

AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY NEWSLETTER ISSUE #34 NOVEMBER, 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

African Economic History Blog

Do you follow the news on [our blog](#)? You should. And if you have an idea for a post, let us know.

African Economic History Meetings

We just had our annual meeting in Stellenbosch. You can find the program [here](#). The organizers did a terrific job. Learn more about LEAP [here](#). Next year Bologna!

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.



NEW ABSTRACTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Articles

Gareth Austin, Carlos Davila and Geoffrey Jones. The Alternative Business History: Business in Emerging Markets

This article suggests that the business history of emerging markets should be seen as an alternative business history rather than merely adding new settings to explore established core debates. The discipline of business history evolved around the corporate strategies and structures of developed economies. The growing literature on the business history of emerging markets addresses contexts which are different from developed markets. These regions had long eras of foreign domination, extensive state intervention, faced institutional inefficiencies, and experienced extended turbulence. This article suggests that this context drove different business responses than in the developed world. Entrepreneurs counted more than managerial hierarchies; immigrants and diaspora were critical sources of entrepreneurship; illegal and informal forms of business were commonplace; diversified business groups rather than the M-form became the major form of large-scale business; corporate strategies to deal with turbulence were essential; and radical corporate social responsibility concepts were pursued by some firms.

Gareth Austin, Carlos Davila & Geoffrey Jones, 2017. [“The Alternative Business History: Business in Emerging Markets”](#), *Business History Review*, 91(3): 537-569.

Jonathan Miran. ‘Stealing the Way’ to Mecca: West African Pilgrims and Illicit Red Sea Passages, 1920s-50s

West African participation in the pilgrimage to Mecca (*hajj*) grew considerably throughout the first half of the twentieth century. This article examines the causes and consequences of failed British and Saudi efforts to channel, regulate, and control the trans-Sahelian flow of pilgrims and enforce a *regime of mobility* along the Sahel and across the Red Sea. Focusing specifically on Red Sea ‘illicit’ passages, the study recovers the rampant and often harrowing crossings of dozens of thousands of West African pilgrims from the Eritrean to the Arabian coasts. It examines multiple factors that drove the circumvention of channeling and control measures and inscribes the experiences of West African historical actors on multiple historiographic fields that are seldom organically tied to West Africa: Northeast African regional history, the colonial history of Italian Eritrea, and the Red Sea as a maritime space connecting Africa with Arabia.

Jonathan Miran, 2017. [“‘Stealing the Way’ to Mecca: West African Pilgrims and Illicit Red Sea Passages, 1920s-50s”](#), *The Journal of African History*, 56(3): 389-408.

Oghenetaja Okoh. Who Controls Warri? How Ethnicity Became Volatile in the Western Niger Delta (1928-52)

The battle over who controls Warri has been underway for several generations. The most violent eruption of this struggle occurred between 1997 and 1999. This article traces the history of this struggle to the colonial period, during a time of administrative restructuring called reorganization, which began in 1928. Contrary to the recent popular and scholarly understanding of the Warri crisis

as an outcome of crude oil politics, I argue that British colonial state intervention set in motion a deadly, ethnicized struggle over political and material resources, which has only been exacerbated by the zero-sum politics of the crude oil economy.

Oghenetoja Okoh, 2017. [“Who Controls Warri? How Ethnicity Became Volatile in the Western Niger Delta \(1928-52\)”](#), *The Journal of African History*, 57(2): 209-230.

Working Papers

Wisdom Akpalu, George Agbenyo, Emmanuel Maluke Letete and Mare Sarr. Evolution of Institutions in Ghana and Implications for Economic Growth

This report discusses the evolution of institutions and compares the quality of key formal institutions (Political and Civil Liberties, Political Instability, and Property Rights) from Ghana’s colonial era to its post-independence. The Political and Civil Liberties and Political Instability are studies from 1820 to 2010, while Property Rights were analyzed for the periods 1849-2010. It has been found that, on average, the post-independent democratic regimes guaranteed the best political and civil liberties, and property rights. However, the democratic regime recorded the highest documented political instability, which includes number of lives lost, political arrests and assassinations, declaration of State of Emergency, and armed related attacks. Further analysis revealed that within the post-independent era, compared to the military regimes, democratic regimes registered significantly higher economic growth rate, all else equal. By implication, better political and civil liberties, and property rights institutions positively correlate with economic growth

Wisdom Akpalu, George Agbenyo, Emmanuel Maluke Letete and Mare Sarr, 2017. [“Evolution of Institutions in Ghana and Implications for Economic Growth”](#), *ERSA Working Paper 710*

Biniam E. Bedasso. Measuring Political and Economic Institutions in Ethiopia: c.1888-2016

This paper presents the first ever set of indices of political and civil rights and land rights in Ethiopia spanning more than a century. We have extracted information from legal texts and historical records. Then we quantified legislative developments in an attempt to objectively measure de jure political and economic institutions over the existence of the modern Ethiopian state. The results show that political institutions have improved gradually even though there is a tendency of retracting some rights recently. Land rights have never been more extensive than in the 1960s. The land reform of the late 1970s achieved a more equitable distribution of land at the expense of a shrinking set of rights.

Biniam E. Bedasso. [“Measuring Political and Economic Institutions in Ethiopia: c.1888-2016”](#), *ERSA Working Paper 716*

Bokang Mpeta, Johan Fourie and Kris Inwood. Black Living Standards in South Africa before democracy: New evidence from heights

Very little income or wage data was systematically recorded on the living standards of South Africa's black majority during much of the twentieth century. This paper uses four data sets to document, for the first time, an alternative measure of living standards: the stature of black South Africans over the course of the twentieth century. We find evidence to suggest that the first three decades of the century were particularly bad, perhaps due to the increasingly repressive labour policies in urban areas and famine and land expropriation that weighted especially heavily on the Basotho. The decade following South Africa's departure from the gold standard, a higher international gold price and the demand for manufactured goods from South Africa due to the Second World War seem to have benefited both black and white South Africans. The data also allow us to disaggregate by ethnicity within the black population group, revealing levels of inequality within race group that has been neglected in the literature. Finally, we compare black and white living standards, revealing the large and widening levels of inequality that characterised twentieth-century South Africa.

Bokang Mpeta, Johan Fourie and Kris Inwood, 2017. [“Black Living Standards in South Africa before democracy: New evidence from heights”](#), *Stellenbosch Working Paper Series* No. WP/2017



UPCOMING EVENTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

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

Durham University, History Assistant Professor in the History of Southern Africa

Based in one of the UK's leading centres for the study of history, you will make an important contribution to the development of a dynamic research culture, building on the expertise of a strong group of Africanist historians. Making use of your own outstanding knowledge and the University's important library and archival holdings in the field, you will carry out and publish excellent and original research. Passionate about the history of southern Africa, you will help to develop and extend our suite of undergraduate and postgraduate modules, and share your enthusiasm through exceptional teaching. At Durham, you will benefit from a strong commitment to intra- and inter-disciplinary research, and from the resources of a host of specialist Research Institutes and Centres. You will also enjoy the advantages of a mentoring scheme to develop you as a historian, teacher and leader in the discipline and beyond.

You'll need:

- A good first-degree, complemented by a PhD in the history of southern Africa or a related subject (either completed, or currently in progress).
- The ability to produce world-class research, including a research plan which supports the activities of the department.
- Proof that you have contributed to research groups, mentoring early career researchers.
- The confidence to supervise PhD students.
- To be willing to develop successful research project proposals, with the scope to secure funding or generate income.
- Experience of delivering high-quality teaching across lectures and in smaller study groups, with the ability attain fellowship of the HEA.
- Confident leadership and communication skills, with the willingness to work collaboratively as part of a team.

Additional Information: <https://www.dur.ac.uk/jobs/recruitment/>

Deadline: 4 December 2017

**Barnard College
Assistant Professor, Economics**

The Economics Department at Barnard College, an affiliate of Columbia University, invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position beginning in Fall 2018 in the fields of Macroeconomics and History of Economic Thought/Methodology. Responsibilities include teaching, active research and faculty service.

Barnard College is an independent liberal arts college for women affiliated with Columbia University. We seek highly qualified candidates who will thrive in our unique academic environment, where both teaching and scholarship are important for appointment and tenure, in a department that promotes a broad conception of economic science and its relation to other disciplines. We value the ability to contribute to the College's interdisciplinary programs, such as Human Rights, Urban Studies, or Women's Studies.

Please submit a Cover Letter, Curriculum Vitae, Job Market Paper, evidence of teaching excellence and the contact information for three letters of reference to: <http://careers.barnard.edu/postings/3133>. Completed applications received by November 26, 2017, will be assured full consideration. Must have Ph.D. in economics or related discipline by start date. For more information see <https://economics.barnard.edu/faculty-search>.

Additional Information: https://www.aeaweb.org/joe/listing.php?JOE_ID=2017-02_111459225

**University of California – San Diego
Temporary Lecturer, Economics**

The Economics Department at UC San Diego is committed to building an excellent and diverse faculty, staff, and student body, and invites applications from candidates whose experience has prepared them to contribute to our commitment. The Department invites applications for one or more Lecturer positions. The Department is looking primarily for Lecturers in macroeconomics and econometrics, although applications in any area will be accepted. Appointments will likely be part-time, though possibly full time, from one quarter up to one year's duration, for the 2018/19 Academic Year.

Candidates are required to have a Bachelor's degree in economics or a related field. Preferred candidates will have a Ph.D. in economics or a related field, prior university level teaching experience, experience managing large classrooms (100-300 students), outstanding teaching evaluations and demonstrate strong or potential contributions to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the context of a large public university.

Additional Information: <https://apol-recruit.ucsd.edu/apply/JPF01521>

Deadline: 30 June 2018

