



African Economic History Newsletter

Issue #45, February 2020

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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If you want to publicize your own research, events or organize a panel for an upcoming conference, please send a message to aehtnetwork@gmail.com and I will include your news in our bi-monthly round up.

Best regards,

Johan Fourie
on behalf of the African Economic History Network

News and Announcements

Newsletter has new editor

Johan Fourie (Stellenbosch University) is now the editor of the African Economic History Newsletter, published on behalf of the African Economic History Network. If you want to publicize your own research, events or organize a panel for an upcoming conference, please send a message to aehtnetwork@gmail.com and I will include your news in our bi-monthly round up. The next issue will appear in early April.

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 are:

Morten Jerven, 2019. [African Economic Growth 1900-50: Historical National Accounts for British Colonial Africa](#), AEHN Working Paper No. 50.

Frontiers in Economic History Blog

Frontiers in African Economic History – AEHN's blog – diffuses research-based content and promotes discussion concerning the study of long-term African development. The blog provides authors a platform to disseminate easily accessible summaries (700 words) of their recently published research (articles, book chapters, book reviews, theses), publishes interviews with key scholars in the field, and discusses relevant developments. We welcome blog contributions and suggestions. Please contact the editors ([Felix Meier zu Selhausen](#), [Michiel de Haas](#) and [Kate Frederick](#)) to discuss possible posts at: frontiers.aehn@gmail.com.

Juliette Crespín-Boucaud. [Interethnic and Interfaith Marriages in Sub-Saharan Africa](#). (21 November 2019).

In sub-Saharan Africa, around 2005, about 20% of marriages are interethnic and about 10% are interfaith, demonstrating that ethnic and religious boundaries are not always barriers to close personal relationships. Interethnic marriages are more frequent among younger cohorts, a change that is likely due in part to evolving social norms.

The past's long shadow: A network analysis of economic history

Economic history is a thriving subset of the field. This column uses network analysis to review the development of the discipline over the last 40 years. It illustrates how economic historians are interconnected through their research, identifies which scholars are the most cited by their peers, and reveals the central debates enlivening the discipline. It also shows that the rapid increase in the number of economic history publications since 2000 has been driven more by research at universities in continental Europe than by those in the US or UK.

[Gregori Galofré Vilà, 13 January 2020](#)

Call for papers: 15th Annual Meeting of the African Economic History Network

15th Annual Meeting of the African Economic History Network

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Victor Gwande (University of the Free State)
Nicola Ginsburgh (University of the Free State)
Duncan Money (Leiden University)
Hyden Munene (University of the Free State)

Ushewedu Kufakurinani (University of Zimbabwe)
Tinashe Nyamunda (North West University)
Ian Phimister (University of the Free State)



Date and location

21–23 September 2020
Bloemfontein, South Africa

Hosted by

International Studies Group
University of the Free State

African Economic Dynamics: Local, Regional, and International Connections

CALL FOR PAPERS

Often missing from accounts of African Economic History is the interplay between local, regional and international dynamics. While this conference aims particularly to address this issue, it welcomes panels and papers on any aspect of African economic history. These might be organised by sector, theme, by period; or all three. Obvious sectors would cover variously mining, agriculture, services including finance and secondary industry. Possible themes include capital, labour, gender, commodity chains, biography, ideology, historiography and methodology. Taking due account of wider patterns of globalisation and fragmentation, the precolonial, colonial and postcolonial eras vary by place and time.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSEES (to be confirmed)

MAMOOD MAMDANI (Makerere University and Columbia University)

ALOIS MLAMBO (University of Pretoria)

TONY HOPKINS (University of Cambridge)

TINASHE NYAMUNDA (North West University)

The first day will be dedicated to presentations by PhD students, and will include skills training sessions. A limited number of travel and accommodation bursaries will be available. Applicants should indicate their interest when submitting their paper abstracts.

Optional activities will include visits to the Big Hole at Kimberley, as well as historical tours of Bloemfontein, which is the birthplace of both the ANC and the National Party, and its museums.

PROPOSALS

Please send paper abstracts and panel or session proposals (250–300 words), and a short biography (150 words), to Ms Tari Gwena <gwenat@ufs.ac.za> by 30 March 2020. Successful participants will be notified by 15 April 2020.

Together with

University of Botswana
North West University

Chancellor College, University of Malawi
University of Zambia
University of Zimbabwe

NEW ABSTRACTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Stop the presses!

Michiel de Haas. Rural livelihoods and agricultural commercialization in colonial Uganda: conjunctures of external influences and local realities.

The case of Uganda highlights that Africa's historical pattern of dispersed booms and busts was underpinned by the diversity of local conditions, not only in terms of precolonial institutions and colonial and missionary policies, as the "new economic history of Africa" has amply demonstrated, but also in terms of resource endowments and environmental conditions.

De Haas, M., 2019. [Rural livelihoods and agricultural commercialization in colonial Uganda: conjunctures of external influences and local realities](#). European Review of Economic History, In press.

Kenneth Button. Common markets and the decolonization of 'British Africa': The role of economics and economists.

To facilitate an organized withdrawal from its African territories in the 1960s, the UK authorities undertook studies of the economic potential of each. What has been little studied is the nature and impacts of these exercises on subsequent policy. This paper looks at two such studies that examined ways existing 'common markets' in East and Central Africa could be retained after independence, and further developed. The institutions and structures governing the territories differed, one a common market and the other a fuller federation, as did the bodies conducting the analysis, one an official commission requiring public recommendations, and the other an advisory group to a senior government minister. The paper offers insights as to the way economists viewed common markets at the time, how they sought to quantify their economic benefits, and the ways in which these benefits were distributed across member states. It also considers the types of economic policy recommendations that were made and the reaction of the British authorities and the colonial politicians to them.

Button, K., 2019. [Common markets and the decolonization of 'British Africa': The role of economics and economists](#). Economic History of Developing Regions, In press.

Rebecca Simpson. Statistical sources and African post-colonial economic history: Notes from the (digital) archives.

While interest in African economic history has grown rapidly in recent years, the continent's post-colonial past remains understudied. This is at least in part because of the decline and fragmentation in the publication of economic statistics after decolonization, which has limited the type and breadth of quantitative analysis that can be undertaken. Nonetheless, this note argues that there are comparatively untapped post-colonial data sources that could enrich the study of the continent's economic history. The note surveys some of these sources and data repositories and provides advice, based on the author's own experiences, on how to utilize them.

Simson, R., 2019. [Statistical sources and African post-colonial economic history: Notes from the \(digital\) archives](#). Economic History of Developing Regions, In press.

Calumet Links, Johan Fourie and Erik Green. The substitutability of slaves: Evidence from the eastern frontier of the Cape Colony.

The substitutability of the economic institution of slave labour has often been assumed as a given. Apart from some capital investment to retrain slaves for a different task, essentially their labour could be substituted for any other form of labour. This paper questions that assumption by using a longitudinal study of the Graaff-Reinet district on the eastern frontier of South Africa's Cape Colony. We calculate the Hicksian elasticity of complementarity coefficients for each year of a 22-year combination of cross-sectional tax datasets (1805–1828) to test whether slave labour was substitutable for other forms of labour. We find that slave labour, indigenous labour and settler family labour were not substitutable over the period of the study. This lends credence to the finding that slave and family labour were two different inputs in agricultural production. Indigenous khoe labour and slave labour remain complements throughout the period of the study even when khoe labour becomes scarce after the frontier conflicts. We argue that the non-substitutability of slave labour was due to the settlers' need to acquire labourers with location-specific skills such as the indigenous khoe, and that slaves may have served a purpose other than as a source of unskilled labour, such as for artisan skills or for collateral.

Links, C., Fourie, J. and Green, E., 2019. [The substitutability of slaves: Evidence from the eastern frontier of the Cape Colony](#). Economic History of Developing Regions, In press.

Obie Porteous. Trade and agricultural technology adoption: Evidence from Africa.

To facilitate an organized withdrawal from its African territories in the 1960s, the UK authorities undertook studies of the economic potential of each. What has been little studied is the nature and impacts of these exercises on subsequent policy. This paper looks at two such studies that examined ways existing 'common markets' in East and Central Africa could be retained after independence, and further developed. The institutions and structures governing the territories differed, one a common market and the other a fuller federation, as did the bodies conducting the analysis, one an official commission requiring public recommendations, and the other an advisory group to a senior government minister. The paper offers insights as to the way economists viewed common markets at the time, how they sought to quantify their economic benefits, and the ways in which these benefits were distributed across member states. It also considers the types of economic policy recommendations that were made and the reaction of the British authorities and the colonial politicians to them.

Porteous, O., 2020. [Trade and agricultural technology adoption: Evidence from Africa](#). Journal of Development Economics, In press.

Samuel Mutarindwa, Dorothea Schäfer and Andreas Stepan. Legal History, Institutions and Banking System Development in Africa.

This paper links banking systems development to the colonial and legal history of African countries. Specifically, we investigate the impact of differing legal traditions on the development of existing investor and creditor protection, and on African banking systems. Based on a sample of 40 African countries from 2000 to 2016, our empirical findings show a significant dependence of current financial institutions on the legal origin and the colonization type. Findings also reveal that current legal financial institutions are not the major determinants of banking system development, whereas institutional and regulatory quality significantly matter for banking system development in both common and civil law countries. Strong creditor rights reduce the cost of banking in African countries.

Mutarindwa, S., Schäfer, D. and Mutarindwa, S. 2020. [Legal History, Institutions and Banking System Development in Africa](#). No 1844, Discussion Papers of DIW Berlin.

Now in print

Alan Dye and Sumner la Croix. Institutions for the taking: property rights and the settlement of the Cape Colony, 1652–1750.

We examine the formation of property rights in land during the early settlement by the Dutch of the Cape Colony at the southern tip of Africa. After its founding in 1652 as a provisioning outpost for ships of the Dutch East India Company (VOC), the colonial government promoted settlement initially by granting land with well-specified and enforced property rights in restricted zones near Cape Town. By 1714 it transitioned to accommodate rapidly expanding settlement by creating a weaker form of property rights, the loan farm, which was imprecisely defined and had limited government enforcement. We develop a profit-maximizing monopsony model to explain the VOC's choice to transition from the better-specified land grant to the less well-specified loan farm. We conclude that the decline in the population size and ability of the Khoikhoi, the Cape's original inhabitants, to organize effective resistance to the Dutch invasion was critical to the transition, as it lowered the costs of private enforcement of settlers' territorial claims. The choice of property rights thus enabled and encouraged the rapid taking by European settlers of the western Cape of Africa for the expansion of the Dutch colony's pastoral economy.

Dye, A. and La Croix, S., 2020. [Institutions for the taking: property rights and the settlement of the Cape Colony, 1652–1750](#). The Economic History Review, 73(1), pp.33-58.

Levi Boxell. Droughts, conflict, and the African slave trade.

Historians have frequently suggested that droughts helped facilitate the African slave trade. By introducing a previously unused dataset on 19th century rainfall levels in Africa, I provide the first empirical examination of this hypothesis. I find a strong negative relationship between rainfall shocks and the number of slaves exported from a given region. I also find that extreme temperature shocks in either direction increase slave exports. Building on the detailed qualitative work of Dias (1981), Miller (1982), and others, I provide quantitative evidence for interethnic group conflict and more localized forms of violence being likely mechanisms through which these additional slaves were acquired. These results contribute to our understanding of the underlying economic conditions of the African slave trade.

Boxell, L. 2019. [Droughts, conflict, and the African slave trade](#). Journal of Comparative Economics, 47(4), pp. 774-791.

Dieter von Fintel and Johan Fourie. The great divergence in South Africa: Population and wealth dynamics over two centuries.

To facilitate an organized withdrawal from its African territories in the 1960s, the UK authorities undertook studies of the economic potential of each. What has been little studied is the nature and impacts of these exercises on subsequent policy. This paper looks at two such studies that examined ways existing 'common markets' in East and Central Africa could be retained after independence, and further developed. The institutions and structures governing the territories differed, one a common market and the other a fuller federation, as did the bodies conducting the analysis, one an official commission requiring public recommendations, and the other an advisory group to a senior government minister. The paper offers insights as to the way economists viewed common markets at the time, how they sought to quantify their economic benefits, and the ways in which these benefits were distributed across member states.

von Fintel, D. and Fourie, J., 2019. [The great divergence in South Africa: Population and wealth dynamics over two centuries](#). Journal of Comparative Economics, 47(4), pp.759-773.

Jeanne Cilliers and Martine Mariotti. The shaping of a settler fertility transition: eighteenth- and nineteenth-century South African demographic history reconsidered.

To facilitate an organized withdrawal from its African territories in the 1960s, the UK authorities undertook studies of the economic potential of each. What has been little studied is the nature and impacts of these exercises on subsequent policy. This paper looks at two such studies that examined ways existing 'common markets' in East and Central Africa could be retained after independence, and further developed. The institutions and structures governing the territories differed, one a common market and the other a fuller federation, as did the bodies conducting the analysis, one an official commission requiring public recommendations, and the other an advisory group to a senior government minister. The paper offers insights as to the way economists viewed common markets at the time, how they sought to quantify their economic benefits, and the ways in which these benefits were distributed across member states. It also considers the types of economic policy recommendations that were made and the reaction of the British authorities and the colonial politicians to them.

Cilliers, J. and Mariotti, M., 2019. [The shaping of a settler fertility transition: eighteenth- and nineteenth-century South African demographic history reconsidered](#). *European Review of Economic History*, 23(4), pp. 421–445.

Rebecca Simpson. The shaping of a settler fertility transition: eighteenth- and nineteenth-century South African demographic history reconsidered.

What can be learned about policy prioritization in Africa by examining long-run trends in public expenditure and employment? Many have contended that Africa's post-colonial leaders pursued economically unproductive budget policies that prioritized the growth of their patronage networks over socially beneficial spending, resulting in bloated payrolls, persistent deficits, and a large rent-seeking public service. Using a purpose-built dataset of annual public expenditure and employment series from Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda for 1960–2010 against which to test these assumptions, this article questions whether there was anything exceptional about the growth or composition of East Africa's post-independence expenditure. All three states grew and contracted in roughly the same periods as other regions of the world, although their contraction after 1980 was particularly marked. Industrial policy and capital investments influenced budget priorities in the early independence era, while military expenditure and debt service payments escalated in the late 1970s. The government wage bill, meanwhile, fell as a proportion of total spending over the same period. To finance employment growth while the wage bill contracted, governments allowed real wages to plummet in the 1970s–90s. In light of these external constraints and legacies, this article questions whether a budget unencumbered by patronage would have looked very different.

Simson, R., 2019. [Africa's clientelist budget policies revisited: public expenditure and employment in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, 1960–2010](#). *The Economic History Review*, 72(4), pp.1409-1438.

Michiel de Haas. Moving beyond colonial control? Economic forces and shifting migration from Ruanda-Urundi to Buganda, 1920–60.

Migration was a crucial component of the spatially uneven formation of labour markets and export-oriented economies in colonial Africa. Much of this mobility was initiated by migrants themselves rather than by colonial authorities. Building on analytical concepts from economic history and migration theory, this study explains the changing composition and magnitude of one such uncontrolled migration flow, from Ruanda-Urundi to Buganda. Migrants' mobility choices – when to migrate, for how long, and with whom – proved highly responsive to shifting economic opportunity structures on the sending and receiving ends. Initially, large differences in terms of land and labour endowments, socio-economic structures, and colonial interventions, combined with substantial scope

for price arbitrage, created large spatial inequalities of opportunity and strong incentives for circular male labour migration. Over time, however, migration contracted as opportunities in Ruanda-Urundi and Uganda converged, not in the least as a result of large-scale mobility itself.

De Haas, M., 2019. [Moving beyond colonial control? Economic forces and shifting migration from Ruanda-Urundi to Buganda, 1920–60](#). *The Journal of African History*, 60(3), pp.379-406.

Gerardo Serra and Frank Gerits. The politics of socialist education in Ghana: The Kwame Nkrumah Ideological Institute, 1961–6.

This article reconstructs the trajectory of the Kwame Nkrumah Ideological Institute (KNII) to shed light on the politics of socialist education in 1960s Ghana. On the basis of archival evidence, it explores the changing role of the institute in the making of Nkrumahism as public discourse and documents the evolving relationship between the universalism of Marxism-Leninism and the quest for more local political iconographies centred on Nkrumah's life and work. Secondly, the article analyses the individual motivations and experiences of a sample of foreign lecturers. The article suggests that ideological institutes offer insights into the processes by which official ideologies were created and disseminated, a foil through which to interrogate the usages and appropriation of social sciences education, and a window onto the multiple ways in which local and foreign agents negotiated their identities and political participation in African socialist experiments.

Serra, G. and Gerits, F., 2019. [The politics of socialist education in Ghana: The Kwame Nkrumah Ideological Institute, 1961–6](#). *The Journal of African History*, 60(3), pp.407-428.

Working Papers

Levi Boxell, John 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.

Boxell, Levi, John T. Dalton, and Tin Cheuk Leung. 2019. [The Slave Trade and Conflict in Africa, 1400-2000](#). MPRA Working Paper 94468.

Laura Mayoral and Ola Olsson. Pharaoh's Cage: Environmental Circumscription and Appropriability in Early State Development.

What explains the origins and survival of the first states around five thousand years ago? In this research, we focus on the role of productivity shocks for early state development in a single region: ancient Egypt. We introduce a model of extractive state consolidation that predicts that political instability should be low whenever environmental circumscription is high, i.e., whenever there is a large gap between the productivity of the area under state control (core) and that of the surrounding areas (hinterland). In these periods the elite can impose high levels of taxation that the population will be forced to accept as exit is not an attractive option. In order to test this hypothesis, we develop novel proxies for historical productivities on the basis of high-resolution paleoclimate archives. Our empirical analysis then investigates the relationship between proxies of the productivity of the Nile banks and of the Egyptian hinterland on the one hand, and political outcomes such as ruler and dynastic tenure durations and the intensity of pyramid construction on the other, during 2685 - 750

BCE. Our results show that while both too high or too low Nile floods are associated with a greater degree of political instability, periods with a greater rainfall in the hinterland (and hence a lower degree of environmental circumscription) are associated with an immediate rise in military and pyramid construction activity but also with a delayed increase in political instability, since the decline in effective circumscription provides the farming population with an outside option in the hinterland.

Mayoral, Laura and Olsson, Ola. 2019. [Pharaoh's Cage: Environmental Circumscription and Appropriability in Early State Development](#). No 1136, Working Papers, Barcelona Graduate School of Economics.

Edson Mwabukojo. Mapping the Development Progress in Tanzania since Independence.

The Tanzanian development roadmap is categorized into four main phases; development attain during the Post-colonial period; socialism era development; development pace during the transition to liberalism era; and the currently development situation. Based on the data presented, it is now clear that development situation in Tanzania was promising during post-colonial capitalist period, declined during the Ujamaa socialism, worsen during the period of paradigm shift dilemma, but regained a tremendous improvement during contemporary liberalization era. Contemporary, Tanzania as the low-income countries is currently characterized by the number of development constraints including the high rate of poverty, low per capita income, inadequacy of human capital and poor standard of living. This study is concluding by stressing that Tanzania is still backward or undeveloped because the nation had been stacked in the development bottleneck for a quite long time from 1977 to 1995, almost two decades. Since the trend of human and economic development in Tanzania since independence has been successfully established, the policy makers as well as the development stakeholders can apply the findings as the basis to judge the past for the better future.

Mwabukojo, Edson. 2019. [Mapping the Development Progress in Tanzania since Independence](#). MPRA Working Paper 97534.

Oasis Kodila-Tedika and Sherif Khalifa. State History and State Fragility: Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa.

This paper examines the association between the length of experience with statehood, or state history, on the likelihood of state fragility. The argument is that the accumulation of knowledge by state personnel, and the build up of experience within state institutions, allows the state to avoid the exposure to recurrent crises, which is considered a symptom of weakness. The paper focuses on sub-Saharan African countries and uses Probit estimation techniques. The analysis shows that state history has a negative and statistically significant effect on the state fragility index. This result is robust after the inclusion of a variety of economic, political, institutional and historical variables. We also use extreme fragility as our dependent variable. The Probit and Relogit estimations also show a statistically significant negative effect of state history on extreme fragility. This is the case even after the inclusion of control variables.

Kodila-Tedika, Oasis and Khalifa, Sherif. 2019. [State History and State Fragility: Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa](#). MPRA Working Paper 97891.

Peter Turchin, Thomas E. Currie, Christina Collins, Jill Levine, Oluwole Oyebamiji, Neil R. Edwards, Philip.B. Holden, Daniel Hoyer, Kevin Feeney and Pieter Francois. Crop Productivity Estimates for Past Societies in the World Sample-30 of Seshat: Global History Databank

This article reports the results of a collaborative research project that aims to estimate agricultural productivities of the past societies in the Seshat World Sample-30. We focus on 30 Natural Geographic Areas (NGAs) distributed over 10 major world regions (Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia,

South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, Central Eurasia, North America, South America, and Oceania). The conceptual framework that we use to obtain these estimates combines the influences of the production technologies (and how they change with time), climate change, and effects of artificial selection into a Relative Yield Coefficient, indicating how agricultural productivity changed over time in each NGA between the Neolithic and Industrial Revolutions. We then use estimates of historical yield in an NGA to translate the Relative Yield Coefficient into an Estimated Yield (tons per hectare per year) trajectory. We tested the proposed methodology in two ways. For eight NGAs, in which we had more than one historical yield estimate, we used the earliest estimate to anchor the trajectory and compared the ensuing trajectory to the remaining estimates. We also compared the end points of the estimated NGA trajectories to the earliest (the 1960s decade) FAO data on crop productivities in the modern countries encompassing Seshat NGAs.

Turchin, et al. 2019. Crop Productivity Estimates for Past Societies in the World Sample-30 of Seshat: Global History Databank. Center for Open Science.

Oded Galor, Ömer Özak and Assaf Sarid. Geographical Roots of the Coevolution of Cultural and Linguistic Traits.

This research explores the geographical origins of the coevolution of cultural and linguistic traits in the course of human history, relating the geographical roots of long-term orientation to the structure of the future tense, the agricultural determinants of gender bias to the presence of sex-based grammatical gender, and the ecological origins of hierarchical orientation to the existence of politeness distinctions. The study advances the hypothesis and establishes empirically that: (i) geographical characteristics that were conducive to higher natural return to agricultural investment contributed to the existing cross-language variations in the structure of the future tense, (ii) the agricultural determinants of gender gap in agricultural productivity fostered the existence of sex-based grammatical gender, and (iii) the ecological origins of hierarchical societies triggered the emergence of politeness distinctions.

Galor, Oded, Özak, Ömer and Sarid, Assaf. 2019. [Geographical Roots of the Coevolution of Cultural and Linguistic Traits](#). Working paper me2g7, Center for Open Science.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Workshops and conferences

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

The aim of the ESSHC is to bring together scholars who explain historical phenomena using the methods of the social sciences.

The conference is characterized by a lively, small group exchange, rather than in formal plenary sessions. The conference is organized in many networks covering specific topics. It welcomes papers and sessions on any historical topic and any historical period.

Slavery and forced labour symposium Stellenbosch, 1 April 2020

The 'Capitalising on Emancipation' working group of the Biography of an Uncharted People Project will host a symposium on 1 April 2020. The symposium is organised around the theme of slavery and forced labour in the nineteenth-century Cape colony, and British Empire more broadly. The symposium brings international and South African scholars together, from the disciplines of history, economics and economic history.

The early nineteenth-century saw profound changes to the institution of slavery and its eventual abolition in the Cape Colony in the 1830s. In line with developments in the field of slavery studies, this symposium addresses the opportunities which emancipation brought as well as the ways in which coercion continued beyond the formal abolition of slavery.

The one-day meeting will open with a keynote address from Prof Leonard Wantchekon (Princeton), renowned for his research on Atlantic slavery and slave trade.

This international, interdisciplinary symposium is an opportunity for early career and advanced scholars to share expertise and foster future collaboration.

For more details about registration, please contact Kate Ekama at kateekama@sun.ac.za.

Annual Meeting of the Economic History Association Pittsburgh, 11-13 September 2020

The theme for EHA 2020 is "The Lessons of Economic History". The theme for EHA 2020 is "The Lessons of Economic History." The Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana famously told us that, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." This aphorism crystallizes one of the principal missions of economic history. We study the past so that we can determine which policies are likely to work in the future: which monetary and fiscal policies produce macroeconomic stability, which forms of social insurance protect human welfare, which patent laws spur innovation, and so on. Not all economic historians study past policy interventions directly. Some create data sets or examine chains of causation that contribute indirectly to the mission of discovering which policies work. Proposals that address the theme of the conference are encouraged, but proposals on all topics are welcome.

The Program Committee, chaired by Eugene White (Rutgers University), welcomes submissions on all subjects in economic history, though some preference will be given to papers that fit the theme of the conference. Papers should be submitted individually, but authors may suggest to the Committee that three particular papers fit well together in a panel. Papers should in all cases be

works in progress rather than accepted or published work. Submitters should let the program committee know at the time of application if the paper they are proposing has already been submitted for publication. Individuals who presented or co-authored a paper given at the 2019 meeting are not eligible for inclusion in the 2020 program. Papers and session proposals should be submitted online: <http://eh.net/eha/2020-eha-meeting-proposal/>. The submission system is now available. Paper proposals should include a 3-5 page proposal and a 150 –word abstract suitable for publication in the Journal of Economic History. Papers should be submitted by January 31, 2020 to ensure consideration. Please note that at least one of the authors needs to be a member of EHA.

Graduate students are encouraged to attend the meeting. The association offers subsidies for travel, hotel, registration, and meals, including a special graduate student dinner. A poster session welcomes work from dissertations in progress. Applications for the poster session are due no later than May 21, 2020 online on the meetings website. The poster submission system will open on March 1, 2020. The dissertation session, convened by Zorina Khan (Bowdoin College) and Michael Edelstein (The Graduate Center, CUNY) will honor six dissertations completed during the 2019-2020 academic year. The submission deadline is May 15, 2020. The Allan Nevins and Alexander Gerschenkron prizes will be awarded to the best dissertations on North American and non-North American topics respectively. Dissertations must be submitted as a single PDF file.

15th African Economic History Network meetings Bloemfontein, 21-23 September 2020

'AFRICAN ECONOMIC DYNAMICS: LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS'

Often missing from accounts of African Economic History is the interplay between local, regional and international dynamics. While this conference aims particularly to address this issue, it welcomes panels and papers on any aspect of African economic history. These might be organised by sector, theme, by period; or all three. Obvious sectors would cover variously mining, agriculture, services including finance and secondary industry. Possible themes include capital, labour, gender, commodity chains, biography, ideology, historiography and methodology. Taking due account of wider patterns of globalisation and fragmentation, the precolonial, colonial and postcolonial eras vary by place and time.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES (to be confirmed): Mamood Mamdani (Makerere and Columbia); Alois Mlambo (Pretoria); Tony Hopkins (Cambridge); Tinashe Nyamunda (North West)

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES will include visits to the Big Hole at Kimberley, as well as historical tours of Bloemfontein and its museums (the birthplace of both the ANC and the National Party)

WHERE: The conference will take place at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa on 21-23 September 2020, and is hosted by the International Studies Group at the University of the Free State, together with the University of Zambia; the University of Botswana; Chancellor College, University of Malawi; University of Zimbabwe; and North West University.

PHD STUDENTS: The first day of the conference will be given over to presentations by PhD students, and to skills training sessions. A limited number of travel and accommodation bursaries are available. Applicants should indicate their interest when submitting their paper abstracts.

PROPOSALS: Please send panel / session proposals and paper abstracts (250-300 words) and a short biography to Ms Tari Gwena [gwenat@ufs.ac.za] by 30 March 2020 Successful participants will be notified by 15 April 2020

**Call for papers: 'Business, financial and economic history of South Africa'.
Special issue of *Economic History of Developing Regions*
Stellenbosch, 6 October 2020**

On 30 June 2021, the South African Reserve Bank will be 100 years old. The SARB was established in terms of the Currency and Banking Act, 1920 (Act No. 31 of 1920) in Parliament. This came into being after a Gold Conference was held in October 1919.

Prior to its establishment South African commercial banks issued banknotes to the public. These banks had to convert the notes from the public in to gold. The gold was subsequently sold to London. Moreover, the gold had to be re-imported into South Africa and then be converted into banknotes again. The commercial banks requested the government to release them from the obligation to convert their banknotes into gold on demand. For this reason the Gold Conference was convened to discuss South Africa's currency. In the course of the conference a Select Committee of the Parliament recommended the establishment of a central bank to take over the gold held by commercial banks and the issuing of banknotes. The recommendation was accepted by the South African Parliament. The South African Bank opened its doors for business on 30 June 1921.

The South African Reserve Bank was only the fourth central bank established outside the United Kingdom and Europe, the others being the United States, Japan and Java. Throughout the twentieth century it played an important role – as it continues to do – in maintaining financial stability in South Africa and wider southern Africa region.

The idea is to recognise the Bank's historic role with a special issue of *Economic History of Developing Regions*. The emphasis will be on the business, financial and economic context within which the bank operated, and of South African economic history more broadly. But the purpose is not just to write a revised history; it is history with purpose. There are many lessons we can learn for today. The economic past, as Barry Eichengreen remarks in the *Journal of Economic History* four years after the financial crisis, is a contested place. How we interpret the past matters in how we explain the present – and in the economic policies we choose that will shape the future.

This is a Call for Papers to be published as a special issue of *Economic History of Developing Regions*, a journal published by Taylor & Francis on behalf of the Economic History Society of Southern Africa. The issue will appear in June 2021.

A workshop where papers will be discussed is planned for Tuesday, 6 October 2020 in Stellenbosch, South Africa. An extended abstract must be sent to Prof Johan Fourie at johanf@sun.ac.za by 2 April 2020 to be considered for inclusion in the special issue. Full drafts of papers must be sent by 2 September 2020 for inclusion in the workshop. All workshop accommodation will be covered by the conference organisers.

**Call for papers: Women and their work: Approaches in History and Economics
Stellenbosch, 7 October 2020**

The "Women and their Work" conference is an interdisciplinary meeting of historians and economists focussed on the theme of women and their work in the study of the past. Its purpose is to explore the need for, and challenges associated with, this topic. While the subject is an undeniably important aspect of historical research, its study has been marked by different and sometimes conflicting approaches. This conference therefore aims to: affirm the value of researching women and their work, provide an opportunity to explore the potential of different approaches and investigate the value that these approaches could add to each other. The proceedings of the conference will culminate in a special issue.

Papers on any aspect related to the topic can be submitted. Preference will be given to full paper submissions. All submissions should reach Amy Rommelspacher (amyrom@sun.ac.za) by 1 May 2020.

XIX World Economic History Congress

Paris, 25 – 30 July 2021

The 19th World Congress in Paris will be held in Paris on July 25-30 2021. The Congress will address “resources” as one of the central challenges of the contemporary world. The Congress will consider sessions on all the categories of resources, that is natural, material, immaterial and human (work and skill): water, air, energy, food products, raw materials, labour, capital, patents etc. The panel will address the discovery, management and limitation of these resources, the impact their use has on territorial and social organizations as well as their significances in individuals’ eyes up for the world community at large.

The Congress will host approximately 140 sessions, divided daily into four 90-minute sessions. The selection of proposals will be operated by the IEHA Scientific Committee / Executive Committee. Researchers and university scholars from all countries, working in economic history and related disciplines, regardless of their status or affiliation institutional, are eligible to apply. In addition, the organizers of the 19th World Congress aim at helping participants from emerging countries and to do so.

The organizing committee welcomes a large set of approaches in economic history including social history, urban and rural history, history or economics of finance, sciences and technologies, gender history, cultural history, etc. – and crossovers with other disciplinary fields, including demography, environment, anthropology, sociology, socio-psychology etc. It also invites panels about methods in economic history, history of economic thought or economic theory, as well as innovative discussion of new sets of data and archives, or public communication of new (or renewed) results in economic history.

For more information visit: <http://www.wehc2021.org/>

Seminars and talks

University of Cambridge: African economic history seminar

Lent Term 2020 | Time: alternate Tuesdays, 17:00-18:30 | Venue: Audit Room, King’s College |
Convener: Gareth Austin

21 January: Dácil Tania Juif (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid)
‘Ores for Development? Socio-economic effects of Central African Copper Mining in Comparative Perspective (1910 to 2000)’

4 February: Chibuike Uche (Leiden)
‘Nigeria, British Economic Interests and the Sterling Guarantee Agreement’

18 February: Gerardo Serra (Manchester)*
‘A March of Numbers, a Cascade of Images: Planning, Accounting and Temporalities in 1960s Ghana’

25 February: Abel Gwaindepi (Lund)
‘The fiscal history of the British Cape Colony in comparative perspectives: Rethinking the South African exceptionalism, 1814-1910’

10 March: Klas Rönnbäck (Gothenburg)
‘Capital and colonialism: The return on British investments in Africa 1869-1969’

Stellenbosch University: LEAP seminar series

First semester 2020 | Time: Wednesdays, 13:00-14:00 | Venue: Room 505, Schumann building |
Convener: Johan Fourie

5 February: Kate Ekama (Stellenbosch)

12 February: Edward Kerby (Stellenbosch) and Roy Havemann (National Treasury)

19 February: Kara Dimitruk (Stellenbosch)

26 February: Jonathan Schoots (Chicago)

4 March: Alessandro de Cola (Bologna)

11 March: Anthony Hopkins (Cambridge)



OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

LSE Fellow: African economic history

Department of Economic History, London School of Economics

Salary from £36,647 to £44,140 pa inclusive of London allowance

This is a fixed term appointment for 2 years with the possibility of a 1 year extension.

The London School of Economics is recognised as one of the leading social science universities in the world, ranked among the top universities nationally and internationally. The School is synonymous with quality, progressive thinking and delivering excellence.

Set in the heart of central London, the LSE has a vibrant campus, and offers excellent facilities for working, and transport links.

The Department of Economic History is home to a huge breadth and depth of knowledge and expertise ranging from the medieval period to the current century and covering every major world economy. It is one of the largest specialist departments in the country, with 25 full and part-time time teachers, as well as visiting academics and researchers.

Applications are invited for an LSE Fellow in the Department of Economic History. An LSE Fellow is a career development post which allows aspiring academics who are post PhD, or close to PhD completion, the opportunity to gain experience in teaching and research. LSE Fellows teach at undergraduate and Masters' level and contribute to courses as appropriate, with the support of faculty.

The successful candidate will have completed or be close to completing a PhD in economic history by the post start date; A very good knowledge of Economic History, with a particular focus on African Economic History; Ability to teach Quantitative Methods/Historical Economic Geography is desirable; A developing research record in Economic History; Excellent communication and presentation skills; and the ability to work in close partnership with fellow teachers, including on a one-on-one basis and in small groups, and to provide effective support, as necessary. Relevant teaching experience would be desirable.

To apply for this post, please go to www.lse.ac.uk/LSEJobs. If you have any technical queries with applying on the online system, please use the "contact us" links at the bottom of the LSE Jobs page. Should you have any queries about the role, please email Jennie Stayner; j.c.stayner@lse.ac.uk.

Postdoctoral positions in Economic History

Department of Economic History, Gothenburg University

Two postdoctoral positions in economic and business history are now available in the Department of Economic History at Gothenburg University.

The post as a postdoctoral student aims to give newcomers the opportunity to consolidate and further develop their scientific skills. The duties of the postdoctoral student are mainly focused on own research but may, if not exceed one fifth of the working time, also include teaching. To further strengthen our research and teaching in the field of economic history, we are seeking 1-2 postdoctoral fellows. One position focuses on economic history in general and the other on business history.

More information is available [here](#).