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.

In this issue:

1. Network News and Announcements
2. New Abstracts in African Economic History
   - 4 New Journal Articles
   - 6 New Working Papers
3. Upcoming Events in African Economic History
   - 6 Upcoming Conferences
4. Opportunities in African Economic History
   - 4 Vacancies

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:


New Chapters in The History of African Development, the AEHN’s online Textbook

Chapter 12: Democracy and Development in Africa since the 1960’s
By Joan Ricart-Huguet

The relationship between democracy and economic development is central to political economy. Countries usually democratize as they develop. Likewise, countries develop as they democratize. While Africa has historically lagged behind in both dimensions, this chapter shows that the continent has made great strides towards democratization in spite of modest economic growth. Since 1990, the continent is quickly democratizing, yet bad governance hinders further democratization and development. This chapter focuses on “the three C’s of bad governance”- corruption, clientelism, and conflict - and their counterparts - accountability, programmatic policies, and political stability. After explaining the three C’s, we zoom into four countries that have experienced different political and economic trajectories. Benin and Uganda are poorer than the average country but the former democratized in the 1990s while the latter did not. Botswana and Mauritius are two very different countries, yet both are often praised as African success stories because of their rapid democratization and development since independence. In both cases, good governance helps explain their spectacular economic development.

Keywords:
Botswana, corruption, democracy, economic development, Mauritius, political economy, Sub-Saharan Africa

This paper uses the partition of German Cameroon between the British and the French after World War I to study colonial legacies in education. A British advantage emerged in the 1930s, disappeared in the 1950s as the French started investing in education, but re-emerged more recently, likely because of the French legacy of high repetition rates and their detrimental effect on dropout.


This investigation provides new insights on the early local, regional and global development of Africa’s oldest existing stock exchange. Founded in November 1887, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) was not an isolated stock exchange in the South African Republic (ZAR), but an increasingly global financial institution attracting members and capital from beyond southern Africa’s expanding colonial frontier. Confronted by an uncertain political environment, the JSE’s first five years of operation tested the institution’s ability to balance the needs of regulation and promoting access to its international capital market.


I assess the sub-national differences in school enrollment in the Belgian Congo and find that those areas where large firms operated displayed higher rates. This can be traced back to paternalistic policies of labor stabilization supported by the colonial triad formed by state, private industry and missions.
NEW ABSTRACTS IN AFRICAN 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.


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 agricultural 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. This paper investigates access to markets as an important pre-condition 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.


Transport investment has played an important role in the economic development of many countries. Starting from a low base, African countries have recently initiated several massive transportation infrastructure projects. However, surprisingly little is known about the current levels, past evolution, and correlates of transportation infrastructure in Africa. In this paper, we introduce a new data set on the evolution of the stocks of railroads (1862–2015) and multiple types of roads (1960–2015) for 43 sub-Saharan African countries. First, we compare our estimates with those from other available data sets, such as the World Development Indicators of the World Bank. Second, we document the aggregate evolution of transportation investments over the past century in Africa. We confirm that railroads were a ‘colonial’ transportation technology, whereas paved roads were a ‘post-colonial’ technology. We also highlight how investment patterns have followed economic patterns. Third, we report conditional correlations between five-year infrastructure growth and several geographic, economic and political factors during the period 1960–2015. We find strong correlations between transportation investments and economic development as well as more political factors including pre-
colonial centralization, ethnic fractionalization, European settlement, natural resource dependence, and democracy.


We show new evidence that the consequences of historical warfare for state development differ for Sub-Saharan Africa. We identify the locations of more than 1,600 conflicts in Africa, Asia, and Europe from 1400 to 1799. We find that historical warfare predicts common-interest states defined by high fiscal capacity and low civil conflict across much of the Old World. For Sub-Saharan Africa, historical warfare predicts special-interest states defined by high fiscal capacity and high civil conflict. Our results offer new evidence about where and when 'war makes states'.


Working Papers

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

How did Christianity expand in sub-Saharan Africa to become the continent’s dominant religion? Using annual panel data on all Christian 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 shed light on the spatial dynamics and determinants of this religious diffusion process. Missions expanded into healthier, safer, more accessible, and more developed areas, privileging these locations first. Results are confirmed for selected factors using various identification strategies. This pattern has implications for extensive literature using missions established during colonial times as a source of variation to study the long-term economic effects of religion, human capital and culture. Our results provide a less favorable account of the impact of Christian missions on modern African economic development. We also highlight the risks of omission and endogenous measurement error biases when using historical data and events for identification.


This paper traces the origins and long-term development of African mass-education in colonial sub-Saharan Africa. Specifically, it addresses the unique role of Christian missions in prompting a genuine schooling revolution and explores the comparative educational expansion across colonies and between genders. While the initial expansion of missions was motivated by a global competition for new church members, the development of African mass-education essentially depended on local conditions. It highlights the importance of African agency in the process towards mass-education that depended on local demand for formal education and the supply of African teachers who provided the bulk of mission schooling. The chapter also assesses potential pitfalls when those realities are not considered by studies, investigating historical missionary legacies on present-day African education and social mobility.
Dieter von Fintel and Johan Fourie. The Great Divergence in South Africa: Population and Wealth Dynamics over Two Centuries

Does wealth persist over time, despite the disruptions of historical shocks like colonisation? This paper shows that South Africa experienced a reversal of fortunes after the arrival of European settlers in the eastern half of the country. Yet this was not, as some have argued was the case elsewhere in colonial Africa, because of an institutional reversal. We argue, instead, that black South Africans found themselves at the mercy of two extractive regimes: those in ‘white South Africa and those in the ‘homelands. The political and economic institutions of each of those regimes favoured a small elite: in white South Africa, whites, and in the homelands, the black chiefs and headmen. Democracy brought inclusive institutions for black residents in white South Africa but not for those in the former homelands. This is why we see mass migration to the urban areas of South Africa today, and why addressing the institutional weaknesses of the former homelands is key to alleviating the poverty in these regions where a third of South Africans still reside.


Pierre André and Yannick Dupraz, Education and Polygamy: Evidence from Cameroon.

We take advantage of a wave of school constructions in Cameroon after World War II and us eviations in school supply at the village level to estimate labor and marriage market returns to education in the 1976 population census. Education increases the likelihood to be in a polygamous union for men and for women, as well as the overall socioeconomic status of the spouse. We argue that education increases polygamy for women because it allows them to marry more educated and richer men, who are more likely to be polygamists. To show this, we estimate a structural model of marriage with polygamy. The positive affinity between a man's polygamy and a woman's education is mostly explained by the affinity of education.


We provide new empirical evidence of bubbles timing in the stock market of South Africa. We apply the generalized sup ADF (GSADF) unit root test of Phillips et al. (2015) to monthly share prices from January 1960 to July 2019, to detect explosive behaviors. Results indicate that, overall, South Africa’s stock market has been exuberant during the period 1960-2019. We find strong evidence of three bubble episodes during the periods of April 1968 to July 1969, December 1979 to November 1980 and April 2006 to May 2008 in the stock market of South Africa. The last two bubbles correspond to the 1979 international oil crisis and the 2008 financial crisis suggesting that the South African stock market is still vulnerable to exogenous shocks.

Kai Koddenbrock and Ndongo Samba Sylla. Towards a political economy of monetary dependency: The case of the CFA franc in West Africa.

This paper focuses on the most neglected case of monetary dependency: the CFA franc. This currency arrangement was born in 1945, during the colonial era, but it still operates in the same ways more than 70 years later in fourteen countries in Africa, mostly former French colonies. Engaging with the seminal African scholarship by Joseph Pouemi on internal and external monetary repression and the emergent literature on “financial subordination,” we introduce the notion of the “chain of monetary dependency,” consisting of an external and an internal part. We argue that the CFA franc provides an extreme but paradigmatic example of this chain. The CFA franc is paradigmatic because of the very strong external repression of monetary and financial policy through US dollar and euro dependence. Internally, the CFA franc arrangement radicalizes the constraints imposed on all central bank policies and bank-firm relations in the Global South and makes it more difficult to pursue growth strategies geared towards the well-being of the broader population.

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. 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 aehn2019@ub.edu no later than 15 May 2019. Some bursaries are available for graduate students and faculty from Africa. If applicable, please indicate this need in your submission.
European Social Science History Conference,
Leiden, 18-21 March 2020

The ESSHHC 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:


In 2014 the ESSHHC 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.

The Thirteenth European Social Science History Conference is organized by the International Institute of Social History in cooperation with Leiden University.


Deadline for submissions: 30 September 2019

We invite submissions on historical or long-term, interdisciplinary, perspectives on demographic change in Africa. The aims of the seminar are to review the state of the field of African population history, to consider the role of the past for understanding the present, and to facilitate partnerships and future comparative work on African historical demography.

There is a resurgence of interest in Africa’s demographic pasts. Evidence on past population trends is essential to respond to core questions in African history, such as the human cost of the slave trade; the impacts of colonialism on health, wellbeing and the family; the effects of post-colonial policies on households and livelihoods; long-term trends in mortality and migration; and the influence of religion, education and employment on intergenerational relations and the social organisation of reproduction. Improving the evidence on Africa’s past populations will illuminate how people have managed their resilience and reproduction over time, in the face of environmental, epidemiological, political and economic change.

Understanding the historical origins of African demographic regimes may also help to influence current and future population trends. This is important given Africa is projected to account for more than half of all global population growth by 2050, with implications for both demographic dividend and migration. In particular, contemporary demographers have called for interdisciplinary and historical approaches to improve understanding of the contexts of fertility transition in the region, including its stalls, reversals and exceptional age- and parity-specific dynamics, as well as the historical context of the AIDS pandemic. Papers which seek to situate current population trends in historical perspective are encouraged.
The seminar will showcase the growing availability of historical demographic micro-data through new digitization projects. Alongside the substantive research papers, the seminar will include a data workshop in which scholars who have collected new datasets will have the opportunity to present their databases and to consider scope for future comparative work and collaborations. We will review the potential of new digital methods for widening historical micro-data collection in Africa and seek the experience of previous comparative demographic projects in achieving data harmonisation.

Organizing Committee: Sarah Walters (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine), Martin Dribe (Lund University), Shane Doyle (University of Leeds), Stephen O. Wandera (Makerere University), Jeanne Cilliers (Lund University).

Economic History Society Annual Conference

The conference programme committee welcomes proposals on all aspects of economic and social history covering a wide range of periods and countries and, particularly, papers of an interdisciplinary nature. Preference may be given to scholars who did not present a paper at the previous year’s conference. Those currently studying for, or who have recently completed, a PhD should submit a proposal to the New Researcher session.

The annual conference opens with papers presented by new researchers. They offer those completing (or who have recently completed) doctorates the opportunity to present their own, sole-authored, work before professional colleagues and to benefit from informed comment. Please note that proposals from researchers at an early stage of their work will not normally be accepted and applicants should consider making a proposal to the new researcher poster session.

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

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.
Datini - ESTER Advanced Seminar 2020 'Consumption'
10-15 May, Prato, Italy.

The Istituto Internazionale di Storia Economica “F. Datini” and the European School for Training in Economic and Social Historical Research (ESTER) announce their sixth jointly-organized Datini-ESTER Advanced Seminar for economic and social historians on 10th-15th May 2020, in Prato (Italy) on Consumption.

We particularly welcome papers on consumption by households, its share in total income, its structure and the role of fashion and cultures in shaping it. In addition, papers may deal with the commercial strategies employed to sell luxury products and how these stimulated demand. Taste, distinction, habit, and peer pressure may also be covered by participants, as these provide an opportunity to dis-cuss ideas about personal and social capital in history. Finally questions about the importance of durable and non-durable goods may be addressed together with geographical differences in consumption and the underlying causes. Papers can cover any relevant aspect and any period from Antiquity until today.

The workshop will bring together a number of senior researchers from different countries. Prior to the workshop, students will be asked to prepare a paper. They will have the opportunity of presenting their research project dealing with one or more core problems of their research field and discussing them with both senior researchers and other fellow students. Each paper will be presented by the author during the seminar and then examined and discussed by one of the participating students and by one of the instructors, after which a general discussion among all participants will take place. This Advanced Datini-ESTER Seminar is open to 15 PhD-students and early career scholars (who finished their doctorate less than five years prior to the seminar).

The deadline for application is 15 October and the form, as well as additional information, can be found at: https://www.ru.nl/posthumus/ester-international-programme/datini-ester-advanced-seminar-2020/.
OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

PhD, Masters and Honours bursaries in History available at Stellenbosch University

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 in 2020, 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.

For more information visit www.unchartedpeople.org.

We have a limited number of bursaries available at all levels.

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 30 September 2019.

www.aehnetwork.org
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

The Department of Historical Studies at the University of Cape Town has launched an innovative five-year programme, HISTORY ACCESS, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Applications are invited from recent PhDs in History or cognate disciplines pursuing innovative research in any field of intellectual, cultural, political, economic and social history of modern Africa; and connected and comparative histories of colonial and postcolonial global south. Candidates would be expected to have strong empirical grounding in their fields of specialization, a collaborative spirit, theoretical fluency, and ability and willingness to work with African vernacular language sources, and/or develop innovative (new media) articulations of original research.

We particularly encourage applications from woman and black (and especially African) South African students.

Email by 30 September 2019 to History.Access@uct.ac.za: A letter of motivation, with a brief description of research experience and plans; a writing sample of 8000 words; a cv with contact details of three academic referees; full transcripts of academic record and a copy of doctoral degree certificate.

For more details, contact History.Access@uct.ac.za
Room 243 | Beattie Building
Upper Campus, UCT

www.aehnetwork.org
Full-Time Lectureship in Economic History at Kings College London

The Department of Political Economy (DPE) is undergoing a further significant expansion as part of its mission to offer a broad-based interdisciplinary research and teaching space which brings the study of economics and politics closer together. The department is committed to theoretical and methodological pluralism and is based on an inclusive interdisciplinary vision. We welcome applicants for these posts from all candidates who share that vision and who will contribute to its broader diversity.

The Department of Political Economy invites applications for a Lectureship in Economic History. We encourage applications from candidates who can deliver research-led teaching in any branch of economic history. Candidates should be able to contribute to undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and ideally have a demonstrated ability to teach in other related areas of economics (e.g. applied econometrics, macroeconomics or history of economic thought).

This post will be offered on an indefinite contract.

This is a full-time post - 100% full time equivalent.

The selection process will take place by Interviews process will consist of a presentation to DPE Department staff and research students, followed by an interview with the selection panel.

Professor Mark Pennington 020 7848 1687 mark.pennington@kcl.ac.uk

To apply, please register with the King’s College London application portal and complete your application online.

Please ensure you have uploaded your CV as well as the personal statement before submitting your completed application. Applications with no CV attached will not be considered.

We do not accept academic articles either published or in draft form as part of the application process. We will ask for this information only from shortlisted candidates.

Deadline: 22nd September.
https://www.jobs.ac.uk/job/BUT601/lectureship-in-economic-history

Lecturer or Senior Lecturer in the Economics of Africa at SOAS London

The Department of Economics invites applications for the post of Lecturer / Senior Lecturer in the Economics of Africa available from January 2020 (start date can be negotiated). The Department is looking to recruit a talented development economist with an excellent teaching and research record (or outstanding research potential) who will contribute to the mission of the Department, as one of the leading heterodox economics and political economy departments in the UK, with particular regional expertise in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

We are seeking a candidate with regional expertise on Sub-Saharan Africa and strong knowledge of research methods for heterodox economics and political economy. The candidate’s thematic research interests will complement those of the Department. In particular, candidates should have research interests in one or more of the following areas: gender; rural poverty; food, nutrition and health.
Skills and experience

You will have a PhD in Economics and a strong record of (or potential for) excellence in research and REF-relevant publications. You will also have a track-record in teaching and strong organisational skills that show potential for teaching and research leadership in the future.

For an informal discussion regarding the role, please contact Dr. Hannah Bargawi on hb19@soas.ac.uk.

About the Department of Economics

The Department of Economics is the country’s leading department of pluralist economics, specialising in development economics, political economy, industrial policy, and finance and development. Research is pursued on a variety of topics and is unique in its depth and range of regional coverage. A special feature of the Department is the engagement of its staff in the study of heterodox political economy. In addition, the Department has strength in economic theory, financial economics, institutional economics, international economics and econometrics.

How to apply

If you are interested in applying for this vacancy, please complete the short online application form and provide a copy of your CV together with a supporting statement. Further information can be found in the Job Description and Person Specification, along with a full list of duties and responsibilities.

Completed applications must be received by 23:59 on the closing date to be considered.

Interviews will provisionally be held in the week commencing Monday 30th September

If you have any questions or require any assistance with regard to the application process, please contact hr-recruitment@soas.ac.uk.