

AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY NEWSLETTER ISSUE #33 SEPTEMBER, 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.

In this issue:

1. Network News and Announcements
2. New Abstracts in African Economic History
 - 3 New Journal Articles
 - 5 New Working Papers
3. Upcoming Events in African Economic History
 - 3 Upcoming conferences
4. Opportunities in African Economic History
 - 1 Vacancies
 - 1 Opportunities

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

7th Annual Meeting of the African Economic History Network: Innovation and the African Past

Workshop date:

Wednesday, October 25, 2017 to Friday, October 27, 2017

Workshop location:

Stellenbosch, South Africa

The African Economic History Network, in association with the Laboratory for the Economics Africa's Past at Stellenbosch University, Harvard University's Center for African Studies and Economic Research Southern Africa is hosting the 7th meeting of the Network.

Registration:

The main programme will be held at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies, STIAS (10 Marais Rd). Registration opens at 08:00 on 26 October at STIAS.

For more information regarding the programme, please see: [AEHN Preliminary Programme](#)

Jay-Jay Okocha Trophy soccer match:

Participants are invited to join the annual soccer (football) game on Wednesday morning. Please indicate your interest to Jan Greyling (jancg@sun.ac.za), who will confirm the transportation options. This event will be held at the Lentelus sports grounds.

LEAP Lecture and welcoming reception:

The second annual LEAP Lecture, hosted by Stellenbosch's *Laboratory for the Economics of Africa's Past*, will be presented by Prof Emmanuel Akyeampong in Room 2058 of the Van der Sterr building, at 17:30 on Wednesday evening. The lecture will be followed by a welcoming reception to commence the AEHN meetings.

Graduate dinner:

A sponsored dinner for graduate students will be hosted at Middelvlei wine farm on Tuesday from 19:00. A traditional South African "braai" dinner will be served. Transport to the venue will be arranged. Please contact Calumet Links (calumet.links@gmail.com) for further information.

Spatial Econometrics Workshop:

Increasingly, economic historians are using spatial data in their analysis. This course, held from 30 October to 3 November, will provide an introduction to spatial econometric modelling. Please contact Dieter von Fintel (dieter2@sun.ac.za) for further information.

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.

The latest working papers include:

Warren C. Whatley, 2017. [“The Gun-Slave Hypothesis and the 18th Century British Slave Trade”](#),
AEHN Network Working Paper #35



NEW ABSTRACTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Articles

Paul Shaffer. Seasonal Hunger in the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast, circa 1900-1940

There are ongoing controversies about the effects of colonial-era policies on hunger – and the nature of hunger in precolonial societies – in the Global South which have proved difficult to adjudicate because of the fragmentary nature of empirical information. The twin facts of the relatively recent incorporation of the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast into the British Empire (1896) along with an interesting assortment of data on hunger from the early colonial period allow for certain inferences to be drawn about these debates. The Northern Territories is an interesting case in that it is characterized by poor soil quality, variable and seasonal rainfall, minimal experience with cash crops, limited forced labour recruitment and the late introduction of direct taxation. Overall, the data do paint a picture of severe seasonal hunger in the early colonial period, circa 1900–40, but do not suggest that colonial policies or practices had a pronounced impact either way, pointing to the likelihood that seasonal hunger is a long-standing phenomenon which predates colonial rule.

Paul Shaffer, 2017. [“Seasonal Hunger in the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast, circa 1900-1940”](#), *Economic History of Developing Regions*: 1-31.

Muey Ching Saeteurn. ‘A Beacon of Hope for the Community’: The Role of Chavakali Secondary School in Late Colonial and Early Independent Kenya

Situated in the densely populated former North Nyanza District of western Kenya, Chavakali secondary school was the site where the colonial regime, the nationalist government, and international ‘developmentalists’ attempted to dictate the nature of education and by extension the place of the rural citizenry during the late 1950s and throughout the 1960s. This goal, however, was not easily achieved because ordinary Kenyans rejected the vocational-agricultural curriculum that school officials and development specialists championed as the ideal education program for rural communities. Chavakali students from Maragoliland, in particular, recognized the inherent contradiction of the Kenyan government's agriculture-as-development model continued from the colonial era – lack of land. Realizing how bankrupt the agrarian development model really was, they used their educational training to enter the wage labor sector on better terms than as simple laborers. Chavakali's nonsensical curriculum thus hardly produced the agrarian revolution that the state hoped would stabilize the countryside in the postcolony.

Muey Ching Saeteurn, 2017. [“A Beacon of Hope for the Community’: The Role of Chavakali Secondary School in Late Colonial and Early Independent”](#), *The Journal of African History*, 58(2): 239-257.

Alice Wiemers. ‘When the Chief Takes an Interest’: Development and the Reinvention of ‘Communal’ Labor in Northern Ghana, 1935-60

As colonial and nationalist governments pursued small-scale development in mid-century northern Ghana, so-called ‘voluntary’, ‘communal’, or ‘self-help’ labor became a key determinant of funding. District records and oral histories show how colonial officials, chiefs, and party politicians alternately cast unpaid labor as a way to cut costs, a catalyst for new forms of politics, and an expression of local cohesion. This article extends analysis of

'self-help' beyond articulations of and debates about national policy, examining daily negotiations over budgeting and building. It follows two chiefs who used their ability to raise labor to navigate a rapidly changing political landscape. The line between coercion and voluntarism was rarely clear, nor were the meanings of labor fixed for administrators, chiefs, or their constituents. These local actors created the circumstances for successive governments to frame unpaid labor as a legitimate demand on rural citizens.

Alice Wiemers, 2017. [“When the Chief Takes an Interest’: Development and the Reinvention of ‘Communal’ Labor in Northern Ghana, 1935-60”](#), *The Journal of African History*, 58(2): 239-257.

Working Papers

Levi Boxell. A Drought-Induced African Slave Trade?

Historians have frequently suggested that droughts helped facilitate the African slave trade. By introducing a previously unused dataset on 19th century rainfall levels in Africa, I provide the first empirical answer to this hypothesis. I show that negative rainfall shocks and long-run shifts in the mean level of rainfall increased the number of slaves exported from a given region and may have had a persistent impact on the level of development today. Using geocoded data on 19th century African conflicts, I show that these drought conditions also increased the likelihood of conflict, but only in the slave exporting regions of Africa. I also explore the role of household desperation, the internal African slave market, and disease outbreaks in explaining the negative relationship between droughts and slave exports. I find limited evidence for for these alternative mechanism, with household desperation having the most empirical support. These results contribute to our understanding of the process of selection into the African slave trade.

Levi Boxell, 2017. [“A Drought-Induced African Slave Trade?”](#), *SSRN Working Paper*

Denis Cogneau & Yannick Dupraz. Institutions historiques et développement économique en Afrique. Une revue sélective et critique de travaux récents

This paper makes a selective review of the recent economic literature studying the effect of historical institutions on economic development in Africa. We first discuss a few conceptual issues implied by the measurement of institutions, then present the data gathered by anthropologist G. P. Murdock and their main critiques. A growing number of works make a new use of these data while trying to show that some "ethnic" precolonial institutions are fundamental determinants of present-day differences in development. We comment upon these works and contrast them with others which rather relativize the institutional differences inherited from the colonial period. We finally argue that comparisons of case studies are more promising than cross-sectional studies based on ill-controlled variations

Denis Cogneau & Yannick Dupraz. [“Institutions historiques et développement économique en Afrique. Une revue sélective et critique de travaux récents”](#)

Bertrand Laporte, Celine de Quatrebarbes & Yannick Bouteridge. Mining taxation in Africa: The gold mining industry in 14 countries from 1980 to 2015

The lack of information about the sharing of mining resource rent between governments and investors is an easy statement to make for Africa. The existing datasets are often insufficient for a deep analysis of African tax law as applied to the natural resource sectors, which has limited the academic and operational approaches. This paper describes the first legal and tax database which specifies the tax regime applied to industrial gold mining companies in 14 African gold-producing countries from 1980 to 2015. The database has three major innovations: (i) an inventory of taxes and duties (rate, base and exemptions) payable during the prospecting phase and mining phase of a gold project; (ii) a new detailed historical record covering 1980 to 2015; (iii) the link between each piece of tax information and its legal source. This database is used to make a first analysis of mining tax regimes and rent sharing in the main gold-producing countries. The first results highlight the heterogeneity of tax regimes between English-speaking and French-speaking countries. There has been a convergence of the average effective tax rates across most of the countries, the effective tax rate has increased in most countries following the tax reforms undertaken since 2010. The database is downloadable following the link :<http://www.ferdi.fr/en/node/3198>.

Bertrand Laporte, Celine de Quatrebarbes & Yannick Bouteridge. "[Mining taxation in Africa: The gold mining industry in 14 countries from 1980 to 2015](#)", *Foundation pour les Etudes et Recherches sur le Developpement International*

Ross Levine, Chen Lin & Wensi Xie. The Origins of Financial Development: How the African Slave Continues to Influence Modern Finance

We assess how the African slave trade—which had enduring effects on social cohesion—continues to influence financial systems. After showing that the intensity with which people were enslaved and exported from Africa during the 1400 – 1900 period helps account for overall financial development, household access to credit, and firm access to finance, we evaluate three potential mechanisms linking the slave trade to modern finance—information sharing institutions, trust in financial institutions, and the quality of legal institutions. We discover that the slave trade is strongly, negatively related to the information sharing and trust mechanisms but not to the legal mechanism.

Ross Levine, Chen Lin & Wensi Xie, 2017. "[The Origins of Financial Development: How the African Slave Continues to Influence Modern Finance](#)", *NEBER Working Paper No. 23800*

Warren C. Whatley. The Gun-Slave Hypothesis and the 18th Century British Slave Trade

The Gun-Slave Hypothesis is the long-standing idea that European gunpowder technology played a key role in growing the transatlantic slave trade. I combine annual data from the Transatlantic Slave Trade Database and the Anglo-African Trade Statistics to estimate a Vector Error Correction Model of the 18th century British slave trade that captures four versions of the Gun-Slave Hypothesis: guns-for-slaves-in-exchange, guns-for-slaves-in-production, slaves-for-guns-derived and the gun-slave cycle. Three econometric results emerge. (1) Gunpowder imports and slave exports were co-integrated in a long-run equilibrium relationship. (2) Positive deviations from equilibrium gunpowder "produced" additional slave exports. This guns-for-slaves-in-production result survives 17 placebo tests that replace gunpowder with non-lethal commodities imports. It is also confirmed by an instrumental variables estimation that uses excess capacity in the British gunpowder industry as an instrument for gunpowder. (3) Additional slave exports attracted additional gunpowder imports for 2-3 more years. Together these dynamics formed a gun-slave cycle. Impulse-response functions

generate large increases in slave export in response to increases in gunpowder imports. I use these results to explain the growth of slave exports along the Guinea Coast of Africa in the 18th century.

Warren C. Whatley, 2017. [“The Gun-Slave Hypothesis and the 18th Century British Slave Trade”](#), *AEHN Network Working Paper #35*

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Money, Finance, and Capital
2018 Business History Conference Annual Meeting
Baltimore, Maryland, April 5 – 7, 2018
Abstracts due 2 October, 2017

Money, Finance, and Capital is the theme of the 2018 Business History Conference meeting. Historians who want to write compelling histories of capitalism must grapple with the manifold roles that money, finance, and capital have played in political, economic, social and cultural dynamics. Yet, for many years, the abstruse and elusive character of these phenomena encouraged many historians of economic life to maintain a safe distance from them. Of course, there have always been some historians willing to figure out where money, finance, and capital fit into broader histories of our societies. Still, much of what we know about currency and credit, investment and profit, bonds and futures results from highly specialised research whose technical quality reinforces the enigmatic character of these subjects.

Historians are not alone in encountering difficulties in making sense of money, finance, and capital. In 1931, for example, when distinguished British economist, John Maynard Keynes, gave a radio address on the “slump”, he emphasised that “the behaviour of the financial system and the banking system is capable of suddenly going off the rails, so to speak, and interfering with everyone’s prosperity for obscure and complicated reasons.” Keynes pointed out that it was unreasonable to expect the “man in the street” to understand such reasons. Yet, he also emphasised that professed experts tended “to talk much greater rubbish than an ordinary man” largely because “the science of economics, of banking, of finance is in a backward state.” More recently, Alan Greenspan infamously admitted his “shocked disbelief” at the onset of the recent crisis and former governor of the Bank of England, Mervyn King, portrayed money and finance as “alchemy”. Technical expertise in these domains, it seems, is not necessarily a route to greater understanding.

Fortunately, money, finance, and capital have moved to the forefront in many historiographies in recent years. Whether it is the business of slave plantations and trade, of consumer credit and railroading, of government finance, securities markets and international banking, the history of business offers exciting insights on these important and perplexing themes. That was already apparent in some of the pioneering research that historians carried out on money, finance, and capital and it has become clearer still with the recent new wave of research by political, cultural, social, literary and economic historians.

The theme of the 2018 BHC conference is designed to encourage contributions from a variety of approaches to historical research on the themes of money, finance, and capital, covering a broad range of periods and geographies. The program committee of David Sicilia (chair), Christy Ford Chapin, Per Hansen, Naomi Lamoreaux, Rory Miller, Julia Ott, and Mary O’Sullivan (BHC president) invites papers addressing, *inter alia*, the following questions:

- How have money, finance, and capital bound different people and places together over time in relationships of mutual advantage, dependence or exploitation?
- How much change do we observe in concepts such as currency, credit, and capital and their associated practices between more distant and recent pasts?
- What is the role of money, finance, and capital in the emergence and persistence of varieties of capitalism around the world?
- What historical variations do we observe among businesses in their conception and measurement of capital, its control, investment and utilisation, as well as in the risks and rewards associated with it?
- Without neglecting the post-World War II trend towards “financialization”, what might we say about the changing relationship between finance and capital over the very long run?
- What has been the role of money, finance, and capital in the origins and diffusion of international crises in history?
- What types of commentators have generated powerful ideas about money, finance, and capital? How have economic commentators, historians, business leaders, journalists and other writers helped to construct and contest these ideas?
- Do the historical roles of money, finance, and capital allow us to demarcate capitalism as a distinctive type of social organisation or does it suggest, as Deirdre McCloskey claims, that the term “capitalism” is a scientific mistake?

While we encourage proposals to take up this theme, papers addressing all other topics will receive equal consideration by the program committee in accordance with BHC policy. The program committee will consider both individual papers and entire panels. Individual paper proposals should include a one-page (300 word) abstract and one-page curriculum vitae (CV). Panel proposals should include a cover letter stating the rationale for the panel and the name of its contact person; one-page (300 word) abstract and author’s CV for each paper; and a list of preferred panel chairs and commentators with contact information. To submit a proposal go to <http://thebhc.org/2018meeting> and click on the link [Submit a Paper/Panel Proposal](#).

All sessions take place at the Embassy Suites Baltimore Inner Harbor. Rooms (all suites) are \$159/night and include a full breakfast.

The [K. Austin Kerr Prize](#) will be awarded for the best first paper delivered by a new scholar at the annual meeting. A “new scholar” is defined as a doctoral candidate or a Ph. D. whose degree is less than three years old. **You must nominate your paper for this prize on the proposal submission page where indicated.** Please check the appropriate box if your proposal qualifies for inclusion in the Kerr Prize competition.

The deadline for receipt of all proposals is 2 October 2017. Acceptance letters will be sent by 31 December 2017. Everyone appearing on the program must register for the meeting. Graduate students and recent PhDs (within 3 years of receipt of degree) whose papers are accepted for the meeting may apply for funds to partially defray their travel costs; information will be sent out once the program has been set.

The BHC awards the [Herman E. Krooss Prize](#) for the best dissertation in business history by a recent Ph.D. in history, economics, business administration, the history of science and technology, sociology, law, communications, and related fields. To be eligible, dissertations must be completed in the three calendar years immediately prior to the 2018 annual meeting, and may only be submitted once for the Krooss prize. After the Krooss committee has reviewed the proposals, it will ask semi-finalists to submit copies of their dissertations. Finalists will present summaries of their dissertations at a plenary session of the 2018 BHC annual meeting and will receive a partial subsidy of their travel costs to the meeting. Proposals accepted for the Krooss Prize are not eligible for the Kerr Prize. If you wish to apply for this prize please send a cover letter indicating you are applying for the Krooss

prize along with a one-page CV and one-page (300 word) dissertation abstract via email to BHC@Hagley.org. The deadline for proposals for the Krooss prize is 2 October 2017.

The **BHC Doctoral Colloquium in Business History** will be held in conjunction with the BHC annual meeting. This prestigious workshop, funded by Cambridge University Press, will take place in Baltimore Wednesday April 4 and Thursday April 5. Typically limited to ten students, the colloquium is open to early stage doctoral candidates pursuing dissertation research within the broad field of business history, from any relevant discipline. [Topics](#) (see link for past examples) may range from the early modern era to the present, and explore societies across the globe. Participants work intensively with a distinguished group of BHC-affiliated scholars (including at least two BHC officers), discussing dissertation proposals, relevant literatures and research strategies, and career trajectories. Applications are **due by 15 November 2017** via email to BHC@Hagley.org should include: a statement of interest; CV; preliminary or final dissertation prospectus (10-15 pages); and a letter of support from your dissertation supervisor (or prospective supervisor). Questions about the colloquium should be sent to its director, Edward Balleisen, eballeis@duke.edu. All participants receive a stipend that partially defrays travel costs to the annual meeting. Applicants will receive notification of the selection committee's decisions by 20 December 2017.

General questions regarding the BHC's 2018 annual meeting may be sent to Secretary-Treasurer Roger Horowitz, rh@udel.edu.

Money in Africa

Monetary and Financial Decolonisation in Africa in the 20th Century Banco de Portugal, Lisbon, Portugal 9-10 October 2017

Monetary and fiscal processes are important elements in state building and in managing international economic relations for emerging economies and new states. These processes were also important during the transition to constitutional independence in Africa. However little attention has been paid to the trajectory of the monetary and fiscal processes of decolonisation in Africa.

The objective of this conference is to shed light on a range of different historical cross-experiences of monetary and financial decolonisation. The aim is to provide a comparative analysis of the different regions of the African continent and their particularities often linked to their former connections.

The framework of the conference consists of three main subjects:

- 1) Did different historical patterns or models of monetary decolonisation co-exist? What were the specifics of the Sterling zone, the Franc zone and the Escudo Zone?
- 2) How did the monetary transition remodel the domestic financial systems of the new independent states? How did banking relations between former colonial powers and their colonial territories change or adapt during the transformation? How were foreign trade and international investment relationships affected by the monetary transition of post-colonialism?
- 3) Is there a link between the approach taken with respect to monetary and financial transition and the economic success (emergence) of these countries? If such a correlation exists, how significant is it? What role did international monetary organisations (e.g. IMF) play? To what extent has the establishment of monetary zones affected the former colonies' economic development? Looking at the European Monetary Union today – are there any lessons to be learned from the monetary development of postcolonial African states?

Academic Committee

Olivier Feiertag (University of Rouen-Normandy), Nuno Valério (Universidade de Lisboa), Carmen Hofmann (*eabh*), Ma João Azevedo (Banco de Portugal)

Organization

eabh in cooperation with Banco de Portugal and Banque de France.

For more information: http://bankinghistory.org/wpcontent/uploads/MoneyInAfrica_DraftProgram.pdf

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

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

**Postdoc Position in History
Stellenbosch University, South Africa
The Biography of an Uncharted People**

Want to be at the frontier of new methodological innovations in History? Want to study the lives of people often neglected in historical sources? Want to be part of an exciting team of international scholars?

Then join us at Stellenbosch in 2018, and continue to the Biography of an Uncharted People!

Additional Information: www.unchartedpeople.org

Deadline: 16 October 2017

