



## African Economic History Newsletter

### Issue #57, February 2023

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. News and announcements
  - i. Call for papers
  - ii. Seminar series
  - iii. AEHN working paper series
  - iv. *Frontiers in African Economic History* blog posts
2. New research in African economic history
  - i. For your bookshelf
  - ii. Now in print
  - iii. Working papers

If you want to publicize your own research, events, seminars or organize a panel for an upcoming conference, please send a message to [lwalters@sun.ac.za](mailto:lwalters@sun.ac.za) and I will include your news in our quarterly round up.

Best regards,

**Leoné Walters**  
on behalf of the African Economic History Network

# News and Announcements

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### 16th Annual Meeting of the African Economic History Network (AEHN) Future Africa, University of Pretoria, 5 – 6 October 2023

Theme: Agency in African Economic History: Networks, Capital and African development

**Deadline for sending abstract: 15 March 2023**

Hosting the conference on the continent, the theme revolves around agency in Africa and its past. Africa has been influenced by numerous forces that have shaped its economic development. These forces include pre-colonial exchanges and experiences, colonialism, unfair global practices, international economic and political dynamics, migration, and gender inequality among others. To investigate the progress made to address these historical challenges, two decades into the twentieth century, an interdisciplinary reflection is needed on the state of African economies. The AEHN meeting will provide an opportunity to revisit development by focusing on the role of African agencies. This includes questions on the role of networks, capital and access to markets.

The conference will be held at the newly designed and developed Future Africa Research Institute at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. Future Africa aims “to inspire science excellence to transform Africa and the world.” This provides an ideal venue for economists, historians, economic historians, and political scientists to exchange ideas on African agencies and the past. A keynote will be held by Prof. Alois Mlambo (Emeritus Professor, University of Pretoria). The second keynote speaker will be confirmed.

Papers on all aspects of African economic history are welcome, but preference will be given to those that pertain to the conference theme. Abstracts no longer than 500 words should be submitted to [aehn2023@gmail.com](mailto:aehn2023@gmail.com) no later than 15 March 2023. Some bursaries will be available for graduate students and faculty from Africa. If applicable, please indicate the need for a bursary in your submission.

#### Host Committee:

Dr Carolyn Chisadza, Department of Economics, University of Pretoria

Prof Tinashe Nyamunda, Historical and Heritage Studies, University of Pretoria

Dr Christie Swanepoel, Department of Economics, University of the Western Cape



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**Special Issue: The business from within Africa.**  
**Zeitschrift für Unternehmensgeschichte/Journal of Business History**

*African agency in business through history*

The business of entrepreneurial agency in Africa brings together a tapestry of activity, networking and economic mobility over several centuries. Historians are exploring this complex integrated web of economic activity relying on multiple disciplinary perspectives. Business people assumed agency in developing extensive exchange networks moving natural resources, agricultural products and locally manufactured goods beyond the borders of local markets. In these entrepreneurial activities women and men collaborated towards social sustainability, but also personal advancement. As the legacy of planning gradually allowed individual and collective agency in business (Natkhov & Pyle, 2022), this is the history of Africa's entrepreneurs, entrepreneurial families, entrepreneurial corporations and business networks business historians stand to deliver.

The agency of people in enterprise all over Africa has not received systematic attention in Business History. The entrepreneurial role of all the peoples of Africa in different business structures, organisational form and even informal groups, displayed a growing engagement with international business. The collection on business in Africa edited by Falola and Jalloh (Falola T and Jalloh A, 2002) surveyed the landscape of African and African-American business, but now the innovative entrepreneurial businesses amongst all Africa's peoples justifies a new history. The new lens is the narrative of the long *durée* of business agency in Africa. Business men and women built on the deep-rooted legacy of entrepreneurial agency in developing market operations through enterprises of varying size and structure to negotiate the opportunities of Africa in the world. As state intervention in markets slowly contracts, dynamic and innovative business entered both African and global markets. This development motivated the ZUG to dedicate a Special Issue to the history of business in Africa. This call for contributions seeks to solicit submissions exploring the history of business people and business enterprise in Africa, from earliest times through the discontinuities and complexities of the last half of the twentieth century, to global engagements in recent times.

The following questions are driving the enthusiasm for this volume:

- Who were the business leaders of the past and how did they infuse business capacity into the next generation of business leaders in different African contexts?
- Who were the business leaders – men and women?
- How have entrepreneurs adjusted to dynamically changing market trends?
- How have markets in Africa interacted internally and externally with global markets?
- How has the organisation of business changed in different contexts in Africa?
- How have business organisations fostered/undermined business development?
- Has business in Africa benefitted from privatisation?
- How has state regulation impacted business development in Africa?
- How does business in the MENA region align with business in SSA?

**Submissions of draft manuscript outline (1000 words) with discussion of methodology and Preliminary findings 30 June 2023.**

The Editors of the ZUG will communicate acceptance of manuscript submissions by 15 July 2023. Final manuscripts for publication are due by 30 November 2023.<sup>1</sup>

Guest editors:

Prof Grietjie Verhoef, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, [gverhoef@uj.ac.za](mailto:gverhoef@uj.ac.za)

Prof Ayodeji Olukoju, University of Lagos, Nigeria, [aolukoju2002@yahoo.com](mailto:aolukoju2002@yahoo.com)

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<sup>1</sup> References:

- Akinyoade, A., Dietz T., and Uche, C. (2017). *Entrepreneurship in Africa*. Brill Publishers.  
Falola, T. and Jalloh A. (2002). *Black Business and Economic Power*. Rochester University Press.  
Natkhov, T., & Pyle, W. (2022). *Revealed in Transition: The Political Effect of Planning's Legacy*.  
Ochonu, M. (2018). *Entrepreneurship in Africa: A Historical Approach*. Indiana University Press.

**New perspectives on African Economic History  
Online Workshop and Special Issue, 28 June 2023**

Introduction

The Revista de Historia Industrial–Industrial History Review would like to invite you to submit a paper proposal for an online workshop on “New perspectives on African Economic History” (June 28th, 2023). It will be organized by Kate Frederick (Utrecht University), Dácil Juif (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid) and Felix Meier zu Selhausen (Utrecht University). The workshop is aimed at selecting five papers to be included in a special issue, co-edited by the workshop organisers, to be published in 2024.

Content

African Economic History has witnessed a true “renaissance” over the last two decades (Austin and Broadberry 2014). Its rise has been characterized by a “data revolution” as well as the use of advanced data analysis techniques (Fourie and Obiliki 2019). Studies exploring either persistence or, alternatively, long-term dynamic processes in African development have surged relative to other world regions. One potential reason is that, while Asian economies experienced high catch-up growth and industrialization over the past four decades, Africa’s economies remain exceptionally underdeveloped and primary-resource dependent (Broadberry and Gardner 2022, Frankema 2021). This has attracted scholarship exploring the historical roots of Africa’s economic volatility and relative poverty. At the same time, the fact that the majority of the world’s future population growth is expected to occur on the African continent makes the study of long-term African development particularly pressing.

Almost a decade after the special issue on the “renaissance of African Economic History” was published in the Economic History Review (Austin and Broadberry 2014), research on Africa’s long-term development has further expanded. This special issue, to be published in 2024, aims to bring together current state of the art studies on the Economic History of Africa, dealing with (but by no means limited to):

- Structural transformation, incl. occupational change, urbanization, (in)formality
- Extractive and inclusive institutions, colonialisme
- Geography, climate, local factor endowments
- Taxation and state formation
- Human capital development
- Trade and finance
- Demographic transformations
- Wages, incomes and living standards

Publication

After a process of double-blind review, to be carried out after the congress, five of the accepted papers will be selected for a Special Issue of the Revista de Historia Industrial – Industrial History Review edited by Kate Frederick, Dácil Juif and Felix Meier zu Selhausen, to be published in 2024. The remaining contributions, if accepted in the peer review process, can be published in regular issues of the journal.

## Deadlines

**Applicants should submit an abstract of no more than 500 words outlining their proposal and a short CV by February 28, 2023, to Dácil Juif ([djuif@clio.uc3m.es](mailto:djuif@clio.uc3m.es)).**

Applicants will be informed of the selection process by March 31, 2023.

The paper – or alternatively a long abstract of 2,000 words – should be sent by June 4, 2023.

The final version of the manuscripts for the Special Issue review process must be sent by October 31, 2023.<sup>2</sup>

Barcelona, Madrid, Siena and Utrecht, December 1st, 2022

The Editorial Board of the Revista de Historia Industrial – Industrial History Review (RHI-IHR) and the Workshop Organisers.

**For more details and call for papers, please visit**

<https://revistes.ub.edu/index.php/HistorialIndustrial/announcement/view/710>

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### <sup>2</sup> References:

Austin, Gareth and Stephen Broadberry. 2014. 'Introduction: The Renaissance of African Economic History.' *The Economic History Review*, 67 (4): 893–906.

Broadberry, Stephen and Leigh Gardner. 2022. 'Economic Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa, 1885–2008: Evidence from Eight Countries.' *Explorations in Economic History*, 83: 101424.

Fourie, Johan, and Nonso Obikili. 2019. 'Decolonizing with Data: The Cliometric Turn in African Economic History.' Working Paper 02/2019. Stellenbosch Economic Working Paper Series.

Frankema, Ewout. 2021. 'Why Africa is not that poor'. In *The Handbook of Historical Economics*, edited by Alberto Bisin and Giovanni Federico, 557-584. Academic Press.

## SEMINAR SERIES

Please remember to send us updates of seminar series in African economic history.

### LEAP Webinar starting 15 February 2023

LEAP's economic history webinar series is on Wednesdays. Please email [leap@sun.ac.za](mailto:leap@sun.ac.za) if you would like to be added to the mailing list.



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**ECONOMIC HISTORY WEBINAR SERIES**

**FEBRUARY - MAY 2023**

Jacob Moscona (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)  
Mohammad Ahmad (Tufts University)  
Mhamed Ben Salah (Geneva Graduate Institute)  
Gustavo Albuquerque (Vancouver School of Economics)  
Lukas Althoff (Princeton University)  
Cavit Baran (Northwestern University)  
Jiwon Choi (Princeton University)  
Carl Hallmann (Northwestern University)  
Ariadna Jou (University of California, Los Angeles)  
Colin Sharpe (Vanderbilt University)  
Will Damron (Yale University)  
Andrew Garib (Rutgers University)

Zoom  JOIN LIVE If you would like to join, please email [leap@sun.ac.za](mailto:leap@sun.ac.za)

### Seminar in Economic History

Organized by: Professors Claudia Goldin, FAS Economics; James Feigenbaum and Martin Fiszbein, Boston University Economics; Marco Tabellini and Marlous van Waijenburg, HBS BGIE

**Location:** Hybrid Event - Littauer Third Floor Lounge (Hansen-Mason Room) & Zoom (link will be sent to the mailing list)

**Description:**

Intended for students writing dissertations related to economic history themes and/or methodology and for others with interests in economic history. Discusses research papers presented by scholars at Harvard and elsewhere.

Please visit <https://economics.harvard.edu/seminars-economic-history> for details.

## AEHN WORKING PAPER SERIES

If you have an African economic history paper that you would like to submit to [AEHN Working Papers](#) for consideration, please contact the editors Leigh Gardner (LSE, [l.a.gardner@lse.ac.uk](mailto:l.a.gardner@lse.ac.uk)) and Felix Meier zu Selhausen (Utrecht, [f.p.meierzuselhausen@uu.nl](mailto:f.p.meierzuselhausen@uu.nl)). This working paper series is intended to disseminate research results to other scholars in order to encourage discussion and suggestions before journal publication.

## 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 (Kate Frederick, Rebecca Simson, Jeanne Cilliers, Abel Gwaindepi) to discuss possible posts at: [frontiers.aehn@gmail.com](mailto:frontiers.aehn@gmail.com).

### [Migration in Africa: Shifting Patterns of Mobility from the 19th to the 21st Century](#) **Michiel de Haas and Ewout Frankema**

This edited volume introduces readers to the “age of intra-African migration”. In stark contrast to preceding centuries of intercontinental slave trading, the long-distance migration of Africans turned decisively inward from 1850 onwards. Rapidly shifting patterns of both forced and voluntary mobility within the African continent were driven by expanding commodity exports, military and political upheaval and significant changes in demography and labor markets. Since the 1960s, there has been a gradual resurgence of Africans on the global migration scene. Viewed in a long-run historical perspective, this does not signify an overall increase in African mobility, but rather a gradual shift towards destinations outside the continent which are increasingly sought out by, and within reach of, prospective migrants.

### [Washington Consensus Reforms and Economic Performance in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons from the Past Four Decades](#) **Belinda Archibong, Brahim Coulibaly and Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**

Over three decades after market-oriented structural reforms, termed “Washington consensus” policies, were first implemented, we revisit the evidence on the effects of these policies in sub-Saharan African countries. Following initial declines in per capita economic growth over the 1980s and 1990s, reform adopters experienced notable increases in per capita real GDP growth in the post 2000 period, but we also find that the ability to implement pro-poor policies alongside market-oriented reforms played a central role in successful policy performance.

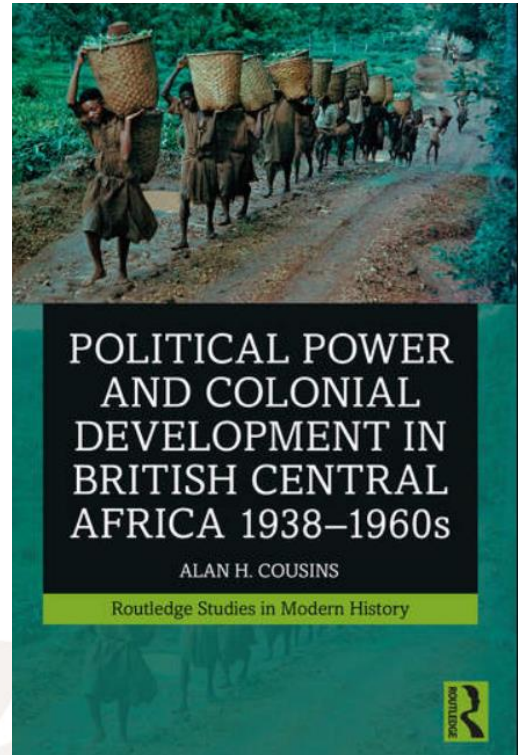
# New research in African economic history

## FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF

### [Political Power and Colonial Development in British Central Africa 1938-1960s](#)

**Alan Cousins**

This book focuses on the late colonial history of Zambia and Malawi, which between 1953 and 1963 were part of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Although there were many links in their history and between their populations, the two territories (British protectorates under Colonial Office control) contrasted greatly in power structures, in their economies, and in their development. Europeans living in Northern Rhodesia, with a power base in the mining economy, were able to establish a dominant position in the territory after the Second World War. By the 1950s it looked as though they would have, with Southern Rhodesian Europeans, a long hegemony, gaining independence from Britain as a new Dominion, which would mean control over both Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland through the Federation. Thus, white ethnicity and ideology are essential factors in this book relating to the struggle for power from just before the Second World War up to the 1960s. However, crises in 1959 and 1960 led to the collapse of the Federation. A second focus is on issues of social and economic development. For Africans in Nyasaland, and in rural parts of Northern Rhodesia, there was a relatively weak economy in this period, a pattern of limited cash crop production, while many people became caught up in labour migration, subordinate to powerful European-dominated economic forces within southern Africa. This meant that colonial policies aimed at rural development were fundamentally flawed. The book also looks at the actual nature of rural economic change (as opposed to colonial policies) and discusses alternative visions of the future which were put forward. The argument is put that historians have often concentrated on the activities of the main nationalist movements in Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia, seeing them as bringing progress away from colonialism and towards independence. Here there is an attempt to draw out the complexities of life, and a variety of responses in the colonial situation, progress coming in a number of forms, but not always being achieved.

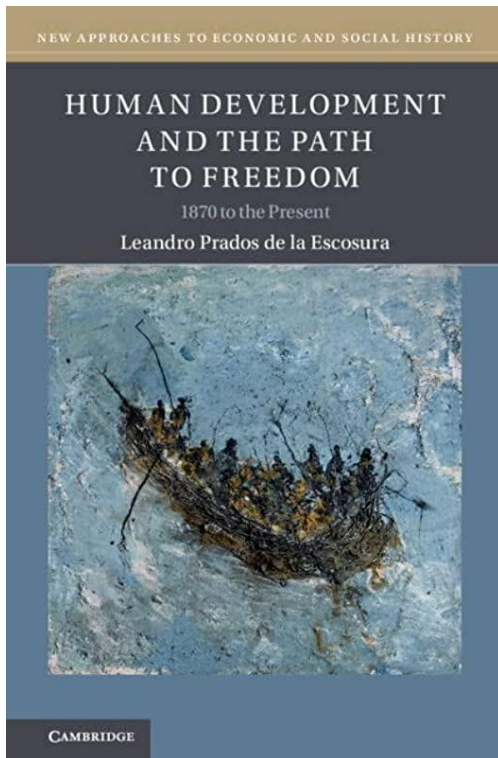


### [Human Development and the Path to Freedom: 1870 to the Present](#)

**Leandro Prados de la Escosura**

How has human development evolved during the last 150 years of globalization and economic growth? How has human development been distributed across countries? How do developing countries compare to developed countries? Do social systems matter for wellbeing? Are there differences in the performance of developing regions over time? Employing a capabilities approach, Human Development and the Path to Freedom addresses these key questions in the context of modern economic growth and globalization from c.1870 to the present. Leandro Prados de la Escosura shows that health, access to knowledge, standards of living, and civil and political freedom can substitute for GDP per head as more accurate measures of our wellbeing.





Chapter 6 assesses long-run augmented human development in Africa. Augmented human development experienced sustained gains since 1880, faster between 1920 and 1960, under colonial rule, and at the turn of the century, but remains at the bottom of the world distribution, although the northern and southern regions forged ahead while the rest stayed behind. AHD grew twice as much as per capita GDP, thriving at times of poor economic performance and, unlike GDP per head that fell behind from a higher relative position, AHD was catching up to the OECD since the late 1920s. Schooling was the main driver of AHD gains and catching up, with life expectancy making a significant contribution in the interwar in the early stage of the epidemiological transition, as the diffusion of health practices prevented infectious disease spread and helped reduce infant and maternal mortality. Civil and political liberties made a contribution both at the time of independence and in the 1990s. AHD long-run performance does not support either the pessimistic view of the colonial era or the depiction of 'lost decades' for the post-independence era, but there is still a long way to go from an international perspective.

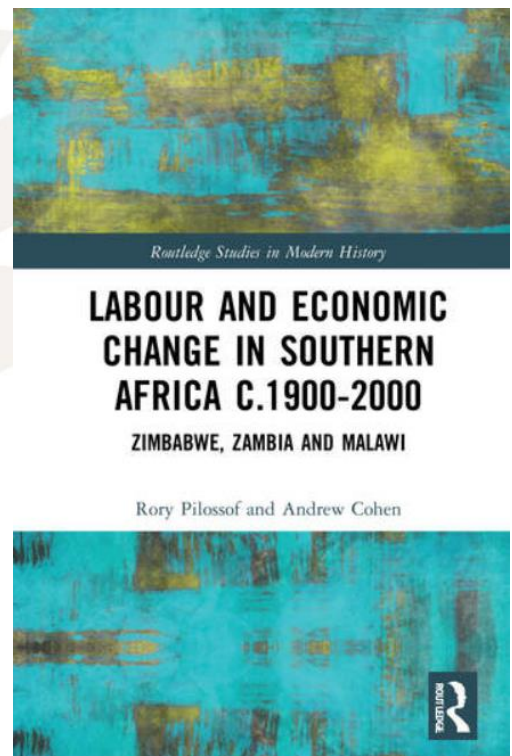
## Labour and Economic Change in Southern Africa c.1900-2000: Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi

**Rory Pilosof, Andrew Cohen**

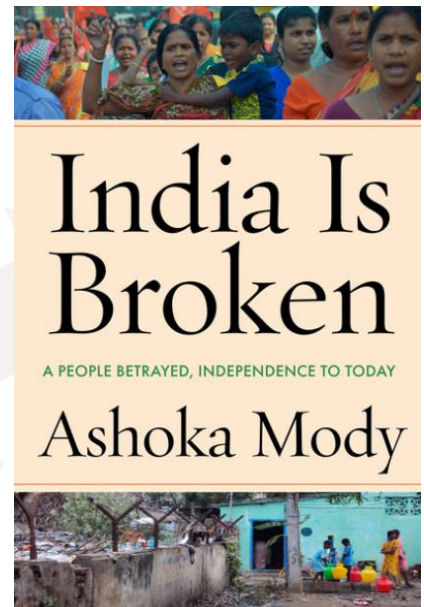
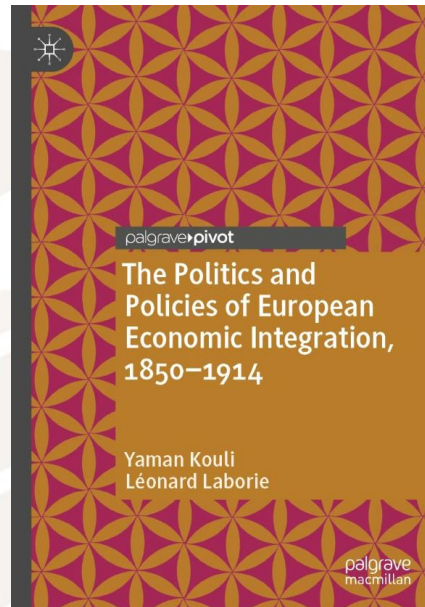
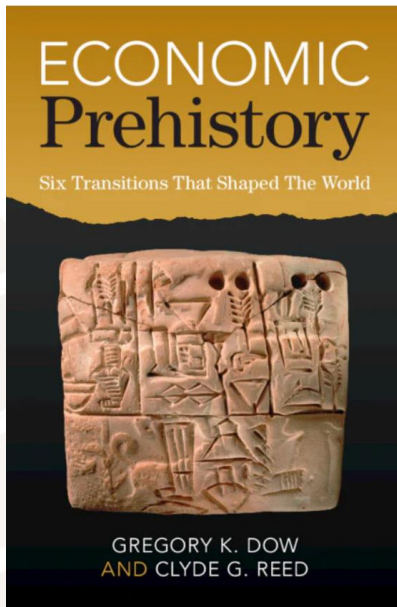
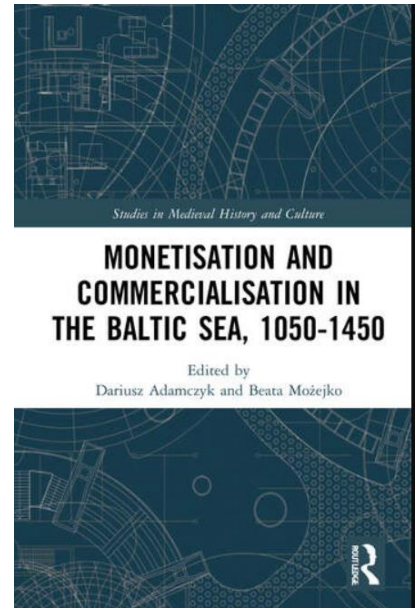
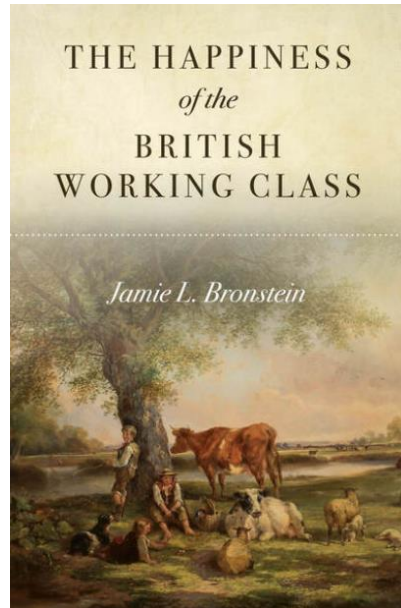
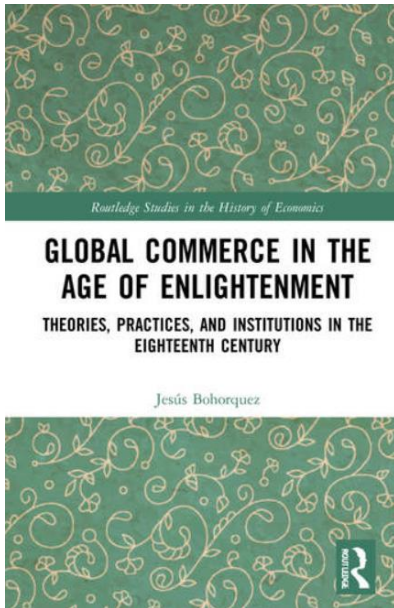
This book explores the social and economic development of Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi over the course of the twentieth century.

These three countries have long shared and interconnected pasts. All three were drawn into the British Empire at a similar time and the formation of the ill-fated Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland formally linked these countries together for a decade in the mid-twentieth century. This formal political relationship created dynamics that resulted in yet closer economic and social links. After Federation, the economic realities of industry, transport and labour supplies meant that these three countries continued to be intricately interconnected. Yet despite these connected pasts, comparative work on the economic histories of Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and how these change over time, is rare. This book addresses the gap by providing the first comprehensive collection of labour and census data across the twentieth century for these three countries. The different economic models and performances of these states offer good comparison, allowing researchers to look at different models of development, and how these played out over the long-term.

The book provides data on population growth and change, industrial and occupational structure, and the various shifts in what the economically active population did. It will be useful for historians, economists, development studies scholars and non-governmental organisations working on twentieth-century and contemporary southern Africa.



Other new books in economic history



## NOW IN PRINT

### [Bridging the Gap with the 'New' Economic History of Africa](#)

*Journal of African History*

**Ewout Frankema and Marlous van Waijenburg**

This review article seeks to build bridges between mainstream African history and the more historically oriented branch of the 'new' economic history of Africa. We survey four central topics of the new economic history of Africa – growth, trade, labor and inequality – and argue that the increased use of quantitative methods and comparative perspectives have sharpened views on long-term trajectories of economic development within Africa and placed the region more firmly into debates of global economic development. The revival of Africa economic history opens new opportunities for Africanist historians to further enrich the interdisciplinary approaches they have taken to study questions of demography, poverty, slavery, labor, inequality, migration, state formation, and colonialism. These fruits, however, can only be reaped if the institutional boundaries between the fields of history and economic history are softened and both sides engage in greater mutual engagement. Our paper aims to move closer to a shared vision on the benefits and limitations of varying quantitative methods, and how these approaches underpin both more and less convincing narratives of long-term African development.

### [Living standards in settler South Africa, 1865-1920](#)

*Economics & Human Biology*

**Johan Fourie, Kris Inwood and Martine Mariotti**

We construct an anthropometric measure of living standards for White South Africans covering 55 years using five different military sources. Accounting for different selection across the forces, we find that prior to industrialisation, White South African males were amongst the tallest in the world. Rural living standards declined in response to natural disasters in the 1880s and 90s with those with the lowest living standards moving off the land and into the cities. We find a slight improvement in living standards after 1900 across all regions and occupations. During industrialisation, White males in South Africa continued to exhibit the highest living standards in the world as represented by their stature. Convergence to other nations in the early twentieth century shows, however, that while there may have been no industrialisation penalty, industrialisation did not lift living standards the way it did elsewhere.

### [Historical African ethnic class stratification systems and intergenerational transmission of education](#)

*Economic History of Developing Regions*

**Patricia Funjika**

This paper examines the role of precolonial class inequality systems in the intergenerational transmission of education processes amongst ethnic groups in Africa. Using ethnographic and household survey data from six African countries and grouping ethnic groups by the historical class system that existed within them, I observe variations in intergenerational persistence between them with varying levels of significance in the different countries included. The findings suggest that understanding intergenerational mobility within African countries should take into account the different historical ethnic group characteristics, although the mobility process does not evolve uniformly across countries. Country-specific colonial administrative systems and the immediate post-independence education policies are critical factors that also need to be taken into account to understand the changes in education-based intergenerational persistence from the precolonial to the contemporary period.

## [Economic inequality in Latin America and Africa, 1650 to 1950: Can a comparison of historical trajectories help to understand underdevelopment?](#)

*Economic History of Developing Regions*

**Stefania Galli, Dimitrios Theodoridis and Klas Rönnbäck**

The present article provides a comparative review of historical economic inequality in the two most unequal regions of the world, namely Latin America and Africa. This contribution examines novel studies that provide quantitative estimates of income and/or wealth inequality in the two continents in terms of sources, methods, results and interpretations, focusing on the period 1650 to 1950. The article shows that although scholars in the two regions have often employed similar methodologies, their results are far from conforming to a uniform pattern. The present review highlights how scholars of Latin America and Africa tend to remain geographically isolated, failing to capture the learning opportunities stemming from the work of their continental counterparts in terms of both sources and methods.

## [Legacies of loss: The health outcomes of slaveholder compensation in the British Cape Colony](#)

*Explorations in Economic History*

**Igor Martins, Jeanne Cilliers and Johan Fourie**

Can wealth shocks have intergenerational health consequences? We use the partial compensation slaveholders received after the 1834 slave emancipation in the British Cape Colony to measure the intergenerational effects of a wealth loss on longevity. We find that a greater loss of slave wealth shortened the lifespans of the generation of slaveholders that experienced the shock albeit these effects are usually small and mostly confined to older cohorts of slaveholders who likely exploited slaves both as labor and capital inputs. The lifespans of those of the second generation who survived infancy were unaffected by the shortfalls and no effects of the shortfall were found for the third generation.

## [Did it pay to be a pioneer? Wealth accumulation in a newly settled frontier society](#)

*The Economic History Review*

**Jeanne Cilliers, Erik Green and Robert Ross**

European settler colonies are often thought to have been characterised by a continued expansion of the landed frontier, which impacted the distribution of wealth across their settler populations. Hampered by a lack of data, few studies have been able to study this in depth. How does settlement timing affect wealth and wealth accumulation when frontier expansion is not a smooth, continuous process? Was it the case that pioneers reaped greater economic benefits from locating their farms on superior land, or would they be disadvantaged compared with later arrivals owing to limited infrastructure or greater risk of conflict with indigenous populations? In this paper, we use a unique dataset that allows us to analyse the link between time of arrival and wealth accumulation in a colonial agrarian frontier society: the Graaff-Reinet district in South Africa's Cape Colony between 1786 and 1850. We find that those who arrived early located their farms in the more climatologically suitable areas of the district and utilised their superior lands to accumulate wealth more quickly than latecomers. However, owing to institutional changes that favoured later British arrivals, we also show that the existence of an early-arrival premium did not mean persistence in land ownership.

## [The effect of settler farming on indigenous agriculture: Evidence from Italian Libya](#)

*The Economic History Review*

**Mattia C. Bertazzini**

What effect did the settlement of European farmers have on the indigenous agricultural sector during the colonial period? On the one hand, European immigrants imported skills and capital but, on the other, they took control of local resources. By looking at the short-term effect of Italian farming in

Page 12 of 15

colonial Libya, I shed new light on this question. Through regression analysis on a novel village dataset covering the entire country, I show that, in 1939, proximity to Italian farms was associated with significantly lower land productivity relative to distant locations. Lower yields can be explained by the adoption of land-extensive cultivation techniques, implemented by indigenous farmers to counteract a labour drain operated by Italian farms through factor markets. The combined mitigating effect of monetary wages and land-extensive farming only partially compensated for the fall in income linked to reduced land productivity.

### [Is economic history changing its nature? Evidence from top journals](#)

*Cliometrica*

**Martina Cioni, Giovanni Federico and Michelangelo Vasta**

A recent stream of literature argues that economic history is expanding its aim of looking for the historical roots of current outcomes (persistence studies) and that it is increasingly integrating with economics. This paper tests these claims with a new database of about 2500 articles published from 2001 to 2018 in the top five economic history journals and in eight leading economics journals. Our results do not confirm this optimistic narrative. Despite a growing interest by economists, economic history and a fortiori persistence studies are still marginal in economics journals. Furthermore, substantial differences between articles in the two groups of outlets are visible. Only a few authors have published in both economics and economic history journals. Publishing in the top five economics journals yields more citations than in top-field journals, but this is not necessarily true for other prestigious economics journals.

### [The collapse of the gold standard in Africa: money and colonialism in the interwar period](#)

*African Studies Review*

**Leigh Gardner**

Research on Africa's monetary history has tended to focus on the imposition of colonial currencies while neglecting the monetary upheavals which faced the colonial powers after the collapse of the gold standard during World War I. Gardner profiles three crises—in The Gambia, Kenya, and Liberia—resulting from shifting exchange rates between European currencies during the 1920s and 1930s. These three cases illustrate the degree to which colonial policies struggled to keep up with the economic turmoil affecting metropolitan states and bring Africa into the story of global monetary instability during the interwar period, which is often told only from a European perspective.

## WORKING PAPERS

### [Does military spending affect inequality in South Africa? A revisit](#)

**Hinaunye Eita, Mduduzi Biyase, Thomas Udimal and Talent Zwane**

Previous investigations on military spending-inequality nexus (in South Africa) were underpinned by the assumption that military spending and inequality behaves in symmetric fashion and employed linear autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL) model in their analysis. This paper extends and improve upon prior studies by investigating the short-run and long-run asymmetric effect of military spending on South Africa's income inequality. Using annual data from 1980 to 2017 and asymmetric autoregressive distributed lag (NARDL) model by Shin et al. (2014), our paper revisits the military spending-income inequality nexus. We find evidence to suggest an asymmetric association between military and income inequality - income inequality responds differently to positive and negative shocks of military spending in the long- and short-run. Based on these findings, we are inclined to conclude that the NARDL model delivers more accurate estimates and provides nuanced insights that the traditional linear ARDL.

### [The Fiscal Origins of Comparative Inequality levels: An Empirical and Historical Investigation](#)

**Andrés Irarrázaval**

What explains exceptional inequality across Latin America, Africa, and India? By exploiting analytical, historical, and empirical tools, this research revisits the literature on inequality and long-term development. The findings challenge the colonial origins thesis, showing that significant inequality in Latin America, Africa, and India is not rooted in the colonial period nor explained by allegedly persistent “extractive” economic institutions. Instead, the empirical strategy that revises Acemoglu et al. (2001) instrument variable (IV) method, consistent with historical evidence, indicates that current inequality differences only materialised during the 20th century following divergent fiscal patterns. In Western countries, progressive fiscality led to tangibly lower inequality since the 1920s. Whereas in Latin America, Africa, and India, despite post-colonial convergence toward “inclusive” economic institutions, inequality persists through a regressive fiscal equilibrium. In these developing regions, limited democratic accountability has undermined the formation of the credible commitments necessary to raise substantial direct (i.e., progressive) taxes and the political pressure required to mobilize such resources towards redistribution.

### [The Formative Period of the Ethiopian Labour Movement, 1962-1974](#)

**Adane. K Bezabih**

As a result of internal and external factors, the imperial regime issued a labour relations decree, Decree No.49/1962 and recognized labour unions and employers' associations for the first time in the history of Ethiopian labour movement on 5 September 1962. This in turn resulted in the birth of the Confederation of Ethiopian Labour Union (CELU) on 9 April 1963 and the Ethiopian Employers' Federation (EEF) on 11 April 1964. In a nut shell, the years from 1962 to 1974 can be taken as the formative years in the history of the Ethiopian labour movement. Therefore, this study tries to investigate the formative period of the Ethiopian labour movement in which workers sought to establish an independent labour union and undertaken stiff struggle to that end. As a qualitative research, the study used document analysis and in-depth interview to collect data. It also used thematic analysis to analyze the collected data. The findings of the study showed that the strong subordination of CELU to the state and the enduring internal power struggle among its leaders contributed a lot to the failure of the Ethiopian labour movement to establish an independent national confederation and to be an agent for the 1974 Ethiopian revolution.

## **The Golden City on the Edge: Economic Geography and Jihad over Centuries**

**Masahiro Kubo and Shunsuke Tsuda**

This paper uncovers the evolution of cities and Islamist insurgencies, so called jihad, in the process of the reversal of fortune over the centuries. In West Africa, water access in ancient periods predicts the locations of the core cities of inland trade routes -- the trans-Saharan caravan routes -- founded up to the 1800s, when historical Islamic states played significant economic roles before European colonization. In contrast, ancient water access does not have a persistent influence on contemporary city formation and economic activities. After European colonization and the invention of modern trading technologies, along with the constant shrinking of water sources, landlocked pre-colonial core cities contracted or became extinct. Employing an instrumental variable strategy, we show that these deserted locations have today been replaced by battlefields for jihadist organizations. We argue that the power relations between Islamic states and the European military during the 19th century colonial era shaped the persistence of jihadist ideology as a legacy of colonization. Investigations into religious ideology related to jihadism, using individual-level surveys from Muslims, support this mechanism. Moreover, the concentration of jihadist violence in "past-core-and-present-periphery" areas in West Africa is consistent with a global-scale phenomenon. Finally, spillovers of violent events beyond these stylized locations are partly explained by organizational heterogeneity among competing factions (Al Qaeda and the Islamic State) over time.

## **Stubborn Historical Legacies: Power Relations and Government Policy in Sudan**

**Nada Ali**

Despite Sudan's legacy of abrupt but successful popular uprisings, the country has failed to date to chart a path towards sustainable democracy. This paper seeks, through a review of Sudan's contemporary political history, to understand the failures of successive democratic governments to pursue an effective program of nation building, ensure peace and move the country out of this dysfunctional cycle of long autocratic military rule, interrupted by popular uprisings and failed democratic transitions. Theoretical literature in this area is neither uniform nor discipline-specific. This paper uses insights from political science, sociology and economics to reach conclusions. Apart from economist who tended to focus on structural factors hindering political transitions (e.g. conflict and the relevance of oil rents) enough commentators agree that the kernel of the problem is the political elite, their decision making and behavior vis-à-vis pivotal national questions (See Khalid, 1990, De Waal 2015). We understand the relevant questions as including the conceptualization of national identity post-independence, the development of a coherent and effective citizenship construct, defining the relationship of the center to the periphery – in terms both of rights and obligations, understanding the regional and international forces affecting the internal politics in Sudan, Sudan's position in the modern World and issues of justice and accountability for past wrongs. This approach subordinates the "economic" to the "political" in the sense that it treats the issue as a political problem which then generates economic effects such as economic stagnation, development impasse and clientelism and cronyism. We are also aware of the particular challenges facing Sudan by way of inheritance from the previous regime (See Elbattahani (2017)). These include a disintegrated state, ongoing conflicts, fragile state institutions and an ongoing economic crisis. However, if we are to learn anything from the brief periods of failed democratic rule in the 60s and 80s it ought to be that short-term solutions to long-term problems seldom work.

## **The making (and unmaking) of Uganda's ethnic-based decentralization programme**

**Adventino Banjwa**

Uganda's post-colony continues to be haunted by the colonial logic of ethnicity. This logic has mapped the country's post-colonial political landscape as a terrain on which spirals of ethnic-based conflicts and violence are the norm. Because colonial ethnic spatial demarcations were also unequally governed, the question of ethnic inequality was necessarily implanted into the post-colonial political landscape. Many came to define Uganda's post-colonial politics as one of 'ethnic balancing'.