

## **AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY NEWSLETTER**

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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:

Jeanne Cilliers and Erik Green, 2017. ["The Land-Labour Hypothesis Revised: Wealth, Labour and Household Composition at the South African Frontier"](#), *AEHN Working Paper No.34/2017*

# NEW ABSTRACTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

## Articles

### **Lorraine Greyling and Grietjie Verhoef. Savings and economic growth: the Cape Colony economy, 1850 -- 1909**

The savings-development nexus is a topical issue in current development literature. No study has yet explored this relationship in nineteenth-century 'South African' colonies. An historical analysis of the development of the savings' trends in South Africa may assist in understanding development trends in the twentieth century. Apart from general descriptions of the nature of economic activity in the Cape Colony very little is known about the role of savings and financial sector development in the growing colonial economy. This paper describes and surveys the nature of financial markets in the Cape Colony between 1850 and 1909 and seeks to explain the relationship between savings and economic growth. Savings is defined in the broad sense of monetary and non-monetary savings and would be assumed to be a proxy for financial development in the Cape Colony. This paper contributes to the economic history literature on the colonial past of South Africa by using recently compiled data on the GDP (Greyling & Verhoef 2015) as well as monetary savings and non-monetary savings (livestock) to test whether the general view that 'financial development is robustly growth promoting' can be substantiated in the last half of the nineteenth-century Cape Colony. The Johansen vector error correction model technique is applied to determine the relationship between savings and economic growth. It is found that despite the expectations in the literature that financial deepening contributes to economic growth, the Cape Colony did not display such causal relationship in the period under review.

Lorraine Greyling & Grietjie Verhoef, 2017. "[Savings and economic growth: the Cape Colony economy, 1850 – 1909](#)", *Economic History of Developing Regions*, 32(2): 127-176.

### **Mariusz Lukasiewicz. From Diamonds to Gold: The Making of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, 1880 – 1890**

Despite the emphasis on materialism prompting many debates about the growth of the gold industry and the outbreak of the South African War in 1899, little research has focused on the financial institutions of South Africa's early gold industry. The growth of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) is woven interchangeably with that of Witwatersrand's gold industry. This article investigates why and how the Exchange came into existence, and its early interaction with southern Africa's gold-mining revolution. Using original documentation from the JSE and its landlord, the Johannesburg Estate Company, the article juxtaposes accounts of the London Stock Exchange, with South African financial developments in the last quarter of the 19th century. It describes the intentional deregulation of stock exchange listing requirements that led to the establishment of the JSE. In addition, the article outlines the JSE's organisational developments by quantifying and qualifying trends in membership numbers up until the end of the first 'Golden Boom' of 1890. The early institutional growth of the Exchange can be seen as a balancing of organisational power between the Exchange's landowner, Barney Barnato's Johannesburg Estate Company, and JSE members.

Mariusz Lukasiewicz, 2017. "[From Diamonds to Gold: The Making of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, 1880 – 1890](#)", *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 43(4): 715-732.

### **Bas de Roo. Taxation in the Congo Free State, an exceptional case?**

This article analyses the annual budgets of the Congo Free State to examine whether the broader fiscal patterns observed for British, French and Portuguese Africa can be found in Leopold's colony; often considered a fiscal exception. The fiscal history of the Free State was unique. A history of the income composition of the state however reveals that Leopold's revenue-raising strategies showed a lot of similarity with colonial taxation in British, French and Portuguese Africa. Leopold's administration faced the fiscal challenge of ruling a vast, thinly populated, inaccessible colony that produced little taxable surplus, with little metropolitan support and limited access to international lending. To deal with this challenge, the Free State developed a minimalistic fiscal system that was based on the taxation of international trade and the African subject. Only during a commodity boom did this system generate sufficient income to cover colonial expenditure. The study of the not so exceptional case of the Free State hence supports the claim that the colonial scope to tax African colonies was fundamentally determined by local economic conditions and power relations, global demand for commodities and Metropolitan pressure to be financially self-sufficient.

Bas de Roo, 2017. ["Taxation in the Congo Free State, an exceptional case?"](#), *Economic History of Developing Regions*, 32(2): 97-126.

### **Thembisa Waetjen. The Rise and Fall of the Opium Trade in the Transvaal, 1904-1910**

From 1904 to 1910, the transport and confinement of over 63,000 men from north-eastern China, recruited and indentured as unskilled mining labour, stimulated a new market for opium on the Witwatersrand, at the very moment when other British colonies and other empires were pushing towards co-ordinated action to curb the trade. This article plots the development and shape of opium commerce in the Transvaal colony, revealing local patterns of entrepreneurship and articulations between licit and illicit circuits in the narcotic supply chain. In a bid to monopolise control and profits, the Government set up a bureaucracy of drug provision, working with the Chamber of Mines and organised pharmacy and medicine interests. However, the continuing preference of indentured migrants for informal networks of supply, despite higher prices, points to the importance of the trade within the social and material economies of the mining compound. With political changes in both colony and metropole, and the termination of the Chinese Labour Importation scheme, the presence of opium on the Rand was drawn into the anti-opium politics of the imperial public sphere. White racial anxieties about the 'spread' of opium smoking were crystallised in the image of the opium den as a locus of depravity. However, it was neither moral nor social arguments, but rather the expulsion of the population officially targeted for drug use, that curtailed the trade in opium on the Witwatersrand.

Thembisa Waetjen, 2017. ["The Rise and Fall of the Opium Trade in the Transvaal, 1904-1910"](#), *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 43(4): 715-732.

## **Working Papers**

### **Cabriele Cappelli and Jorg Baten. European Trade, Colonialism and Human Capital Accumulation in Senegal, Gambia and Western Mali, 1770 – 1900**

We trace the development of human capital in today's Senegal, Gambia, and Western Mali between 1770 and 1900. European trade, slavery and early colonialism were linked to human capital formation, but this connection appears to have been heterogeneous. The contact with the Atlantic

slave trade increased regional divergence, as the coast of Senegambia developed more quickly than inner areas. This pattern was affected by French early colonialism and by the reaction of different West African populations to the economic incentives provided by foreign demand for agricultural products. The peanut trade since the mid-19th century further amplified regional economic inequalities.

Cabriele Cappelli & Jorg Baten, 2017. [“European Trade, Colonialism and Human Capital Accumulation in Senegal, Gambia and Western Mali, 1770 – 1900”](#), *CESifo Working Paper* 6468.

### **Jeanne Cilliers and Erik Green. The Land-Labour Hypothesis Revised: Wealth, Labour and Household Composition at the South African Frontier**

Traditional frontier literature identifies a positive correlation between land availability and fertility. A common explanation is that the demand for children as labour is higher in newly established frontier regions compared to older and more densely populated farming regions. In this paper we contribute to the debate by analysing the relationship between household composition and land availability in a closing frontier region, i.e. the Graaff-Reinet district in South Africa's Cape Colony from 1800-28. We show that the number of children present in farming households increased with frontier closure, while the presence of non-family labourers decreased over time. We explain this by, differently from the frontier literature, acknowledging that the demand for family labour was not a function of its marginal productivity and that farmers reacted to differently to diminishing land availability depending on their wealth. Poorer households, which made up the majority of this frontier population, responded to shrinking land availability by employing relatively more family labour, while the wealthiest group underwent capital intensification.

Jeanne Cilliers & Erik Green, 2017. [“The Land-Labour Hypothesis Revised: Wealth, Labour and Household Composition at the South African Frontier”](#), *AEHN Working Paper No.34/2017*

### **Jeanne Cilliers and Johan Fourie. Social Mobility during South Africa's Industrial take-off**

In the absence of historical income or education data, the change in occupations over time can be used as a measure of social mobility. This paper investigates intergenerational occupational mobility using a novel genealogical dataset for settler South Africa, spanning its transition from an agricultural to an early industrialized society (1800–1909). We identify fathers and sons for whom we have complete information on occupational attainment. We follow a two-generation discrete approach to measure changes in both absolute and relative mobility over time. Consistent with qualitative evidence of a shift away from agriculture as the economy's dominant sector, we see the farming class shrinking and the skilled and professional classes growing. Controlling for changes in the structure of the labor market over time, we find increasing social mobility, becoming significant after the discovery of minerals in 1868. We find this mobility particularly for semi-skilled workers but virtually no improved mobility for sons of farmers. We also test hypotheses related to the mobility prospects for first-born sons and sons of immigrants.

Jeanne Cilliers & Johan Fourie, 2017. [“Social Mobility during South Africa's Industrial take-off”](#), *Stellenbosch Working Paper Series No. WP04/2017*.

### **Christopher J. Fariss, Chares D. Crabtree, Therese Anders, Zachary M. Jones, Fridolin J. Linder and Jonathan N. Markowitz. Latent Estimation of GDP, GDP per capita, and Population from Historic and Contemporary Sources**

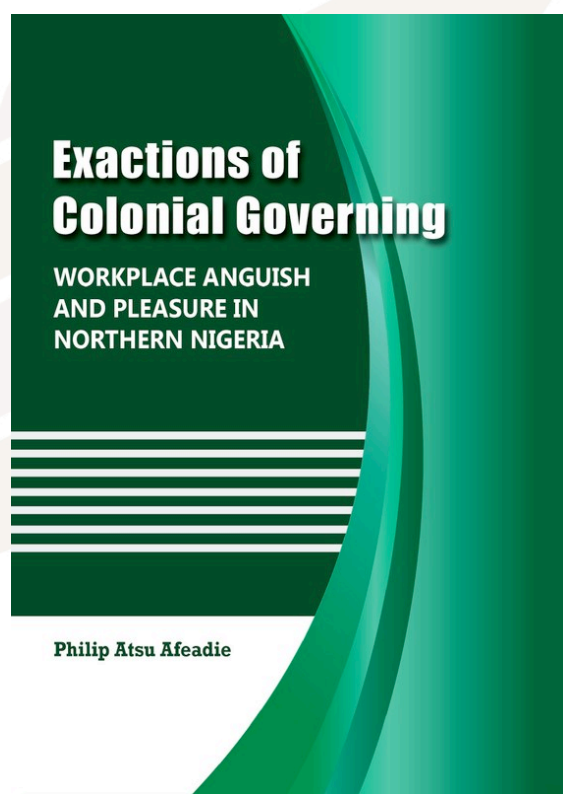


The concepts of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), GDP per capita, and population are central to the study of political science and economics. However, a growing literature suggests that existing measures of these concepts contain considerable error or are based on overly simplistic modeling choices. We address these problems by creating a dynamic, three-dimensional latent trait model, which uses observed information about GDP, GDP per capita, and population to estimate posterior prediction intervals for each of these important concepts. By combining historical and contemporary sources of information, we are able to extend the temporal and spatial coverage of existing datasets for country-year units back to 1500 A.D through 2015 A.D. and, because the model makes use of multiple indicators of the underlying concepts, we are able to estimate the relative precision of the different country-year estimates. Overall, our latent variable model offers a principled method for incorporating information from different historic and contemporary data sources. It can be expanded or refined as researchers discover new or alternative sources of information about these concepts.

Christopher J. Fariss, Chares D. Crabtree, Therese Anders, Zachary M. Jones, Fridolin J. Linder & Jonathan N. Markowitz, 2017. "[Latent Estimation of GDP, GDP per capita, and Population from Historic and Contemporary Sources](#)", arXiv:1706.01099v1 [stat.AP]

## Books

**Philip Atsu Afeadie, 2016. [Exactions of Colonial Governing: Workplace Anguish and Pleasure in Northern Nigeria](#). Accra: Woeli Publishing Services.**



Colonial governing in northern Nigeria involved tension and struggle as well as pleasantry and a sense of belonging among the foreign ruler and African employees, as much as conflict within the ranks of the foreign ruler. The challenges included high emotions of joy and anguish and stress management for work efficiency among the British political officers and African political agents, the key civil servants at the workplace.

The bitter-sweet moments included confusion and the heartache of censure, humiliation and disillusionment interspersed with the pleasantry of joy and admiration on the part of political officers, while political agents suffered the predicament of physical endangerment, underpayment and ridicule within the backdrop of belonging in the new dispensation with the related great influence to abuse.

Political officers managed their anguish in varying ways, and some of the methods involved the discipline of insight and acceptance of their limitations, forbearance and punishment for offenders as well as cultivating humour, engaging in sport, and realising refreshing African evening. These methods were variously

attended by beneficial and deleterious effects on work efficiency. In handling their frustration at the workplace, political agents subscribed to a balance of patience and pestering of their employers, as well as selflessness and misrepresentation at times. *This experience of colonial civil servants should instruct modern work engagements.*

**BLACK AFRICA'S LARGEST ISLAMIC  
KINGDOM BEFORE COLONIALISM:  
ROYAL RIBATS OF KANO AND  
SOKOTO**



John Edward Philips  
(يحيى طن جوما)

"Black Africa's Largest Islamic Kingdom Before Colonialism: Royal Ribats Of Kano And Sokoto" by Professor John Edward Philips (Department of International Society, College of Humanities, Hirosaki University, Japan) is a history of the use and purpose Islamic ribats as interpreted by Muhammed Bello. A ribat is an Arabic term for a small fortification as built along a frontier during the first years of the Muslim conquest of North Africa to house military volunteers, called the murabitun. These fortifications later served to protect commercial routes, and as centers for isolated Muslim communities. Ribats were first seen in the 8th century. The ribats played an important role in settling the Fulani herders. The sedentarization and consequence was one of the most important changes in Fulani society in that Islam was used to unite both the Hausa and Fulani into a single group organized around the ribats use for military defense, warfare, expanding territory and acquiring slave. "Black Africa's Largest Islamic Kingdom Before Colonialism" is organized into four major chapters: Ribats and Caliph Muhammad Bello; Wurno: Muhammad Belio's Personal Ribat; Takai: Kano's Royal Ribat;

The Significance of Royal Ribats. Of special note are the commentaries on 'Ribats Before the Jihad' and 'Ribats and Worship'.

# 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)

**Additional Information:** <http://ehes.org/ehes2017/ehes2017.html>

## Economic History Society Annual Conference 2018 6 – 8 April 2018, Keele University

The 2018 Annual Conference will be held at **Keele University**, Friday 6 - Sunday 8 April. Registration, sessions, most accommodation\* and meetings will all be located on **campus**.

- **Call for academic papers**; deadline: 4 September 2017.
- **Call for new researcher papers**; deadline: 4 September 2017.
- **Call for new researcher posters**; deadline: 20 November 2017.
- Registration will open in early December **and will close 2 weeks prior to the conference** (i.e. Friday, 23 March 2018).

Keele University is a rural campus located in the north of Staffordshire, midway between Birmingham and Manchester and a short distance from the city of Stoke-on-Trent. It is easily accessible from the main UK motorways, whilst having excellent links to Stoke-on-Trent and Crewe rail and bus services. Information on airports can be found below.

Manchester International: 32 miles

Birmingham International: 44 miles

East Midlands International: 50 miles

Liverpool John Lennon: 53 miles

\*Accommodation will be in single ensuite bedrooms. All rooms have tea/coffee making facilities, towels and toiletries. There are no double rooms available on campus.

**Additional Information:** <http://www.ehs.org.uk/events/annual-conference.html>



# OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

## **Lecturer in African Studies** **Leeds University's Centre for African Studies**

Are you keen to contribute to the development of the North of England's most vibrant interdisciplinary Centre for African Studies? Are you an academic with proven abilities to carry out research-led teaching in African History, Literary Studies, Politics or Religious Studies? Are you passionate about delivering an exceptional student experience in a research-intensive Russell Group University? Do you have an excellent research record and the potential to establish an international reputation?

As Lecturer, you will teach on Leeds University's Centre for African Studies' (LUCAS) existing interdisciplinary modules, and on modules within your host School. You will develop new modules, related to your research area, which will enhance the curriculum of your host School, and African Studies more broadly. You will be expected to contribute to LUCAS's interdisciplinary research culture, through organising events, building relationships with partner organizations, and developing collaborative research funding applications. You will also contribute to the administration and management of LUCAS.

You will have a PhD in African History, Literary Studies, Global Development, International Relations, Politics or Religious Studies (or a related field) alongside a clear plan for future research including the pursuit of research grant income. You will have relevant teaching experience and an enthusiastic approach to teaching African Studies.

**Additional Information:** <https://jobs.leeds.ac.uk/vacancy.aspx?ref=AHCFO1010>

**Deadline:** 10 July 2017

## **Lecturer 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:** 31 July 2017

**Residential Training Course for Postgraduate Students**  
**Chancellors, University of Manchester**  
**29 Nov – 2 Dec 2017**

The Economic History Society offers 12 part-funded places on an intensive residential course designed to raise the quality and analytical rigour of doctoral dissertations in economic and social history; improve the communication skills of postgraduates; widen their approach to their subjects; and encourage them to form networks with established scholars and fellow students in their areas of expertise.

The course is open to 12 graduate students who are currently engaged in work on a doctoral thesis on any topic in economic and/or social history, whether the period be modern, early modern or medieval. Preference will be given to students who will be in their 2nd or 3rd year of study in November 2017 (FTE); this excludes course work. The Society expects to recruit five academics (with recognised expertise in the field) to act as tutors on the course. The academic course leader is Dr Anne Murphy (University of Hertfordshire). Previous academic participants have included: Professor Jane Humphries (Oxford), Dr Chris Minns (LSE), Professor Stephen Rigby (Manchester) and Professor Peter Scott (Reading).

**Additional Information:** <http://www.ehs.org.uk/the-society/residential-training-course.html>

**Deadline:** 17 July 2017

**First Monograph Prize in Economic and/or Social History**

The Economic History Society offers a prize of £1,000, to be awarded biennially, for the best first monograph in Economic and/or Social History, usually published within 10 years of the author having been awarded a PhD. Only monographs published in English and published during 2016 and 2017 will be eligible for the 2018 prize.

**Additional Information:** <http://www.ehs.org.uk>

**Deadline:** 30 September 2017

**Loyola University – Maryland**  
**Tenure Track Assistant Professor in Sub-Saharan African History**

The Department of History at Loyola University Maryland invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professorship in the history of Sub-Saharan Africa, with a preference for the modern period. Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to undergraduate teaching, the promise of significant scholarship, and a commitment to service. The successful candidate will teach a 100-level survey of African history and a rotating sequence of undergraduate upper-division courses in her or his specialty. The standard teaching load is three courses per semester, with expectations for scholarship and service to the department and the university. Participation in Loyola's African and African American Studies program is likely. Appointment will begin in August 2018. Ph.D. is expected by that date.

Preliminary interviews will be conducted at the AHA annual meeting in January 2018. To apply, please visit <https://careers.loyola.edu/> to submit a cover letter, teaching evaluations, CV, three letters of recommendation, and a copy of graduate transcripts. Paper applications will not be accepted. Questions regarding the position or users of Interfolio recommendations should contact Dr. Sara Scalenghe, Chair African Search Committee at [sscalenghe@loyola.edu](mailto:sscalenghe@loyola.edu). All materials must be received by November 1, 2017. All applications are confidential.

Loyola University Maryland is a selective liberal arts university in the Jesuit Catholic tradition. The university is committed to intellectual excellence and social justice as it prepares students for a diverse and changing world. Recognized as a leading independent, comprehensive university in the northeastern United States, Loyola has a beautiful historic Evergreen campus in Baltimore and Graduate Centers in Timonium and Columbia. Loyola enrolls over 4,000 students in its undergraduate programs and about 2,000 students in its graduate programs.

In recent years, Loyola has undergone dramatic growth and development, adding numerous academic programs and positions. Global Studies, which entails a number of history courses, has been among the largest growth areas. Loyola also currently offers study abroad programs or exchanges in twenty countries, including two in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Additional Information:** <https://careers.loyola.edu/postings/>

**Deadline:** 13 August 2017

