

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

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:

Jens Andersson, 2018. "[Tax Stabilisation, Trade and Political Transitions in Francophone West Africa over 120 years](#)", AEHN Working Paper No. 41

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

NEW ABSTRACTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Articles

Branko Milanovic. Towards an explanation of inequality in premodern societies: the role of colonies, urbanization, and high population density

Using a newly expanded set of 41 social tables from premodern societies, this article tries to identify the factors associated with the level of inequality and the inequality extraction ratio (how close to the maximum inequality the elites have pushed actual inequality). Strong evidence is found to show that elites in colonies were more extractive, and that more densely populated and less urbanized countries exhibited lower extraction ratios. Several possibilities are proposed, linking high population density to low inequality and to low elite extraction.

Branko Milanovic, 2018. [“Towards an explanation of inequality in premodern societies: the role of colonies, urbanization, and high population density”](#), *The Economic History Review*, 71(4):1029-1047.

Felix Meier zu Selhausen, Marco H.D. van Leeuwen and Jacob L. Wiesdorf. Social Mobility among Christian Africans: Evidence from Anglican Marriage Registers in Uganda, 1895-2011.

This article uses Anglican marriage registers from colonial and post-colonial Uganda to investigate long-term trends and determinants of intergenerational social mobility and colonial elite formation among Christian African men. It shows that the colonial era opened up new labour opportunities for these African converts, enabling them to take large steps up the social ladder regardless of their social origin. Contrary to the widespread belief that British indirect rule perpetuated the power of African political elites (chiefs), this article shows that a remarkably fluid colonial labour economy actually undermined their social advantages. Sons of chiefs gradually lost their high social-status monopoly to a new, commercially orientated, and well-educated class of Anglican Ugandans, who mostly came from non-elite and sometimes even lower-class backgrounds. The study also documents that the colonial administration and the Anglican mission functioned as key steps on the ladder to upward mobility. Mission education helped provide the skills and social reference needed to climb the ladder in exchange for compliance with the laws of the Anglican Church. These social mobility patterns persisted throughout the post-colonial era, despite rising levels of informal labour during Idi Amin's dictatorship.

Felix Meier zu Selhausen, Marco H.D. van Leeuwen and Jacob L. Wiesdorf, 2018. [“Social Mobility among Christian Africans: Evidence from Anglican Marriage Registers in Uganda, 1895-2011”](#), *The Economic History Review*, 71(4): 1291-1321.

Jake Christopher Richards. Anti-Slave-Trade Law, 'Liberated Africans' and the State in the South Atlantic World, C .1839–1852.

From 1807 onwards, bilateral slave-trade treaties stipulated how naval squadrons would rescue slaves from slave ships, and how states should arrange the settlement and apprenticeship of these slaves, to transform them into 'liberated Africans'. Comparing interactions between the state and liberated Africans at sea along the South African and Brazilian coasts, and in the port towns of Cape Town and Salvador, reveals how the legal status of liberated Africans changed over time. Current scholarship has framed liberated Africans in terms of whether they were attributed rights or suffered re-enslavement, and thus focused on their solidarity through claiming rights, 'ethnic survivals' or creolization. Instead, this paper argues anti-slave-trade legislation ascribed to liberated Africans a set of unguaranteed entitlements – promises regarding status and treatment without obligating states to uphold that status or treatment. By focusing on the precise aspects of legislation that operated at each point in the process of anti-slave-trade activity – rescuing slaves from slave ships, transportation to a port, processing through a court, and apprenticeship – this paper unearths how the law came into force in the encounter between state officials and liberated Africans, as part of the complex transition from slavery to free labour.

Jake Christopher Richards, 2018. [“Anti-Slave-Trade Law, 'Liberated Africans' and the State in the South Atlantic World, C .1839–1852”](#), *Past & Present*, 241(1):179-219.

Robyn D'avignon. Primitive Techniques: From 'Customary' to “Artisinal” Mining in French West Africa.

Since the commodity boom of the early 2000s, the visibility of 'artisanal' or 'small-scale' mining has grown in media coverage and development policies focused on Africa. This article argues that the regulatory category of 'artisanal' mining in Africa originated during the colonial period as 'customary mining'. I build this case through a regional case study of mining policies in the colonial federation of French West Africa, where a single decree accorded African subjects 'customary rights' to seasonally mine gold and rock salt in restricted areas. By contrast, colonial citizens, mostly Europeans, accessed stable mining titles. Customary mining rights never codified actual African mining 'customs', as colonial officials argued. Rather, this law marked the boundary between the technological status of French subjects and citizens. Core elements of this colonial legal framework have been incorporated into postcolonial policies governing the rights of citizens to mineral resources in Africa.

Robyn D'avignon, 2018. [“Primitive Techniques: From 'Customary' to “Artisinal” Mining in French West Africa”](#), *The Journal of African History*, 59(2): 179-197.

Working Papers

Jens Andersson. Tax Stabilisation, Trade and Political Transitions in Francophone West Africa over 120 years.

Contemporary African fiscal systems are usually portrayed as being subject to significant instability, which has negative consequences for public spending and development. However, this paper documents significant long-term fiscal stabilisation in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Senegal as measured by reductions in tax revenue instability and the responsiveness of tax revenue to trade over a 120-year period. This historical process of long-term fiscal stabilisation in francophone West Africa has not been properly acknowledged in the contemporary fiscal policy literature that tends to focus on recent decades. Moreover, it is shown qualitatively and econometrically that this fiscal stabilisation has been accompanied with a long-term reduction in the volatility of trade, a change in tax composition away from trade taxes to indirect domestic taxes, and major shifts in development policy paradigms. This points to the value of studying African fiscal systems over long periods of time to identify relationships not apparent from a short-term perspective and understand the intricate mechanisms and dynamics that characterize the development process.

Jens Andersson, 2018. [“Tax Stabilisation, Trade and Political Transitions in Francophone West Africa over 120 years”](#), AEHN Working Paper No. 41\.

Mattia Bertazzini. The long-term impact of Italian colonial roads in the Horn of Africa, 1935-2000.

Between 1935 and 1940 the Italians built an extensive road network to facilitate the occupation of Ethiopia and secure control over the Horn of Africa, but were expelled in 1941. This provides a unique case study to examine the long-run effect of cheap transport networks on the concentration of economic activity in developing countries. The results show that cells located next to Italian paved roads are significantly richer today and that the relationship is causal. Persistence is explained by a combination of direct and indirect mechanisms: colonial roads attracted economic activity through lower transport costs until 1960. After that date, the advantage of treated locations persisted only indirectly through increasing returns to scale.

Mattia Bertazzini, 2018. [“The long-term impact of Italian colonial roads in the Horn of Africa, 1935-2000”](#), Economic History Working Papers 87074, London School of Economics and Political Science, Department of Economic History.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Conferences

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) researches (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>

Economic History Society Annual Conference Queen's University Belfast, 5-7 April 2019

- [Call for academic papers](#): closed.
- [Call for new researcher papers](#): closed.
- [Call for new researcher posters](#): deadline 19 November 2018.

Registration, sessions, and meetings will all be located on campus. The Saturday reception and dinner will be in the [Titanic Museum](#). Note that the registration fee includes the Saturday reception and a tour of the Titanic Musuem, but not the Saturday dinner which must be booked via the online booking facility. Registration will open in early December and close 1 week prior to the conference (i.e. 29 March 2019).

For more information visit <http://www.ehs.org.uk/events/annual-conference.html>

The 3rd European Society of Historical Demography Conference, Pécs, Hungary 26-29 June, 2019

The third conference of the ESHD will be held at the University of Pécs, Southern Hungary. The European Society of Historical Demography (ESHD), the Council of ESHD, Hungarian Demographic Research Institute, the Foundation for Demographic Research, and the University of Pécs as the organizers of the conference have the pleasure to invite you to join the event in Pécs, Hungary, on 26- 29 June, 2019.

Pre-registration of paper and session proposals is now open on our website. With this call for sessions we would like to invite scholars to propose full sessions devoted to topics of historical demography in a broader sense including

- Longitudinal and cross-sectional case studies
- Comparative analyses on the population history of Europe and regions outside Europe both at the macro and the micro level
- Theoretical and methodological papers too. We particularly encourage sessions devoted to regions and periods less studied to date and to comparative approach in analyses.

The deadline for submitting a session proposal and pre-registration is December 31, 2018.

Session proposals should include 4-5 speakers, a chair and discussant. The roles of session organizer, chair and discussant can be fulfilled by the same or different persons. Proposals should provide a general introduction specifying the theme of and background to the session (max. 1500 characters with spaces) as well as individual abstracts for each of the papers (max. 1500 characters with spaces uploaded as PDF file).

Session proposals can only be submitted at the Conference website (<http://eshd2019.hu/>) by filling in the pre-registration form.

Seminar Series



Seminars begin at 5pm in the Old Library, Darwin College (entrance on Silver St) and are followed by drinks and dinner with the speaker. All are welcome.

4 October

Professor Pat Thane (King's College London)
Divided Kingdom: inequalities in the UK since 1900.

11 October

Dr Lucy Newton (University of Reading)
Women in banking: the introduction of the 'Personal Banker' at Barclays Bank in the 1970s

18 October

Professor Naomi Lamoreaux (Yale University)
Opening the black box of the common-law legal regime: contrasts in the development of corporate law in Britain and the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

25 October

Professor Patrick O'Brien (London School of Economics)
Britain's wars with France, 1793-1815 and their contribution to the consolidation of the Industrial Revolution

1 November

No seminar (Professor Avner Offer will give an Ellen McArthur lecture)

8 November

No seminar (Professor Avner Offer will give an Ellen McArthur lecture)

15 November

Dr Justyna Wubs-Mrozewicz (University of Amsterdam)
Conflict management in northern Europe, 1350-1570

22 November

Dr Eilidh Garrett (Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure)
Movers and stayers: populations, movement and measurement in historical demography.

29 November

Professor John Styles (University of Hertfordshire)
Inducements to technical innovation in the British Industrial Revolution: markets, materiality and the invention of the spinning jenny.

This seminar combines nine seminar programmes: medieval economic and social history; early modern economic and social history; modern economic and social history; quantitative history; the Centre for Financial History; the Centre for History and Economics; the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure; the Centre for African History; and Global Economic History. Their specialist seminar programmes do not run in Michaelmas term, but each meets separately again in Lent and (sometimes) Easter. The core seminar is grateful for the support of Darwin College and for the generosity of the Trevelyan Fund. Seminar coordinators: Amy Erickson (ale25@cam.ac.uk), Duncan Needham (djn33@cam.ac.uk), and Leigh Shaw-Taylor (lmws2@cam.ac.uk). Economic and Social History at Cambridge: www.econsoc.hist.cam.ac.uk.

OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

**Post-doctoral fellow in Economic History / Demography
Lund University**

Type of employment: Limit of tenure, two years.

Extent: 100 % Location: Department of Economic History, Lund First day of employment: January 1, 2019 or by appointment. The holder of the position will be affiliated with the Centre for Economic Demography.

Subject area

Economic History and Demography

Job assignments

The holder will work in the research program The Landskrona Population Study, with demographic analyses of longitudinal individual-level data during the period 1900-2010. The program is based on socioeconomic and demographic micro data, with information on various demographic outcomes, occupation and income for about 350,000 unique individuals in the city of Landskrona and surrounding rural areas. Work tasks involve empirical analyses of different demographic processes (health and mortality, gender and family, socioeconomic stratification and mobility) including data management, statistical analysis, and writing academic papers for publication, independently and in collaboration with other members of the research team. The post-doctoral fellow should be willing to interact with students and to participate actively in the common activities at the Centre for Economic Demography. The position may involve a limited amount (max 20%) of teaching and/or supervision of Bachelor and Master's Theses.

The Rise and Fall of the Industrial City: The Landskrona Population Study

The aim of this research program is to analyze long-term demographic processes connected to industrialization, modern economic growth and the profound societal transformation of the 20th century. These changes have completely altered living conditions across the developed world, not only in terms of nutrition, consumption and overall quality of life, but also in loosening many of the demographic constraints that dominated people's lives for so long. The broad outline of these processes is well known through research at the macro level but we still know very little about the micro-level foundations, which is of great value to fully understand and explain the processes. Within the Landskrona Population Study (LPS) we study these vital economic and demographic changes in Sweden through the lens of an industrial city which has experienced this transformation.

The LPS is based on a unique data infrastructure, the Scanian Economic-Demographic Database, containing economic and demographic longitudinal data at the individual level for the full 20th century (ca 350,000 individuals). It focuses on four fundamental and interrelated economic-demographic processes: (1) Inequality in health and mortality, (2) Changing family patterns and gender relations, (3) Social and economic mobility, and (4) Immigration and integration.

Eligibility

To be qualified for employment as post-doctoral fellow, an individual must hold a PhD or an international degree equivalent in Economic History or related discipline (e.g. Economics, Sociology, Economic Geography, History), awarded no more than three years ago (unless the applicant has been on parental leave or leave due to illness). Applications will also be accepted from persons who have not yet completed their PhD, but this condition must be satisfied at the time of employment.

Basis of Assessment

Scholarly proficiency is the main requirement for employment.

The holder of the position should be competent and experienced enough to be able to carry out independent research, using state-of-the-art econometric models and demographic methods. Experience in working with historical population databases is a merit.

For appointment, the candidate must have demonstrated a high degree of research expertise as manifested in the quality of the PhD dissertation and other publications. Documented skills in quantitative analysis and data management are required. The main software used in the research program is STATA, and high-level skills in using this software is a merit. We also look for high-level communicative skills, good time management, and the ability to interact with the research community and building networks.

In addition to the above, the following set of criteria will be applied in the assessment of candidates:

- international experience;
- other results and distinctions which attest to the applicant's ability to do research;
- ability to engage and inform society at large about research.

The evaluation will take personal qualities, such as academic independence, willingness to collaborate, and communication skills, into consideration.

Applications Should Be Written In English And Must Include

Cover letter, Curriculum Vitae, Research plan where the applicant presents his/her own ideas for research to be conducted. Publications including publication list, Certificates, references, etc.

For more information contact martin.dribe@ekh.lu.se