**European Historical Economics Society (EHES) Congress
Tübingen/Germany
1-2 September, 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)

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

Assistant Professor – African History (One-year visitor) Colorado College, History

The History Department at Colorado College invites applications for a 1-year (non-tenure track) visiting assistant professorship in African History for the 2017-2018 academic year. Specialists in any subfield, chronological period or geographic area will be considered. Applications from candidates specializing in the history of colonialism and imperialism are also welcome to apply if their primary focus is on Africa.

Colorado College is a leading national liberal arts college with a distinctive academic calendar called the Block Plan. There are eight 3 ½ week blocks in the academic year, and students take, and teachers teach, one course at a time. The successful candidate will teach six blocks.

The College is committed to increasing the diversity of the college community. Further, Colorado College is dedicated to the development of faculty and staff who are committed to inclusive practices in teaching, learning, and working. Candidates who can contribute to that goal are particularly encouraged to apply. Review of applications will begin on **March 16** we will continue to consider applications until the position is filled.

Deadline for Application: 16 March 2017

For further information, please visit <http://employment.coloradocollege.edu/postings/2775>

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

Postdoctoral Fellow in Economic History Lund University, Department of Economic History

Job assignments

The holder will mainly work in a research project about long-run development in South Africa. The holder will conduct independent research in Economic History. She/he must be willing to interact with the students and to participate actively in the common activities of the Department of Economic History. The position involves a limited amount of teaching and/or supervision of Bachelor and Master's Theses.

Eligibility/Entry Requirements

To be qualified for employment as postdoctoral fellow, an individual must hold a PhD in Economic History or related discipline (e.g. Economics, Sociology, Economic Geography, Statistics, History), awarded no more than three years ago (unless the applicant has been on parental leave or leave due to illness). Applications will also be accepted from persons who have not yet completed their PhD, but this condition must be satisfied at the time of employment.

Basis of Assessment

Scholarly proficiency is the main requirement for employment. The candidate must have demonstrated a high degree of research expertise as manifested in the quality of the PhD dissertation and publications. The evaluation will take personal qualities, such as academic independence, willingness to collaborate, and communication skills, into consideration.

The holder of the position should be competent and experienced enough to be able to carry out independent research in Economic History. The holder of the position will participate in a research group at the Department of Economic History dealing with long-term development patterns in the Cape Colony (1652–1840) funded by Marianne and Marcus Wallenberg Research Foundation. She/he is expected to be able to work with statistical analysis of existing new databases and

geographical distribution and mapping, and co-write articles as well as conduct independent own analyses. Skills in GIS will be taken into consideration, but is not required. In addition to the above, the following set of criteria will be applied in the assessment of candidates:

- international experience
 - other results and distinctions which attest to the applicant's ability to do research
 - ability to engage and inform society at large about research
- The evaluation will take the experience, knowledge and other personal qualities into consideration. The applicants' ability to use their skills and experience to strengthen and supplement existing research activities within the Department of Economic History will also be considered.

Applications should be written in English and must include:

- Cover letter
- Curriculum Vitae
- Publications including publication list
- Certificates, references, etc

Lund University has an individual salary policy. Applicants are encouraged to propose a suitable salary in their application.

Deadline for Application: 3 April 2017

For further information: please visit <https://lu.mynetworkglobal.com/en/what:job/jobID:135525/>

Assistant Professor
The Danish Institute for Advanced Study
Faculty of Business and Social Sciences, Department of Business and Economics

The Danish Institute for Advanced Study seeks outstanding candidates to fill several positions at the assistant professor level in the research areas of interest for the centre.

The position is sponsored by, and located at, the University of Southern Denmark in Odense and starts autumn 2017.

The appointment is for four years with the possibility for a subsequent two years of employment as associate professor.

The Historical Economics and Development Group (HEDG) focuses on growth, development and economic history. Since its establishment in 2011, HEDG has been one of the fastest growing groups within growth, development and economic history and is arguably one of the leading groups in Europe. The work carried out by the group can be described as quantitative, empirical work. The research of the group often focuses on evaluating the effect of an intervention on economic development, for example the impact of health improvements on long-term growth and assessing the impact of agricultural productivity on development. The group is a part of the strategic initiative 'Health, Wealth and Inequality' (HeWI) sponsored by the Faculty of Business and Social Sciences together with the Center for Health Economics Research (COHERE) and the Max Planck Odense Center.

For further information please contact Prof. Paul Sharp, telephone +45 65503249 or email: pauls@sam.sdu.dk.
Job position number: 16/97335

Apply for the job here:

<https://ssl1.peoplexs.com/Peoplexs22/CandidatesPortalNoLogin/VacancyExpiredMessage.cfm?PortalID=3795>