

AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #38 SEPTEMBER, 2018

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:

Jutta Bolt and Leigh Gardner. ["Tax Compliance under Indirect Rule in British Africa"](#), AEHN Working Paper No.40

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

Mohammed Saleh. On the Road to Heaven: Taxation, Conversations and the Coptic-Muslim Socioeconomic Gap in Medieval Egypt.

Self-selection of converts is an under-studied explanation of inter-religion socioeconomic status (SES) differences. Inspired by this conjecture, I trace the Coptic-Muslim SES gap in Egypt to self-selection-on-SES during Egypt's conversion from Coptic Christianity to Islam. Selection was driven by a poll tax on non-Muslims, imposed from 641 until 1856, which induced poorer Copts to convert to Islam leading Copts to shrink into a better-off minority. Using novel data sources, I document that high-tax districts in 641–1100 had in 1848–1868 relatively fewer Copts, but greater SES differentials. Group restrictions on apprenticeships and schooling led the initial selection to perpetuate.

Mohammed Saleh, 2018. ["On the Road to Heaven: Taxation, Conversations and the Coptic-Muslim Socioeconomic Gap in Medieval Egypt"](#), *The Journal of Economic History*, 78(2): 394-434.

Michiel De Haas and Ewout Frankema. Gender, Ethnicity, and unequal opportunity in colonial Uganda: European influences, African realities and the pitfalls of parish register data.

The renaissance of African economic history in the past decade has opened up new research avenues for studying the long-term social and economic development of Africa. A sensitive treatment of African realities in the evaluation of European colonial legacies and a critical stance towards the use of new sources and approaches is crucial. In this article, we engage with a recent article by Meier zu Selhausen and Weisdorf to show how selection biases in, and Eurocentric interpretations of, parish registers have provoked an overly optimistic account of European influences on the educational and occupational opportunities of African men and women. We confront their dataset, drawn from the marriage registers of the Anglican Cathedral in Kampala, with Uganda's 1991 census, and show that trends in the literacy and numeracy of men and women born in Kampala lagged half a century behind those who wedded in Namirembe Cathedral. We run a regression analysis showing that access to schooling during the colonial era was unequal along lines of gender and ethnicity. We foreground the role of Africans in the spread of education, and we argue that European influences were not just diffusive but also divisive, and that gender inequality was reconfigured rather than eliminated under colonial rule.

Michiel De Haas and Ewout Frankema. ["Gender, Ethnicity, and unequal opportunity in colonial Uganda: European influences, African realities and the pitfalls of parish register data"](#), *The Economic History Review*, 71(3):965-994.

Chris Chris Evans Göran Rydén. 'Voyage Iron': An Atlantic Slave Trade Currency, its European Origins, and West African Impact

An array of goods was traded to Africa in the era of the transatlantic slave trade. Many were eye-catching consumer goods; others were far more mundane, including 'voyage iron', a metal forged in northern Europe, bars of which acted as a currency along the West African coast. This article examines the geography of voyage iron production, showing that it originated in places – primarily Sweden – that are not often thought of as being connected to Atlantic commerce. It then considers the impact that European iron had on West Africa, where iron smelting was very well-established locally. The vibrancy of African metallurgy has led some distinguished Africanists to dismiss voyage iron as marginal to African needs. By contrast, it is contended here that European iron underpinned an agro-environmental transformation of the coastal forests in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and played a major role in the spread of New World crops in West Africa. Voyage iron was a superficially unremarkable producer good but it contributed to a profound reshaping of the economic geography of West Africa.

Chris Chris Evans Göran Rydén. "'Voyage Iron': An Atlantic Slave Trade Currency, its European Origins, and West African Impact", *Past & Present*, 239(1): 41-70.



Working Papers

Jutta Bolt and Leigh Gardner. Tax Compliance under Indirect Rule in British Africa

How states acquire the ability to raise taxes is a central question in the study of institutions and economic development in economic history. This paper uses new data on 'Native Authorities', or African local governments, to investigate tax compliance under indirect rule in British Africa. In theory, Native Authorities represented the integration of indigenous institutions into colonial rule. However, the relationships of African states with the colonial government varied, and African communities experienced considerable political and economic change during the colonial period. The paper investigates the relationship between tax compliance, the autonomy of African states within the colonial system, local levels of income and education, and Native Authority institutions. Understanding the dynamics of Native Authority tax collection helps address wider questions about African processes of state-building, the emergence of an 'uneven topography' of sub-national institutions during the colonial period, and the ways in which Africans shaped colonial rule.

Jutta Bolt and Leigh Gardner. ["Tax Compliance under Indirect Rule in British Africa"](#), AEHN Working Paper, No.40/2018.

Remi Jedwab, Felix Meier zu Selhausen and Alexander Moradi. The Economics of Missionary Expansion: Evidence from Africa and Implications for Development

One of the most powerful cultural transformations in modern history has been the dramatic expansion of Christianity outside Europe. Recent, yet extensive, literature uses Christian missions established during colonial times as a source of exogenous variation to study the long-term effects of religion, human capital and culture in Africa, the Americas and Asia. We argue that the endogeneity of missionary expansion may be underestimated, thus questioning the link between missions and economic development. Using annual panel data on missions from 1751 to 1932 in Ghana as well as cross-sectional data on missions for 43 sub-Saharan African countries in 1900 and 1924, we show that: (i) locational decisions were driven by economic factors, as missionaries went to healthier, safer, and more accessible and developed areas, privileging the best locations first; (ii) these factors may spuriously explain why locations with past missions are more developed today, especially as most studies rely on historical mission atlases that tend to only report the best mission locations. Our study identifies factors behind the spatial diffusion of religion. It also highlights the risks of omission and endogenous measurement error biases when using historical data and events for identification.

Remi Jedwab, Felix Meier zu Selhausen and Alexander Moradi. ["The Economics of Missionary Expansion: Evidence from Africa and Implications for Development"](#), CSAE Working Paper Series 1018-07, Centre for the Study of African Economies, University of Oxford.

Johan Fourie. Cliometrics in South Africa.

African economic history is experiencing a renaissance, and South African economic history likewise. Combining newly transcribed large historical datasets with econometric techniques now standard in the economics literature, economic historians have greatly improved our understanding of South Africa's development over the centuries. Yet many questions remain. This paper reviews the most recent contributions, and outlines the road ahead.

Johan Fourie. "Cliometrics in South Africa". Working Papers 14/2018, Stellenbosch University, Department of Economics.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Conferences

Annual Meeting of the Economic History Association, in Montreal, Canada, September 7-9, 2018.

- **Deadline for Poster Submissions passed**
- **Deadline for Dissertation Submissions 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.

**44th Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association
8-11 November, 2018, Phoenix Arizona**

“Histories of Disadvantage: Meanings, Mechanisms, and Politics”

The drivers and distribution of disadvantage remain as enduring concerns for social scientists. The unfairly disadvantaged has operated as a contested category, leading to schisms within and between groups, across racial, ethnic, and socio-economic divides, sometimes by virtue of gender, sexuality, faith, or flag. In recognition of these concerns, we seek panel proposals and papers that examine how history, politics, culture, institutions, and organizational practices shape (and are shaped by) these disadvantages. We also welcome papers that generate historically-informed theory and that thickly describe disadvantaged and disadvantaging life-worlds. We construe the topic of disadvantage broadly, including its causes and consequences as well as the shared understandings held by both the disadvantaged and those facilitating such conditions.

Although the work of social science historians and historically-informed social scientists has no limits in time or period, contemporary debates remind us of past important events that have affected disadvantage around the globe, including the Taiping Rebellion, the 1871 Brazilian Law of Free Birth, the 1874 failure of the Freedmen’s Savings and Trust, the 1911 Mines and Works Act No 12 in South Africa, the 1935 Social Security Act (excluding agricultural workers and domestic servants), the 1944 GI Bill in the US, the 1945 dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1965 Supreme Court decision giving married couples (but not unmarried women) the right to use birth control (*Griswold v. Connecticut*), the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion, and the Court’s overturning of the Defense of Marriage Act in 2013. We are interested in papers that explore these and other moments where disadvantages are re-set or put in motion, altering trajectories that are demographic, political, economic, or phenomenological in nature. As these examples suggest, the goals of social inclusion and political incorporation have pursued, but not been limited to, material gains. We are therefore interested in work that addresses inequalities in the distribution of power, wealth, recognition and respect while attending to the historical particulars of the unexpected, the unrecognized, and the concealed.

The 2018 Program Committee seeks panel proposals that speak to the theme of “Disadvantage,” but we also welcome, as always, individual papers and panels on all aspects of social science history and historically-informed social science. (See the list of network organizers for the range of topics regularly engaged by conference panels.)

The 2018 conference will be held November 8-11 at The Hyatt Regency Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona

For More information visit <https://ssha.org/>

10th Demographic Conference of "Young Demographers" 7-8 February 2019, Charles University, Prague

The conference is planned for two days (**7th and 8th February 2018**) and will take place at the Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague, Albertov 6, Prague 2. All participants will have the possibility to present their actual research and discuss it with colleagues from other countries or fields of study. Although the conference is focused mostly on Ph.D. students of Demography, all young (or a bit older) researchers (**not only demographers** – a section for non-demographers is planned) will be welcomed. The working language will be English and except for a few online posters all presentations are expected to be in oral form. At least one section will be devoted to presentations of research based on usage of the SAS software. The SAS Institute of the Czech Republic and the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, partners of the conference, will award a prize of the best presentation using the SAS software or the best presentation with social context.

In the 6th February 2019, workshop on current research and modern methods in historical demography will be organized in cooperation with Association for Young Historical Demographers. The workshop capacity is limited. The workshop program will be specified during the October 2018.

If you are interested in participating, please submit the title of your proposed presentation, a short abstract in English (maximum 250 words) and 3–5 keywords via registration form before the 14th November 2018. You will be informed about the acceptance before the 14th December 2018.

For more information visit <http://www.demografove.estranky.cz/en/articles/conferences/10th-demographic-conference-of--young-demographers-----call-for-papers.html>

Seminar Series and Workshops

Annual Leap Lecture, 3 October 2018, Stellenbosch University

The Laboratory for the Economics of Africa's Past (LEAP) is dedicated to the quantitative study of African economic history. It brings together scholars and students interested in understanding and explaining the long-term economic development of Africa's diverse societies. Since 2016, LEAP has hosted an annual lecture series. The first LEAP Lecture was presented by Marianne Wanamaker of the University of Tennessee. The second LEAP Lecture was presented by Emmanuel Akyeampong of Harvard University. This year, Leap will host Prof. Anthony Hopkins from Cambridge.

Hopkins is known for his extensive work on the history of Africa, empires, and globalisation. He has been an editor of both the *Journal of African History* and the *Economic History Review*. His principal works include *An Economic History of West Africa* (1973), and, with Peter Cain, *British Imperialism 1688–2000* (1993), which won the Forkosch Prize in 1995. His most recent work is entitled *American Empire: A Global History* (2017).

All interested academics are invited to sit in on this lecture. For more information please contact Johanf@sun.ac.za.

Journal of Iberian and Latin American Economic History Fast Track Meeting: Special Issue on Portuguese Economic and Social History, 17 November, 2018, Lisbon

Submissions are welcome for a Fast Track session to be held during the 2018 APHES meeting in Lisbon. All papers must be submitted in English and cover some aspect of Portuguese economic history, **including the former colonies** (prior to independence; e.g. a paper can be about Brazil, but only prior to 1821). Comparative papers are welcome.

Anyone is free to submit, but submissions from young scholars are particularly welcome. *Revista de Historia Económica*-*Journal of Iberian and Latin American Economic History* will publish a special issue on Portuguese economic and social history based on some of the papers presented in this fast track session. The scientific committee will then send the best papers to be refereed but a decision will be taken without a long delay and articles will appear in print within a relatively short time.

The scientific committee will be composed of Blanca Sánchez Alonso (Universidad San Pablo-CEU Spain and RHE-JILAEH chief editor), Nuno Palma (University of Manchester, UK) and Jaime Reis (ICS, University of Lisbon).

Nuno Palma (University of Manchester, UK) will serve as the guest editor for the special issue.

Papers should be submitted to <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/revista-de-historia-economica-journal-of-iberian-and-latin-american-economic-history>.

OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Postdoc position in History at Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

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 University in 2019, and
contribute to the *Biography of an Uncharted People!*

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.

**A postdoctoral fellowship in the
Department of History,
Stellenbosch University, is
available from January 2019.**

**Specific competencies in historical
geography (GIS) highly recommended.**

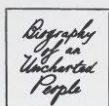
Find out more: www.unchartedpeople.org

**R200 000 pa (two-year, with possible
extension for another year).
Start date negotiable.**

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.



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HISTORY
DEPARTMENT

Biography of an Uncharted People, 2018-2022.
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E-mail: leap@sun.ac.za
Web: www.unchartedpeople.org

PhD, Masters and Honours bursaries in History available.

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?

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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.

**We offer Phd, Masters and
Honours scholarships in 2019.**

Honours: R90 000 pa (one-year)

Masters: R100 000 pa (two-year)

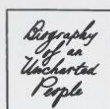
PhD: R130 000 pa (three-year)

Successful applications will be accompanied by

- 1) proof of excellent academic performance (university transcripts required),
- 2) a recommendation letter from a supervisor/lecturer and
- 3) a letter by the candidate detailing their reasons for pursuing a graduate qualification in History and the reasons for choosing this project.

Please send all correspondence to leap@sun.ac.za. Applications close by 8 October 2018.

Please visit www.unchartedpeople.org for more information.



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