AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY NEWSLETTER ISSUE #43 July, 2019

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 aehnetwork@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 aehnetwork@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:

Dacil Juif, 2019. "Mining, Paternalism and the Spread of Mining in the Congo since 1920", AEHN Working Paper No. 46.

Shane Doyle, Felix Meier zu Selhausen and Jacob L. Weisdorf, 2019. "<u>The Blessings of Medicine?</u> <u>Patient Characteristics and Health Outcomes in a Ugandan Mission Hospital, 1908-1970"</u>, AEHN Working Paper No. 45.

Abel Gwaindepi, 2019. "Serving God and Mammon: The 'Minerals-Railway Complex' and its effects on colonial public finances in the British Cape Colony, 1810-1910", AEHN Working Paper No. 44.

Frontiers in Economic History Blog

Maria Fibaek and Erik Green, 2019. <u>"Labour Control and the Establishment of Profitable Settler Agriculture in Colonial Kenya, c.1920-1945"</u>, AEHN Blog Article Summary (June 2019).

This study links the expansion of settler agriculture with the introduction of policies that repressed African agricultural earnings. We do not find support for the 'classical' theory that declines in African agriculture combined with taxation can explain the observed rise in settler agriculture in colonial Kenya. Instead, we argue that an emerging labor control regime enabled settlers to raise their profit share.



NEW ABSTRACTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Anthony G. Hopkins. Fifty Years of African economic history.

The article summarizes the evolution of the study of African economic history during the past half century. It does so, not by attempting to assess the mountain of evidence that is now available, but by identifying the intellectual impulses that have shaped the contours of the subject. Six main phases have influenced several generations of postgraduate students who have been drawn to the study of Africa: modernization theory, the dependency thesis, Marxism, the Annales school, postmodernism, and, most recently, the new economic history. The discussion identifies the common features of these schools as well as their differences. Entrants to the subject, it is argued, should take encouragement from past achievements, which have opened frontiers of knowledge and set standards, but they should also be aware that the latest is not necessarily the best, nor is it always as novel as its advocates commonly suppose. Familiarity with historiographical trends enables newcomers to relate their own work to that of their predecessors. In this way, they can find room to express their own individuality and ensure that their creativity carries the subject forward.

Anthony G. Hopkins, 2019. "Fifty Years of African economic history", Economic History of Developing Regions, 34(1):1-15.

Maria Fibaek and Erik Green. Labour control and the establishment of profitable settler agriculture in colonial Kenya, c. 1920–45

This article contributes to the growing literature on the impact of colonial legacies on long-run development. We focus on Kenya, where it is previously argued that land tenure and taxation policies created an impoverished class of wage workers leading to lower living standards, high inequality, and stunted economic development. We take issue with this interpretation. Using archival sources, we map the rise of profitable settler agriculture. Next, we correlate settler profitability with taxation and the development of African agriculture. Contrary to previous studies, we find that labour came from areas that became increasingly more commercialized. Thus, a decline in African livelihoods was not a necessary pre-condition for the establishment of successful European settler agriculture. Instead a restructuring of the settler agricultural sector coinciding with tightened labour control policies can explain the increased profitability. An increased cultivation of high-value crops raised the value of labour. Reductions of African mobility lowered both the wage and transaction costs of finding and retraining workers enabling the settlers to raise their profit share. Our finding calls for a revision of the colonial legacy of European settler agriculture for long-term economic and social development in Kenya.

Maria Fibaek and Erik Green, 2019. <u>"Labour control and the establishment of profitable settler agriculture in colonial Kenya, c. 1920–45"</u>, Economic History of Developing Regions 34(1): 72-110.

Jane Whittle. A Critique of Approaches to 'Domestic Work': Women, Work and the Pre-Industrial Economy.

This article examines historians' approaches to work, and particularly women's housework and care work, in the preindustrial economy. It offers a critique of existing approaches adopted by historians, in which women's work is often described as 'domestic' without a clear definition being offered. The effect is to imply that much of women's work fell outside the economy. These approaches are then traced back to their roots in classical and neoclassical economic thought, and in feminist theories of social reproduction and domestic labour. The second half of the article offers a way forward. It examines feminist critiques of the UN guidelines of national accounting (used to calculate GDP), which argue that housework and care work are part of the wider economy, and shows how the relevant data can be collected. This approach is then briefly applied to the early modern English

economy, to demonstrate the difference in perspective it offers. It is shown, for instance, that housework and care work were highly commercialised in this period. The conclusion offers a clearer definition of different types of work, arguing that housework and care work for the family should be defined as subsistence services.

Jane Whittle, 2019. "A Critique of Approaches to 'Domestic Work': Women, Work and the Pre-Industrial Economy", Past & Present 243(1):35-70.

Keri Lambert. 'It's all work and happiness on the farms': Agricultural development between the blocs in Nkrumah's Ghana.

This study assesses the agricultural sector under the government of Kwame Nkrumah as a dynamic Cold War front. After Ghana's independence in 1957, Nkrumah asserted that the new nation would guard its sovereignty from foreign influence, while recognizing that it needed foreign cooperation and investment. His government embarked upon a development program with an emphasis on diversifying Ghana's agriculture to decrease her dependence on cocoa. Meanwhile, both the United States and the Soviet Union sought to establish footholds in Ghana through agricultural aid, trade, and investments. In the first years of independence, the Ghanaian state encouraged smallholder farming and American investment. Later, in a sudden change of policy, the government established large-scale state farms along the socialist model. This article brings to light the ways that Ghanaians in rural areas engaged with and interpreted the increasingly interventionist agriculture projects and policies of Nkrumah's government.

Keri Lambert, 2019. <u>'It's all work and happiness on the farms': Agricultural development between the blocs in Nkrumah's Ghana</u>", *The Journal of African History* 60(1):25-44.

Working Papers

Dacil Juif, Mining, Paternalism and the Spread of Mining in the Congo since 1920.

This study adds the case of a Belgian colony to a literature that has mainly focused on differences in school enrolment between French and British African territories. While most studies emphasize the supply-side, especially the constraints on missionary activity, we highlight the role of demand from the colonial mining industry. We use various primary sources to assess quantitatively and qualitatively the development of school enrolment in the Congo since 1920. We show that the regional inequality in education that crystallized in colonial times persisted decades after independence. The provincial disparities are used as a point of departure to explain how the mining industry worked as a catalyst for the expansion of primary school enrolment. The paternalistic policy of "stabilization", i.e. of permanent settlement of workers and their families near the work sites, introduced by the Union Minière du Haut Katanga as well as by most concessionary companies in the Belgian Congo in the mid-1920s, went hand in hand with high investments in primary schooling. The aim of the industry was to save expenses on recruitment and European labour, and to make investments in miners' and their children's education profitable.

Dacil Juif, 2019. "Mining, Paternalism and the Spread of Mining in the Congo since 1920", AEHN Working Paper No. 46.

Daimon Anusa. Settling in motion: Nyasa clandestine migration through Southern Rhodesia into the Union of South Africa: 1920s – 1950s.

Illegal African migration into South Africa is not uniquely a post-apartheid phenomenon. It has its antecedents in the colonial/apartheid period. The South Africa colonial economy relied heavily on cheap African labour from both within and outside the Union. Most foreign migrant labourers came from the then Nyasaland (Malawi) and Portuguese East Africa (Mozambigue) through official channels of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association (WNLA). WNLA was active throughout Southern Africa and competed for the same labour resources with other regional supranational â€~native' labour recruitment agencies, providing various incentives to lure and transport potential employees to its bustling South African gold and diamond mining industry. However, not all migrant labourers found their way through formal WNLA channels. Using archival material from repositories in Harare (Zimbabwe), Zomba (Malawi), Grahamstown (South Africa), London, and Oxford (UK), the paper casts light on illicit migration mainly by Malawian labourers (Nyasas) through Southern Rhodesia into South Africa between the 1920s and 1950s. It argues that many transient Nyasas subverted the inhibitive WNLA contractual obligations by clandestinely migrating independently into the Union. They also exploited the labour recruitment infrastructure used by the state and labour bureaus to swiftly move across Southern Rhodesia. In essence, Nyasas settled in motion, using Southern Rhodesia as a stepping-stone or springboard en-route to the more lucrative Union of South Africa. An appreciation of such informal migration opens up space for creating a more comprehensive historiography of labour migration in Southern Africa. Likewise, illicit migration is not confined to the contemporary African diaspora, but early diasporas as well. Consequently, this narrative acts as a background for understanding the precursors of the rampant illegal African migration into post-apartheid South Africa.

Daimon Anusa, 2019. <u>"Settling in motion: Nyasa clandestine migration through Southern Rhodesia into the Union of South Africa: 1920s – 1950s"</u>, WIDER Working Paper Series No. 41.

Jens Andersson & Martin Andersson, Beyond Miracle and Malaise: Social Capability in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal during the Development Era 1930-1980.

This paper investigates the outcome of the efforts to economically catch up during the so-called development era in French speaking West Africa. An attempt is made to measure and discuss key elements of social capability over the period 1930-1980 in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal following Moses Abramovitz' interpretation of social capability. The paper distinguishes between four elements of social capability: degree of structural transformation, social and economic inclusion, the state's autonomy and its accountability. We find that there was significant but uneven progress in social capability in both countries during the development era. Despite their differences in economic performance both countries confronted fundamental shared challenges. Most notably, our analysis highlights how persistent lack of broad-based access to economic opportunities played a significant role in disrupting sustained economic and social progress in the two countries. This gives an opportunity to reflect on similarities and differences between the development era and the recent African growth phase.

Jens Andersson & Martin Andersson, 2019. "Beyond Miracle and Malaise: Social Capability in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal during the Development Era 1930-1980," Lund Papers in Economic History 202, Lund University, Department of Economic History.

Johan Fourie. Who writes African economic history?

Much has been said about the rise, or `renaissance', of African economic history. What has received far less attention is who is producing this research. Using a complete dataset of articles in the top four economic history journals, I document the rise in African economic history in the last two decades. I show that although there has indeed been an increase in papers on Africa, it has included little work by Africans. I then attempt to explain why this is so, and motivate why this should matter. The good news is that, mostly owing to efforts by the academic community, more is being done to encourage African inclusion. I conclude with a few suggestions on how to make more African scholars part of the renaissance of African economic history.

Johan Fourie, 2019. "Who writes African economic history?," Working Papers, Stellenbosch University, Department of Economics.

Tawanda Chingozha and Dieter von Fintel. Property rights, market access and crop cultivation in Southern Rhodesia: evidence from historical satellite data.

Agriculture plays a central role in the efforts to fight poverty and achieve economic growth. This is especially relevant in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) where the majority of the population lives in rural areas. A key issue that is generally believed to unlock agriculture potential is the recognition of property rights through land titling, yet there is no overwhelming empirical evidence to support this in the case of SSA (Udry, 2011). This paper investigates access to markets as an important precondition for land titles to result in agricultural growth. Using the case of Southern Rhodesia, we investigate whether land titles incentivised African large-scale holders in the Native Purchase Areas (NPAs) to put more of their available land under cultivation than their counterparts in the overcrowded Tribal Trust Areas (TTAs). We create a novel dataset by applying a Support Vector Machine (SVM) learning algorithm on Landsat imagery for the period 1972 to 1984 - the period during which the debate on the nexus between land rights and agricultural production intensified. Our results indicate that land titles are only beneficial when farmers are located closer to main cities, main roads and rail stations or sidings.

Tawanda Chingozha and Dieter von Fintel, 2019. "Property rights, market access and crop cultivation in Southern Rhodesia: evidence from historical satellite data", Working Papers, Stellenbosch University, Department of Economics.

Jeanne Cilliers and Martine Mariotti. Stop! Go! What can we learn about family planning from birth timing in settler South Africa, 1800-1910?

We revisit the discussion on family limitation through stopping and spacing behavior both prior to and during the fertility transition. Using the birth histories of 13519 settler women in nineteenth century South Africa we find no evidence of parity specific spacing prior to the transition. In addition we _find no differences in spacing behavior based on differences in time invariant economic and social characteristics. On commencement of the fertility transition, we see increasing parity dependent spacing as well as variation in spacing based on differences in economic and social characteristics. We see little change in stopping behavior over time. The transition appears to be driven by delayed marriage and wider birth intervals.

Jeanne Cilliers and Martine Mariotti, 2019. <u>"Stop! Go! What can we learn about family planning from birth timing in settler South Africa"</u>, 1800-1910?, Centre for Economic History, Discussion Paper No. 5.

Levi Boxell, John T. Dalton and Tin Cheuk Leung. The Slave Trade and Conflict in Africa, 1400-2000.

Can the slave trade explain Africa's propensity for conflict? Using variation in slave exports driven by the interaction between foreign demand shocks and heterogeneity in trade costs, we show that the slave trade increased conflict propensities in pre-colonial Africa and that this effect has persisted to the present. Moreover, we find empirical evidence suggesting two related mechanisms for this persistence--natural resources and national institutions. These results "decompress" history by connecting the short-run and long-run effects of the African slave trade.

Levi Boxell, John T. Dalton and Tin Cheuk Leung. "The Slave Trade and Conflict in Africa, 1400-2000", Munich Personal RePEc Archive, Paper No. 94468.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

14th meeting of the African Economy History Network Barcelona, 18-19 October

The African Economic History Network (AEHN), in association with the Economic History Department at the University of Barcelona, announces a Call for Papers for the 14th Annual Meeting of the African Economic History Network. The conference theme is "Global Dimensions of African Economic History". The conference will be held 18-19 October 2019 in Barcelona, Spain.



European Social Science History Conference, Leiden, 18-21 March 2020

The ESSHC aims at bringing together scholars interested in explaining historical phenomena using the methods of the social sciences. The conference is characterized by a lively exchange in many small groups, rather than by formal plenary sessions.

The Conference welcomes papers and sessions on any topic and any historical period. It is organized in a large number of networks:

Africa Antiquity Asia Criminal Justice Culture Economics Education and Childhood – Elites and Forerunners Ethnicity and Migration Family and Demography – Global History - Health and Environment Labour Latin America – Material and Consumer Culture - Middle Ages Oral History – Politics, Citizenship and Nations - Religion Rural Sexuality - Social Inequality – Spatial and digital History - Science and Technology Theory - Urban Women and Gender

In 2014 the ESSHC introduced the "Professor Jan Lucassen Award" for best paper at the ESSHC by a (PhD) student. We encourage students to enter this competition with their paper.

The Conference fee will be Euro 200 for participants who pay in advance before 1 January 2020 (early bird), Euro 250 for participants who pay in advance but after 1 January 2020 (normal fee) and Euro 300 for participants who pay at the conference. One- day attendance will be Euro 100, Euro 125 and Euro 150 resp. Students pay Euro 90, 110 or 125.

The deadline for pre-registration of a paper or session proposal on our website was 15 April 2019 but other attendees are welcome.

China's Engagement with the African Continent Oxford, 19-21 March 2020



A special event just before next year's annual conference of Oxford University's Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) will focus on China–Africa economic and development relationships.

Keynote speaker: Prof. Deborah Bräutigam (John Hopkins University's SAIS-CARI)

Alongside a keynote address and plenary panels, there will be parallel sessions where academics will present their empirical research. For these sessions, we will be looking for contributions on – though not limited to – such topics as: aid, trade, foreign direct investment, industrialisation, public debt, Belt and Road Initiative, environmental sustainability, political economy, governance and institutions.

The call for papers will open in July 2019 and close in October 2019. Further details will be available on the CSAE website in due course (https://www.csae.ox.ac.uk/). Final decisions will be made by December 2019. Priority will be given to full papers. Funding may be available for scholars from African countries and China.

Convening panel: Meredith Crowley, Stefan Dercon, Lizzie Dipple, Markus Eberhardt, Pascal Jaupart, Benno Ndulu, Lina Song, and Adrian Wood.

For further information, please contact csae.conference@economics.ox.ac.uk.

World Economic History Congress Paris, 25-30 July 2021 Session Proposal

Finance and New Imperialism. Old theories, new evidence. 1860-1960

Organizers: Klas Rönnbäck (Department of Economy and Society, University of Gothenburg, Sweden), Mariusz Lukasiewicz (Institute for African Studies, University of Leipzig, Germany), Oskar Broberg (Department of Economy and Society, University of Gothenburg, Sweden)

The relationship between finance and imperialism has long been debated by scholars and activists alike, and the ideological battles that shaped the study of political economy throughout the 20th century have produced voluminous works on the subject. Although there is no fully-fledged theory that explains a link between finance and territorial imperialism, interest in the issue has challenged a host of historiographical assumptions and hypotheses. The aim of this session is to explore new empirical and theoretical perspectives on the nexus between finance and imperialism around the world. This session intends to bring together research from different parts of the world, and promote alternative theoretical and methodological perspectives. The focus will be upon the period of "New Imperialism" during the 19th and 20th centuries. We therefore invite all papers relating to the various aspects of finance and imperialism for the period c.1860-1960. It is by now well-established that capital exports from Europe expanded drastically during the 19th century, as the world became more globalized. These capital investments were, it has been argued, often associated with imperialism: either as fundamental drivers behind the process of imperialism, or as themselves enabled by imperialism. It was the Egyptian financial crisis of the 1880s that led to the first formulation of British radical imperialism. It would be southern Africa where the theories were originally applied: from Hobson to Hobsbawm, the South African War have been significant in outlining the economic roots of British empirebuilding and the historical development of capitalism. There were, at the same time, an opposite trend: other parts of the world, for example several countries in North and South America, became the recipients of large amounts of foreign investments during the 19th century without at the time being colonized by any imperial power. No consensus has thus been reached on what the relationship between finance and imperialism looked like, but the debate did to a large extent peter out in the 1980s. In recent years, the issue has received renewed interest among scholars, albeit in a less ideologically partisan spirit. New empirical evidence and theoretical reinterprations have thereby been brought forth, which can cast new light on old theories. This session will focus on this thriving literature

For more information contact:
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OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Full Professor or Associate Professor, Simon Fraser University (Vancouver campus)

The School for International Studies at Simon Fraser University (Vancouver campus) invites applications for a continuing research faculty position at the level of full professor or associate professor, to begin in July 2020. We are particularly interested in candidates with research that is grounded in one or more regions of the world. Applicants should have a PhD in a social science discipline, with demonstrated excellence in research and teaching. Preference will be given to candidates with a proven record of leadership and program administration.

The School for International Studies is an interdisciplinary unit with research and teaching programs focused on peace and security; international development; human rights and international law; and governance and civil society. The normal teaching load for this full-time position is four courses per year, taught in two of three terms, with the third for research. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the leadership and administration of the School.

Simon Fraser University is a leading Canadian public research university (consistently ranked #1 by Maclean's Magazine for best comprehensive university in Canada). We earn top marks for our world-class social science research, award-winning students and faculty, and new library acquisitions. Applications will be treated in confidence and should include: a letter of application, a statement of research and teaching, and a curriculum vitae. Letters of reference will be requested of applicants who are long-listed for the position. Applications will be reviewed beginning September 1, 2019 until the position is filled. This position is subject to the availability of funding and approval by the Board of Governors.

Materials should be sent in a single pdf file via email to intst@sfu.ca. Questions about the position can be directed to Dr. Tamir Moustafa, at tmoustafa@sfu.ca.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. SFU is an equity employer and encourages applications from all qualified individuals including women, persons with disabilities, visible minorities, Indigenous Peoples, people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of the university.

Under the authority of the University Act personal information that is required by the University for academic appointment competitions will be collected. For further details see the collection notice at: http://www.sfu.ca/vpacademic/Faculty_Openings/Collection_Notice.html.

Lectureships in African Studies and International Development The University of Edinburgh

The University of Edinburgh seeks to appoint to two Lectureships in the School of Social and Political Science's Centre of African Studies.

The two Lecturers in African Studies and International Development will further the School of Social and Political Science's international reputation for research and its commitment to excellence in teaching and administration in the area of African Studies and international development. The post-holders will be based in the School's Centre of African Studies.

Applicants should have a PhD completed by the start date, in African Studies, development studies, economics, history, human geography, political science, social anthropology, sociology, or another

relevant discipline, with special reference to Africa, and should provide evidence of the ability to deliver excellent university-level teaching and research.

Closing date 19/07/2019.

For more information visit:

https://www.vacancies.ed.ac.uk/pls/corehrrecruit/erq_jobspec_version_4.display_form

Postdoctoral Tenure Track Position in interdisciplinary knowledge construction for Environmental Governance, Norwegian University of Life Sciences

The Faculty of Landscape and Society (<u>LANDSAM</u>), the Department of International Environment and Development Studies (<u>Noragric</u>), has an open postdoctoral tenure track position in interdisciplinary knowledge construction for environmental governance. The position is for up to six years with a possibility for a permanent position.

We are looking for candidates with demonstrated expertise at the interface between society and the environment with a base in applied ecology.

Candidates must have an interdisciplinary background, including a strong record in the natural sciences, documented record in the social sciences, and work at the interface of topics such as ecological systems and services, agroecology, ecological economics, political ecology and sustainability sciences, applied to contemporary issues such as biodiversity loss, climate change, sustainable food systems and the green shift.

The position covers research and education. Main tasks are:

- Initiate and perform high quality research and education
- Initiate, acquire and conduct research projects with external funding (e.g. the Norwegian Research Council, EU, ERC and/or ERA)
- Develop, teach and administer study courses
- Supervision of Bachelor, Master, and potentially PhD theses
- Assume administrative duties
- Collaboration within the department, faculty and university
- Develop or participate in national and international networks

For more information visit:

https://www.jobbnorge.no/en/available-jobs/job/172518/postdoctoral-tenure-track-position-in-interdisciplinary-knowledge-construction-for-environmental-governance.

Postdoctoral Tenure Track Position in the Global Political Economy of Environment and Development, Norwegian University of Life Sciences

The Faculty of Landscape and Society (<u>LANDSAM</u>), the Department of International Environment and Development Studies (<u>Noragric</u>), has a vacant postdoctoral tenure track position on the global political economy of the environment and development. The position is for up to six years with a possibility for a permanent position.

We are looking for candidates with demonstrated expertise at the interface between political economy, international relations, global development and the environment.

Candidates must have an interdisciplinary background and a demonstrated record in research integrating theoretical perspectives with empirical material of relevance to international relations,

global development studies, and environmental studies, preferably covering and combining elements from all three.

The position covers research and education. Main tasks are:

- Initiate and perform high quality research and education
- Initiate, acquire and conduct research projects with external funding (e.g. the Norwegian Research Council, EU, ERC and/or ERA)
- Develop, teach and administer study courses
- Supervision of Bachelor, Master, and potentially PhD theses
- Assume administrative duties
- Collaboration within the department, faculty and university
- Develop or participate in national and international networks

For more information visit:

 $\underline{https://www.jobbnorge.no/en/available-jobs/job/172531/postdoctoral-tenure-track-position-the-global-political-economy-of-environment-and-development.}$