

## **AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY NEWSLETTER**

### **ISSUE #31 MAY, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

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](mailto: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](mailto:Erik.Green@ekh.lu.se).

The latest working papers include:

Guido Alfani and Federico Tadei, 2017. ["Income Inequality in Colonial Africa: Building Social Tables for Pre-Independence Central African Republic, Ivory Coast and Senegal"](#), *AEHN Working Paper No.33/2017*

# 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, 2017. ["Long-Term Dynamics of the State in Francophone West Africa: Fiscal Capacity Pathways 1850-2010"](#), *Economic History of Developing Regions*, 32: 37-70.

### **Michiel de Haas. Measuring Rural Welfare in Colonial Africa: Did Uganda's Smallholders Thrive?**

Recent scholarship on historical welfare development in Sub-Saharan Africa has uncovered long-term trends in standards of living. How the majority of rural dwellers fared, however, remains largely elusive. This study develops a new approach to reconstruct rural living standards in a historical context. It builds upon a well-established real wage literature, but moves beyond it to capture rural realities, employing sub-national rural survey, census, and price data. The approach is applied to a case study of colonial and early post-colonial Uganda (1915–70). The case study yields a number of findings. While the expanding smallholder-based cash crop sector established itself as the backbone of Uganda's colonial economy, farm characteristics remained largely stagnant after the initial adoption of cash crops. Smallholders maintained living standards well above subsistence level, and while the profitability of cash crops was low, their cultivation provided a reliable source of cash income. Around the time of decolonization, unskilled wages rose rapidly while farm incomes lagged behind. As a result, an urban–rural income reversal took place. The study also reveals considerable differences within Uganda. Smallholders in Uganda's banana regions required fewer labour inputs to maintain a farm income than their grain-farming counterparts, creating opportunities for additional income generation and livelihood diversification.

Michiel de Haas, 2017. ["Measuring Rural Welfare in Colonial Africa: Did Uganda's Smallholders Thrive?"](#), *The Economic History Review*, 70(2): 605-631.

### **Thembisa Waetjen. Poppies and Gold: Opium and Law-Making on the Witwatersrand, 1904-10**

In the wake of the South African war, the indenture and transport of over 63,000 Chinese men to gold mines in the Transvaal sparked a rush to supply smoking opium to a literally captive market. Embroiled in a growing political economy of mass intoxication, state lawmakers shifted official policy from prohibition to provision. Their innovation of an industrial drug maintenance bureaucracy, developed on behalf of mining capital in alliance with organized pharmacy and medicine, ran counter to local trends of policy reform and represents a unique episode for broader histories of modern narcotics regulation. This article considers the significance of this case and chronicles the contradictory interests and ideologies that informed political scrambles over legitimate opium uses, users, and profiteers. It shows how the state maintained its provision policy, for as long as it proved expedient, against varied and mounting public pressures – local and international – for renewed drug suppression. The argument here is that the state managed an epidemic of addiction on the Rand as an extraordinary problem of demography. It achieved this both through redefining smoking opium from intoxicant to mine medicine and through the legal construction of a ‘special biochemical zone’, which corresponded with the exceptional status and spatial segregation of a despised alien labour force.

Thembisa Waetjen, 2017. [“Poppies and Gold: Opium and Law-Making on the Witwatersrand, 1904-10”](#), *The Journal of African History*, 57(3): 391-416.

### **Alden Young. African Bureaucrats and the Exhaustion of the Developmental State: Lessons from the Pages of the *Sudanese Economist***

Analysts often consider the postcolonial Sudanese state to be governed by an elite primarily interested in private accumulation rather than national development. This article demonstrates the existence of distinct development projects in postcolonial Sudanese history, which wax and wane. Developmental states can be distinguished from non-developmental states by whether political and policymaking elites are able to assert “the right to policymaking discretion.” The analysis of whether this discretion is present depends upon close archival readings of policy debates. Reading the pages of *the Sudanese Economist* it is possible to see the waning of the first Sudanese developmental state as the discourses of austerity and transparency replace those of growth and investment.

Alden Young, 2017. [“African Bureaucrats and the Exhaustion of the Developmental State: Lessons from the Pages of the \*Sudanese Economist\*”](#), *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development*, 8(1): 49-75.

## Working Papers

### **Guido Alfani and Federico Tadei. Income Inequality in Colonial Africa: Building Social Tables for Pre-Independence Central African Republic, Ivory Coast and Senegal**

Today, income inequality in Sub-Saharan Africa is exceptionally high. In this paper, we study whether present-day inequality can be traced back to the colonial period by reconstructing income distributions in a sample of representative colonies. To do so, we use data from colonial records to build new social tables for French colonies in West and Central Africa and we combine them with available information on British colonies in East and Southern Africa. We find that inequality in Africa is not a recent phenomenon. Income inequality was extremely high during the colonial period, in particular because of the huge income differential between Africans and European settlers. Nevertheless, it tended to reduce over time and the post-colonial period is characterized by much lower inequality. Interestingly, the decline of inequality is not necessarily a consequence of independence: the trends toward reduction started under colonial rule.

Guido Alfani and Federico Tadei, 2017. "[Income Inequality in Colonial Africa: Building Social Tables for Pre-Independence Central African Republic, Ivory Coast and Senegal](#)", *AEHN Working Paper No.33/2017*



# UPCOMING EVENTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

## **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)

# OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

## **University of California, Berkeley Lecturers – Various Fields of History – Department of History**

The Department of History at the University of California, Berkeley invites applications for a pool of qualified temporary instructors to teach courses primarily in various areas of History, as outlined below, should an opening arise. Screening of applicants is ongoing and will continue as needed. The number of positions varies from semester to semester, depending on the needs of the department. Positions may range from 16% to 100% time, which would translate to 1 to 6 courses over a two semester academic year.

The Department of History at the University of California, Berkeley, is generating an applicant pool of qualified instructors to teach courses in Economic History, International



History, Global History, Asia, Latin America, Ancient Greece and Rome, Africa, and the Middle East, pending openings.

Basic qualifications (at time of application): The minimum qualifications required to be an applicant are the completion of all PhD or equivalent degree requirements except the dissertation.

Additional qualifications (by start date): A PhD or equivalent degree in various fields of history, is required by the start date. Demonstrated teaching excellence in the appropriate fields with undergraduates and, where appropriate, graduate students, along with a record of accomplishment in scholarship, service and professional activity.

Salary range: \$52,099 - \$57,507, based on a two semester, 100% time appointment. Starting salary will be commensurate with degrees currently held, past college-level teaching experience, and other relevant experience. In addition to teaching responsibilities, general duties may include holding regular office hours, calculating grades, advising students, preparing course materials, managing GSIs, and attending appropriate meetings/orientations, etc. Applicants whose research, teaching, or service has prepared them to contribute to our commitment to diversity and inclusion in higher education are encouraged to apply.

The department encourages individuals who may have had non-traditional career paths, may have taken time off for family reasons (e.g., children, disabled, or elderly), or have achieved excellence in careers outside academia (e.g., in professional or industry service) to apply. UC Berkeley has a number of policies and programs to support employees as they balance work and family.

To apply, please go to the following link: <http://apptrkr.com/980140>. Applicants must submit a cover letter to include fields of specialization, curriculum vitae, one sample syllabus, and two letters of recommendation.

Please indicate in bold in the first paragraph of your cover letter your area(s) of specialization noting time period and area of focus (Economic History, International/Global History, Asia, Latin America, Ancient Greece and Rome, Africa, Middle East, or if other, please specify specialization).

All letters will be treated as confidential per University of California policy and California state law. Please refer potential referees, including when letters are provided via a third party (i.e., dossier service or career center), to the UC Berkeley statement of confidentiality (<http://apo.berkeley.edu/evalltr.html>) prior to submitting their letters.

Applications will be initially reviewed from March through April 2017 for appointments during the 2017-2018 academic year, including Summer Sessions 2017, Fall 2017, and Spring 2018. Reviews will continue as needed throughout the year.

Please note: The use of a lecturer pool does not guarantee that an open position exists. See the review date specified in AP Recruit to learn whether the department is currently reviewing applications for a specific position. If there is no future review date specified, your application may not be considered at this time.

Questions about this position may be addressed to Professor Mark Brilliant, Vice Chair for Curriculum, Department of History (mbrill@berkeley.edu). Questions about the application process can be directed to Kimberly Bissell, Academic Personnel Coordinator, at history-ap@berkeley.edu.

**Deadline to Apply: 11 June 2017**

**Lecture in African Studies**  
**Pennsylvania State University, African Studies Program**

The African Studies Program at The Pennsylvania State University invites applications for a full-time lecturer position, starting August 2017. This position is a one-year, non-tenure track appointment with the possibility of reappointment.

Responsibilities primarily include teaching introductory to intermediate undergraduate courses in African Studies along with supporting duties in the African Studies Program. Teaching load is six courses per academic year. Courses include Introduction to Contemporary Africa and Africa in Cinema. Minimum requirement is a Master's degree in a related discipline; a Ph.D. and relevant research and experience in the field are preferred.

To be considered for this position, applicants must include a cover letter detailing relevant qualifications, a current CV (with the names and contact information of three references), a one-page teaching philosophy, and a recent publication or writing sample. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. Apply online at <https://psu.jobs/job/70571> For more information about the program, please visit our website at <http://afr.la.psu.edu/>

**Deadline to Apply: 31 July 2017**