

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 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

The African Economic History Network, in association with the Department of History and Cultures at the University of Bologna announces a

CALL FOR PAPERS

 **Bologna 2018** | 13th meeting of the African Economic History Network

"Transitions in African Economic History"

12-13 October 2018
University of Bologna – Italy

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 aehn2018@unibo.it no later than 15th May 2018.

A small number of bursaries will be available for graduate students and faculty from Africa. If applicable, please indicate this in your submission.

 ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA
DIPARTIMENTO DI STORIA CULTURE CIVILTÀ

 **AEHN**
AFRICAN ECONOMIC
HISTORY NETWORK

The meeting is supported by the PRIN Project 2015JXPLWF

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:

Sumner La Croix, 2018. [“The KhoKhoi Population: A Review of Evidence and Two New Estimates”](#), AEHN Working Paper No. 39

Prince Young Aboagye and Jutta Bolt, 2018. [“Economic Inequality in Ghana, 1891-1960”](#), AEHN Working Paper No. 38

Katharine Frederick, 2018. [“A comparative analysis of East and West African cotton cloth production from the early modern to the post-colonial era”](#), AEHN Working Paper No. 37

NEW ABSTRACTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Articles

Anderson, Siwan. Legal Origins and Female HIV

More than one-half of all people living with HIV are women and 80 percent of all HIV-positive women in the world live in sub-Saharan Africa. This paper demonstrates that the legal origins of these formerly colonized countries significantly determine current-day female HIV rates. In particular, female HIV rates are significantly higher in common law sub-Saharan African countries compared to civil law ones. This paper explains this relationship by focusing on differences in female property rights under the two codes of law. In sub-Saharan Africa, common law is associated with weaker female marital property laws. As a result, women in these common law countries have lower bargaining power within the household and are less able to negotiate safe sex practices and are thus more vulnerable to HIV, compared to their civil law counterparts. Exploiting the fact that some ethnic groups in sub-Saharan Africa cross country borders with different legal systems, we are able to include ethnicity fixed effects into a regression discontinuity approach. This allows us to control for a large set of cultural, geographical, and environmental factors that could be confounding the estimates. The results of this paper are consistent with gender inequality (the “feminization” of AIDS), explaining much of its prevalence in sub-Saharan Africa.

Anderson, Siwan, 2018. [Legal Origins and Female HIV](#), *The American Economic Review*, 108(6): 1407-1439.

Law, Robin. Provisioning the Slave Trade: The Supply of Corn on the Seventeenth-Century Gold Coast.

The article studies the supply of corn (maize) by African societies for the provisioning of European slave-ships on the Gold Coast, focusing on one particular community, the Fante, in the late seventeenth century. Its principal evidential basis is the local correspondence of the English Royal African Company between 1681–99, recently published by the author. Aspects addressed include: the scale of the trade; its relation to the cycle of local agricultural production; the transportation of corn from the interior, and by sea along the coast; the identity of the African suppliers; the determination of prices; and the significance of the trade for the long-term growth of the domestic economy.

Law, Robin, 2018. Provisioning the Slave Trade: [The Supply of Corn on the Seventeenth-Century Gold Coast](#). *African Economic History*, 46(1): 1-35.

Weiss, Holger. The European and Eurafrican Population of the Danish Forts on the Eighteenth-Century Gold Coast

This essay focuses on the demographic consequences of entanglement in the Danish possessions on the Gold Coast in West Africa. Two sets of data will be analyzed, one on the European composition of the Danish enclaves and discusses demographic trends and ruptures, the other on the Eurafrican population in the Danish enclaves. The first part of the study focusses on the survival of the European personnel in the Danish possessions on the Gold Coast. Similar to the experience of other European trading nations in West Africa, the Guinea Coast was a “White Man's Grave” for the Danish personnel as about half of the newly arrived staff members died within the first year on the coast. The second part deals with the employment and careers of the Eurafricans, i.e., the children of

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Danish fathers and local African or Eurafrican women. While the Danish authorities enlisted some of the Eurafrican boys as military staff members, the fate of the Eurafrican girls was unclear. In contrast to the Europeans, the Eurafrican population seldom succumbed to the coastal climate. Instead, demographic data suggests that their life expectancy was relatively high, at least compared to that of the European personnel.

Weiss, Holger. [The European and Eurafrican Population of the Danish Forts on the Eighteenth-Century Gold Coast](#), *African Economic History*, 46(1): 36-68.

Robins, Jonathan. E, 2018. Smallholders and Machines in the West African Palm Oil Industry, 1850-1950

This article uses colonial-era Ghana as a case study in the challenges of mechanization in West Africa's oil palm industry during the 19th and 20th centuries. While European industrialists pursued plantation-mill complexes in places like Congo and Southeast Asia, African entrepreneurs and government officials in British colonies focused on developing machines suitable for the small-scale producers who had built up the industry over the course of the nineteenth century. As inventors and officials discovered, however, machinery was unable to address the full range of economic, social, and natural challenges posed by oil palm trees. While some colonial observers alleged that racial characteristics or cultural conservatism were to blame for the failure of machines, the economic logic that underlay farmers' decisions was straightforward. Machines were too expensive and insufficiently productive, given prevailing prices for palm oil. Frustrated colonial governments tried to bridge the gap between larger mills and smallholder machines in the 1920s and 1930s, but with no success. By the time local factors shifted in favor of smallholder machines, colonial and national governments had moved on to large mills with accompanying plantations, leaving small-scale producers behind.

Robins, Jonathan. E, 2018. [Smallholders and Machines in the West African Palm Oil Industry, 1850-1950](#), *African Economic History*, 46(1): 69-103.

Jerven, Morton. Controversy, Facts and Assumptions: Lessons from Estimating Long Term Growth in Nigeria, 1900–2007

This article contributes to the debates surrounding "New African Economic History" by exploring the feasibility of constructing a time series of economic growth in Nigeria spanning the whole twentieth century. Currently most datasets for African economies only go back to 1960. The sources for their creation exist, but these valuable colonial data remain underutilized. This is an exploratory paper in a project aiming to create measures of economic growth through the twentieth century for a sample of African economies. The paper offers a systematic discussion of the different available datasets on population, agricultural production and income for the country. It finds that the existing data, often presented as facts, are more accurately described as projections based on assumptions. If these assumptions are already made in the production of the data, this precludes empirical testing of important questions. The main lesson is that any African economic history investigation must both begin and end with a critical analysis of the quantitative data, and must further be supported by careful qualitative evaluation.

Jerven, Morton, 2018. [Controversy, Facts and Assumptions: Lessons from Estimating Long Term Growth in Nigeria, 1900–2007](#), *African Economic History*, 46(1): 104-136.

Working Papers

Sumner La Croix. The KhoKhoi Population: A Review of Evidence and Two New Estimates.

Fourie and Green construct estimates of the Khoikhoi population over the 1652-1780 period using benchmarks for the initial and terminal Khoi populations and benchmarks for the punctuated population declines from smallpox epidemics in 1713 and 1755. I review the evidence underlying each of the four population benchmarks and argue for a revised 1780 benchmark. Qualitative evidence also points to a higher rate of population decline between 1652 and 1723 and a smaller rate of decline between 1723 and 1780. Using the Fourie-Green methodology and adopting 3 of their 4 population benchmarks, I develop two revised estimates of the Khoi population to supplement the original Fourie and Green estimates.

Sumner La Croix, 2018. [“The KhoKhoi Population: A Review of Evidence and Two New Estimates”](#), AEHN Working Paper No. 39

Prince Young Aboagye and Jutta Bolt. Economic Inequality in Ghana, 1891-1960.

This paper contributes to a growing literature on understanding drivers of pre-industrial inequality by constructing social tables for colonial Ghana. Ghana is generally perceived as fairly equal in terms of income distribution, both historically and today. We show, however, that income inequality rose rapidly during the colonial period, to inequality levels comparable to many contemporary African countries. We argue that the introduction and expansion of cocoa cultivation at the end of the 19th century in the forest belt of the country marked the most important development that shaped both national and regional inequality trends. Initial land abundance in the forest area provided opportunities for its population to engage in cocoa growing which increased the overall standards of living in the forest area. Areas where soil quality did not favour cocoa growing fell behind in terms of living standards, resulting in increasing national income inequalities from the 1930s onwards. Due to high set up costs of cocoa farms and increasingly polarized access to economic resources, only a wealthy minority was able to establish substantial cocoa farms, gaining much more than other social classes. The capital intensity of the export crop along with access to economic resources such as land seems an important factor driving inequality trends in Africa.

Prince Young Aboagye and Jutta Bolt, 2018. [“Economic Inequality in Ghana, 1891-1960”](#), AEHN Working Paper No. 38

Katharine Frederick. A comparative analysis of East and West African cotton cloth production from the early modern to the post-colonial era

This article examines why “traditional” cotton textiles industries tended to decline in southern and central East Africa during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries while cloth production persisted in much of northern East Africa and West Africa – where per-capita cloth imports were significantly higher – well into the post-colonial period. Comparative analysis reveals that relatively resilient industries tended to arise and persist where textile traditions were adopted comparatively early, allowing industries and demand for domestic cloth to develop several centuries before global integration and colonization; in areas with relatively dense populations and access to large markets; where centralized states developed and pre-colonial institutions helped encourage industrial growth; where local endowments and geography favored income-enhancing cash-crop cultivation; and where nineteenth- and twentieth-century colonial intervention and fiscal institutions were comparatively less disruptive to existing socio-economic organization.

Katharine Frederick, 2018. [“A comparative analysis of East and West African cotton cloth production from the early modern to the post-colonial era”](#), AEHN Working Paper No. 37

Bandyopadhyay, Sanghamitra and Elliot Green, 2018. Explaining inter-ethnic and inter-religious marriage in Sub-Saharan Africa

Inter-cultural marriages have long been of great interest to social scientists who wish to examine how ethnic, religious, racial and other identities form and change over time. However, the vast majority of this research has been concentrated in developed countries. As such we undertake the first major examination into the causes and correlates of inter-ethnic and inter-religious marriage in contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa. We use Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) couples data in a series of multi-level logit models from up to 36 countries to document a number of findings. First, we show that inter-ethnic marriage rates are high, at 22.3% on average, and rising across Africa over the past 30 years, with rates approaching 50% for recent marriages in Gabon and Zambia and rising rates over time for all countries in our dataset. In contrast, however, we show that inter-religious marriage rates are much lower, at only 5%, and stagnant, with no country average higher than 15% and declining over time in a number of countries. Second, as expected from the literature on inter-cultural marriages in other contexts, we show that modernization variables such as urbanization, literacy/education, wealth and declines in polygamy and agricultural employment are significantly correlated with rising levels of inter-ethnic marriage; in contrast, the relationship between modernization and inter-religious marriage is much more ambiguous. Third, we show that inter-ethnic marriage is significantly correlated with higher age at marriage, being previously married and migration before marriage. Finally, we find no evidence that inter-married couples have fewer children, in contrast to findings elsewhere.

Bandyopadhyay, Sanghamitra and Elliot Green. [Explaining inter-ethnic and inter-religious marriage in Sub-Saharan Africa](#), Working Papers 90, Queen Mary, University of London, School of Business and Management, Centre for Globalisation Research.

Asongu, Simplice and Oasis Kodila-Tedika, 2018. This one is 400 Libyan dinars, this one is 500: Insights from Cognitive Human Capital and Slave Trade

One of the most disturbing contemporary episodes in human history that has been decried globally is the recent Libyan experience of slave trade, where migrants captured end-up being sold as slaves. We contribute to the understanding of this phenomenon by investigating the role of cognitive human capital on slave trade. To this end, we use the historic intelligence and slave trade variables respectively, as the independent and outcome variables of interest. Our findings show a negative relationship between slave trade and cognitive human capital. Hence, slave trade is more apparent when cognitive human capital is low. The Ordinary Least Squares findings are robust to the control for outliers, uncertainty about the model and Tobit regressions. We substantiate why from the perspective of massive sensitisation and education, the non-contemporary relationship between cognitive ability and slave trade established in this study has contemporary practical policy relevance in efforts to stem the tide of clandestine travel to Europe through countries in which clandestine migrants are captured and sold as slaves.

Asongu, Simplice and Oasis Kodila-Tedika, 2018. [This one is 400 Libyan dinars, this one is 500: Insights from Cognitive Human Capital and Slave Trade](#), Working Papers 18/016, African Governance and Development Institute.

Cogneau, Denis. Dupraz, Yannick, Mesplé-Somps, Sandrine, 2018. Fiscal Capacity and Dualism in Colonial States : The French Empire 1830-1962

A novel data collection provides comparative evidence on colonial states of the 'second' French colonial Empire, since their foundation to their devolution in the 1960s. Colonial states were neither omnipotent Leviathans nor casual night watchmen. On the one hand, we emphasize the extractive efficiency and capacity of adaptation of colonial states to varied socioeconomic contexts and to varying historical conditions. On the other hand, we put forward dualism as the main common feature and legacy.

Cogneau, Denis. Dupraz, Yannick, Mesplé-Somps, Sandrine, 2018. [Fiscal Capacity and Dualism in Colonial States : The French Empire 1830-1962](#), Paris School of Economics Working Paper, 2018-no. 27.

Denis Cogneau, Yannick Dupraz, Sandrine Mesplé-Somps. African states and development in historical perspective: Colonial public finances in British and French West

Why does it seem so difficult to build a sizeable developmental state in Africa? A growing literature looks at the colonial roots of differences in economic development, often using the French/British difference as a source of variation to identify which features of the colonial past mattered. We use historical archives to build a new dataset of public finances in 9 French and 4 British colonies of West Africa from 1900 to independence. Though we find some significant differences between French and British colonies, we conclude that overall patterns of public finances were similar in both empires. The most striking fact is the great increase in expenditure per capita in the last decades of colonization: it quadrupled between the end of World War II and independence. This increase in expenditure was made possible partly by an increase in customs revenue due to rising trade flows, but mostly by policy changes: net subsidies from colonizers to their colonies became positive, while, within the colonies, direct and indirect taxation rates increased. We conclude that the last fifteen years of colonization are a key period to understand colonial legacies.

Denis Cogneau, Yannick Dupraz, Sandrine Mesplé-Somps. [African states and development in historical perspective: Colonial public finances in British and French West](#), Paris School of Economic Working Paper.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

YSI Regional Convening, Harare Zimbabwe, 16-18 August

- **Deadline for paper submissions passed**

Young Scholars based in Africa are invited to convene in Harare, Zimbabwe. The event serves to strengthen the African network of new economic thinkers pursuing a new economic paradigm. Attendees will be able to attend the annual conference of the Zimbabwe Historical Association in the same trip.

1. Themes covered will include:
2. African Economies in Transition
3. New Approaches to African Economic History
4. Revisiting and Confronting the Challenges of African Development
5. Rethinking Cooperatives and the African Agenda
6. The Current Challenges of a Complex Reality
7. A Critical Engagement with Financial Stability in Africa
8. The Gender Division of Labour; Diversity and Change
9. Inequality in Africa
10. Rethinking Political Economy: the State & Pluralist Economics Teaching
11. Perspectives on the Challenges for Sustainable Development in Africa

For more information visit <https://www.ineteconomics.org/events/ysi-africa-convening-1>

Annual Meeting of the Economic History Association, in Montreal, Canada, 7-9 September

- **Deadline for Paper Submissions has passed**

The theme for EHA 2018 is “From Plague, Famine, and War, Save us, O Lord’ Shocks and Disasters in Economic History”. The age-old prayer refers to disasters that have blighted lives throughout history. The theme is an invitation for papers on the broader economic-historical aspects of such crises—environmental, climatic, humanitarian, economic, and other. Plagues and famines kill few nowadays, and deaths from state-based conflicts are also in decline. But they still matter, not least because they may well threaten again as global warming intensifies. The theme of the 2018 meetings embraces topics such as the economic causes and consequences of wars and of other disasters; comparative and interdisciplinary analyses of famines and plagues from classical antiquity to modern times; analyses of the institutions that attempted to counter them; of their proximate and remoter causes (e.g. climate change); of their changing incidence over time; of the welfare gains from their eradication; and of their short- and long-run economic, demographic, and political consequences. Proposals on macroeconomic and financial crises and, indeed, on any other topic, are also welcome.

Graduate students are encouraged to attend the meeting. The association offers subsidies for travel, hotel, registration, and meals, including a special graduate student dinner. The Allan Nevins and Alexander Gerschenkron prizes will be awarded to the best dissertations on North American and non-North American topics respectively.

For more information visit <http://eh.net/eha/economic-history-association-2018-annual-meeting/>

13th Meeting of the African Economic History Network in Bologna, Italy, 12-13 October

- **Deadline for Paper Submissions has passed**

Papers on all aspects of African Economic History are welcome but preference will be given to those which pertain to the conference theme: “Transitions in African Economic History”.

Bursaries are available for graduate students and faculty from Africa. If necessary please indicate this on your submission slip.

For more information visit the network website.

“Connecting the local and the global in nineteenth century Southern and Central Africa” UFS Workshop, Bloemfontein, South Africa, 10-12 October

During the last three decades of the long nineteenth century, globalisation in Southern and Central Africa manifested itself in various ways in different places and times. Much attention has hitherto been paid to South Africa, and in particular the Transvaal, where the discovery of minerals brought with it the twin challenges of accelerated modernisation and globalisation. Yet, the forces at play reverberated much further than the gold and diamond mines of Johannesburg and Kimberley.

Across the region, people, animals, goods and capital were drawn together through intricate connections that reached beyond the Atlantic and Indian oceans. Networks emerged that were both local and transnational, formal and informal, between individuals and groups, as well as companies, states and institutions – all within a society undergoing rapid transformation. It is this shifting balance of local and global forces that we seek to elucidate.

This workshop forms the first part of a wider, British Academy funded project that is investigating the relationship between capital and the state in the late-nineteenth century Transvaal. The aim of the project is to trace the networks that converged around the state, which sought to seize upon the opportunities for influence and patronage presented by the sudden influx of wealth.

In order to understand and contextualise the process in the Transvaal, it is imperative to understand the global forces at play, as well as their wider regional implications. For this reason we seek to explore a wide range of themes in a workshop that draws together the local and the global perspectives. It is an opportunity to examine broader transnational connections and portals of globalisation, and the varied experiences it brought from the Cape to the Congo. The aim is to stimulate conversation and debate, and to enhance our understanding of late-nineteenth century Southern and Central Africa.

This workshop is sponsored by a British Academy Newton Advanced Fellowship, and is hosted by the International Studies Group at the University of the Free State. It will take place in Bloemfontein from 10-12 October, 2018. Contributions will be taken up into an edited volume on the connected

history of Southern and Central Africa in a global perspective. Please contact Lindie Koorts (koorts.lindie@gmail.com) to confirm attendance by 31 May 2018.

**The Aftermath of the First World War in Southern Africa: Repercussions and Transformations (in honour of Nelson Mandela, 1918-2013),
Unisa, Pretoria, South Africa
12-13 November 2018**

- **Deadline for Paper Submissions: 13 August 2018**

Over the past few years, a broad range of relevant aspects of the First World War have been explored in many countries. While the economic, social and political reverberations of the war in Europe have always been given due attention, fewer studies have focused on the impact of the war on the shaping of southern Africa. With the centenary of the end of the war approaching, we want to shift questions about the legacies of the war to a southern African context. The objective of the conference is to explore relevant aspects of change during the inter-war period from various angles, encompassing political, social, cultural, economic, ecological, and technological aspects. We invite proposals for paper presentations on relevant themes and topics. We anticipate papers on the following questions

- What impact did the innovations in military, medical and civil technologies have on southern Africa?
- How were black and white veterans, especially those who returned with physical and mental injuries, reintegrated into their respective societies? How did the colonial state respond to these challenges?
- How did the war impact on race relations and identity formation in the post-war period? • How did the experience and the memory of the war influence perceptions and expectations on the eve of the outbreak of the Second World War?
- How were interned civilians and prisoners of war re-integrated into society? • How did the social, economic and political repercussions of the war shape the policies of the colonial state? How did African leaders and communities respond to colonial policies in the post-war period? • How was the memory of the war preserved in southern African communities, and how did it change in response to the challenges of the post-war period?
- How was the First World War portrayed in popular culture?
- What impact did the war have on the struggles for independence and on the formation of new identities in a transnational and global context? What role did the League of Nations play in shaping a new political consciousness?

Paper presentations should extend to approximately 15 minutes. Proposals for papers may be submitted to the members of the organising team listed below.

The proposed contributions should not have been previously published or accepted for publication elsewhere. Proposals must include a title and a summary of the presentation.

The conference organisers are currently exploring several options for financial support, but the participants are encouraged to consider self-funding if other funding is not available.

Organising team: Dr Surya Chetty – Department of History, UNISA, South Africa, chetts@unisa.ac.za
Prof Tilman Dederig - Department of History, UNISA, South Africa, dedertm@unisa.ac.za
Dr Stefan Manz – Department of Languages and Translation Studies, Aston University, UK, S.Manz@aston.ac.uk
Dr Anne Samson – Great War in Africa Association, International Network for

the First World War, First World War Studies Group, UK and South Africa,
thesamsonsed@gmail.com



OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Wageningen University Rural and Environmental History Group, Post-doc, 4 year position

The team is looking for a post-doc researcher in global economic and social history who will receive a free role in the research program of the Rural and Environmental History Group at Wageningen University. He/she will be able to develop his/her personal research CV and will co-lecture two or three courses in economic, global and/or environmental history to social science students.

Requirements:

- PhD in history, economics or any other social science with a clear historical character.
- published internationally in refereed scientific journals.
- sufficient experience with economic/social history conference presentations.
- quantitative research skills, affinity with cliometrics.
- international network which you are willing to expand.
- strong didactic skills and enthusiasm for teaching and working with (international) students in a variety of programmes.
- good organizational skills.
- fluency in English and Dutch.
- ambition to write grant proposals and obtain your own funding.

For more information visit:

https://www.connexys.nl/wageningenursite/page.html?p_sfw_id=1052&adv_pub_id=1&adv_adv_id=52483&adv_taal=2&p_taal=2

Stellenbosch University, The Biography of an Uncharted People Project Post-doc, 2 year position

A new generation of historians and other social scientists is reinterpreting African history using individual-level archival records. The Biography of an Uncharted People project builds on this momentum, using micro-level evidence of groups often excluded from aggregate statistical records, charting a new biography of South Africans. The project will equip South African humanities graduates with skills in the use of digital humanities techniques and abilities to teach using digital technologies to their best advantage.

Successful applications will be accompanied by 1) CV and proof of excellent academic performance (university transcripts, PhD dissertation and publication record), 2) a recommendation letter from a supervisor and 3) a letter by the candidate detailing their reasons for choosing this project. Please send all correspondence to leap@sun.ac.za. Applications close by 1 October 2018.

Specific competencies in historical geography (GIS) highly recommended.

Find out more: www.unchartedpeople.org