



African Economic History Newsletter

Issue #60, November 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.

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If you want to publicise your own research, events, seminars or organise a panel for an upcoming conference, please send a message to leone.walters@gmail.com and I will include your news in our quarterly round up.

Leoné Walters
on behalf of the African Economic History Network

Network updates

AEHN ANNUAL MEETING

The AEHN Meeting is an annual gathering focused on discussing ongoing research in the economic history of Africa. The 16th annual meeting, centred around the theme of agency in Africa, took place at Future Africa, University of Pretoria in South Africa on 5 and 6 October 2023. The event provided a valuable opportunity for scholars to connect, network, and share their research. **Please keep an eye out for the call for papers for next year's meeting.**



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 (l.a.gardner@lse.ac.uk) and Felix Meier zu Selhausen (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 AFRICAN 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.

The Fiscal State in Africa: Evidence from one Century of Growth, 1900-2015

Marvin Suesse, Thilo Albers and Morten Jerven

How much have states in Africa raised in taxes, now and in the past? And why do modern African states differ substantially in their capacity to raise revenues? A new dataset covering much of the continent for the entire twentieth century provides answers.

Leader Selection and Why it Matters: Education and the Endogeneity of Favoritism in 11 African Countries

Laura Maravall, Jörg Baten and Johan Fourie

Are leaders randomly selected? Could the presence of colonial schools in a region increase the likelihood of producing leaders in that particular region? Analyzing the birthplace of 33 post-independence leaders across 11 countries between 1930 and 1970, we argue that leaders predominantly emerge from regions with superior colonial-era education. Our results confront the implicit assumption within favoritism studies that leaders are randomly drawn from the population.

News and announcements

CALL FOR PAPERS

Symposium on Trade and Indigenous Nations

Globalization is about the world becoming smaller and different peoples, cultures, and economic systems coming into increasingly frequent contact. These interactions can be peaceful and mutually beneficial, but they can also be coercive and exploitive. While much of the literature on the economics of globalization focuses on the twentieth century, a smaller but important literature considers the long period of globalization associated with European conquest and colonization in Africa, the Americas, Oceania, and elsewhere. This episode of globalization led to massive and frequently traumatic changes in the economic, political, and demographic structure of Indigenous peoples and nations.

We seek to publish a research symposium with articles that address broad themes in the rapidly emerging literature on the effects of the European colonization on Indigenous peoples and nations. The issue will be of special interest to the readers of the Canadian Journal of Economics and to scholars of international trade, as well as the literature on Indigenous economies, both historical and contemporary. We are particularly interested in research that emphasizes trade or that possesses some international or spatial aspect. The word international should be taken broadly to indicate interactions between Indigenous nations and colonizing nations or amongst Indigenous nations.

Some of the specific questions that we have in mind include, but are not confined to, the following:

- How did pre-colonialization Indigenous market structures affect the impact of globalization?
- How did opportunities for trade with colonizing nations enhance or diminish Indigenous economic outcomes both over the short run and with more persistence over the long run? How should we interpret this in the context of vast swaths of economic theory and evidence suggesting that trade is “good”?
- Did trade introduce or correct what economists think of as market failures, including but not limited to resource extraction and management?
- How did the evolution of property rights structures intersect with trade relationships?
- How important was trade for the spread of disease, settlement, or conquest?
- How did trade and transportation technologies and the reservation (in the US) / reserve (in Canada) system interact? How did the spatial remoteness of reservations/reserves shape trade activity for Indigenous nations?
- How do historical patterns of colonization and trade persist into the present?
- How will new patterns of trade caused by climate change affect Indigenous nations in affected areas?

All forms of economic research are invited to apply including reduced-form and structural econometric work, applied theory, the introduction of new data sets and techniques, and qualitative research. The guest editors in charge of this symposium are Rob Gillezeau and Peter Morrow.

The submission deadline is May 1st, 2024. Interested authors should submit their papers through CJE's ScholarOne portal (<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cje-rce>). In Step 1 of the submission process, select "Special Issue Paper" as manuscript type. Detailed instructions for manuscript submissions can be found at the journal's website (<https://www.economics.ca/cpages/cje-authors>). In addition, papers that will be accepted into this issue will be organized into a conference fall 2024. Limited travel bursaries will be available.

International Labor and Working-Class History

“Counting Work and Workers in Colonial and Post-Colonial Africa”

Editors: Chikouna Cissé, Annick Lacroix, Baptiste Mollard, Laure Piguët, Léa Renard

Socio-economic statistics in African countries have recently come under severe attack. In a widely debated book published in 2013, M. Jerven did not hesitate to describe the data used to produce these numbers as “poor”. The statistical systems these indicators are drawn from find their roots in the dissemination of Western models and categories described as modern during the colonial period. Socio-economic statistics are also linked to the practices of nascent international organizations that developed at the same time. While the Yearbook of Labour Statistics published by the International Labour Organization (ILO) has sought, for instance, to gather data on working conditions “for each country” since 1936, this organization has failed to describe the world of work in all its diversity, notably because women and men workers from colonized areas were very rarely included before the 1950s, apart from white urban workers. Such an absence can be accounted for both by the hierarchical representation of populations that is core to the colonial project and by the tradition of labor statistics, which were historically closely linked to the wage-earner’s status as a standard model and the development of labor law (mostly with regard to industrial work).

Despite the fragmented nature of these numbers, censuses and surveys were regularly carried out during the colonial and post-colonial periods to measure labor or to estimate the labor force on the African continent. Drawing on sources like censuses by occupational category, company statistics and quantitative observations conducted by labor inspectors, this special issue seeks to take into account the wide and varied range of practices and to examine the shifting representations of labor and workers in Africa in the *longue durée*. How do political and organizational contexts, marked by the limited resources and staff dedicated to the statistical apparatus, or the fiscal agenda of censuses, influence the production of numbers? And how do these numbers contribute, in return, to the repressive, racist or managerial logics of exploiting these populations as mere resources? What dimensions of the labor world were measured during the colonial period and what dimensions were ignored?

While demographic statistics have been widely studied, the measurement and numerical representations of work in Africa remains a field of research yet to be investigated. The point of this special issue is not to assess the reliability of the produced data, but rather to question practices of counting work in different African contexts during the colonial and post-independence periods from the perspective of the historical sociology of quantification. Drawing on recent developments in this field of research, it will examine data production as a dynamic and multi-scalar process, at the intersection between individuals, local political structures, colonial bureaucracies and international organizations. The contributions in this issue move away from the premise of statistics as top-down tools of imperial domination. Particular attention will be given to the financial and human resources allocated, as well as to the nomenclatures used to estimate the available workforce or to identify changes in labor practices. The aim is both to shed light on how diverse colonial situations (French, British, Portuguese or others) shaped the production of numbers and to sketch out comparisons across the African continent.

This special issue also examines the way quantification practices and data on work and workers as well as the categories used to classify workers or economic sectors were inherited or transformed by the administrations of independent states after decolonization. We therefore heartily welcome contributions that document the production of numbers at the time of the initial social policies in the 1960s, the role played by “technical cooperation” in training national statisticians or the circulation of “best practices” in the course of the Structural Adjustment Programs from the 1980s onward.

The proposed articles might address one or more of the following topics:

(1) The production of numbers on work and workers: Opening the black box

We welcome propositions that focus on the actors involved in the process of compiling numbers, data collection procedures and survey materiality (e.g., detailed written reports, statistical tables or standardized forms). Articles might explore the hypothesis of a tendency toward bureaucratization and standardization, which started as early on as in the colonial period, was supported by international organizations, and continued in different ways after independence. We are particularly interested in contributions that include statistics produced by non-state actors (e.g. local religious authorities, missionaries, trade unions, companies); or that try to capture co-construction dynamics and conflicts between state and non-state actors, as well as between private and public numbers. For both the colonial and post-independence periods, contributions highlighting the role of international organizations in the production of an international framework for counting and observing work in Africa will also be highly welcome.

(2) Why counting?

This special issue seeks to highlight the diversity of usages and motivations for the production of numbers, thereby also pointing to power asymmetries between bureaucracies and the populations they count. The transformation of indigenous people into a colonial labor force seems to have been one of the main reasons for keeping quantitative accounts. One other motive might have been colonial authorities' desire to control mobility toward cities, neighboring colonies or Europe. From the 1940s onward, surveying working conditions and developing labor and social rights became more prominent, and indigenous workers started to be (partly) included into this framework (e.g., with regard to the supervision and restriction of child labor, or the regulation of industrial accidents). One possible question here would be whether (and if so, how) statistics have been used as the performative manifestation of a stable power, thereby revealing its precariousness. In cases where data is missing, how to explain that public servants resisted measuring, whereas counting was at the same time a solid component of bureaucratic functioning in other parts of the world? To what extent was the manufacturing of statistical tables used as bureaucratic tools of reporting, rather than as instruments of knowledge to inform on populations and work? The aim here is to initiate a reflection on the precariousness of bureaucratic apparatuses, the role of ignorance, the assumption of modernity that was at the core of these practices, and the legitimization of the political projects they promoted, even after independence.

(3) Categorization in practice

The cognitive operation of quantification enables governments to confer legibility or “calculability” to the societies and economies they govern. Counting makes it thus possible to standardize heterogeneous environments and social worlds. When adapting to our object of inquiry the conclusions drawn from the historical literature on state techniques, we assume that labor statistics disseminate abstract models to portray reality and act on it, while at the same time reducing uncertainty and facilitating decision-making by authorities. From this perspective, articles might examine the ways workers were categorized in colonized, and later in independent, Africa. The culturalist and racist dimensions of the adopted categorizations (linked, for example, to the anxiety provoked by an imagined “detrribalized” proletariat or increasingly numerous unemployed persons in urban areas), the focus on wage employment, and the difficulty of grasping other forms of work, in particular female domestic work or the so-called informal sector, are all dimensions that could be addressed by the proposed articles.

This special issue aims to test these research hypotheses (and others still to be formulated) on a variety of fields, using empirical case studies. Particular attention will be paid to proposals originality and to the use of new (or alternative) primary sources. We see the writing and publishing process as a way of initiating a dialogue between history and social sciences on these questions. To ensure the coherence of the special issue, the authors of the selected proposals will be invited to an authors' workshop (to be held in Spring 2024 in hybrid format).

Please submit article abstracts (no longer than 500 words) until 15 December 2023.

Contact: laure.piguet@unifr.ch

Histories of childhood and youth in southern Africa

From the Precolonial to the Present



UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA



An international workshop to be held at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein campus, 1-2 July 2024

What does it mean to study children and youth in southern Africa's past? What does a history of childhood and youth in southern Africa look like? How has the experience of childhood and youth in southern Africa been shaped by the region's changing social and political formations? How might the history of childhood and youth cause us to rethink the history of this region?

This exploratory workshop seeks to bring together scholars across all stages of their careers with interests in histories of childhood and youth (broadly defined). PhD students and early career scholars are particularly encouraged to apply. In a **two-day workshop** based at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein on **1-2 July 2024**, we aim to bring together a small group of scholars to present papers with two goals: first, to create a network of scholars working in the field, particularly based in southern Africa; and second, to collaborate on a publication in the form of either peer reviewed journal articles in a special issue or a peer reviewed edited book collection.

Potential questions that might be addressed by participants include, but are not limited to:

- Who counted as a 'child' or a 'youth' in different places and time periods? How were these categories shaped in relation to chronological age, generational relationships, legal regimes, religious ideas or social and cultural norms? How were children defined in relation to youth, teens, or other age categories?
- What were the experiences of children and youth growing up in a particular southern African community at a certain point in time? What was distinctive about growing up in this region?
- How can we access children and young people's own experiences or reflections on childhood?
- What kinds of welfare and childcare were available for children and youth? How did these change from pre-colonial to postcolonial times?
- What kinds of sources can we use to access the experiences of children and young people in the past (including the precolonial, colonial, and postcolonial periods)?
- Do traditional periodisations regarding the history of childhood (for example the emergence of the idea of the priceless child in late nineteenth century United States) map onto histories of childhood in the southern African context? Are there other important historical moments that should be considered when writing histories of childhood locally?
- Are there particular regional, linguistic, cultural or religious differences in how childhood and youth was conceptualised?
- How did children and young people themselves engage with colonial/apartheid/post-colonial policies and the state?
- How have children and young people experienced migration over time in the region?
- How did ideas about child labour shift over time? What kinds of labour and work were children engaged in? How did children and youth think about work?
- What education did children and young people receive (formally and informally)? How did they think about their education?
- What laws have governed or shaped childhoods in this period?
- How have different regimes dealt with children and young people seen as 'other' (criminals, disabled, racially different etc)?

Funding for regional travel and accommodation will be covered by the University of the Free State Directorate Research Development and the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research, Prof Vasu Reddy. There will be no registration fee for the workshop and catering and accommodation will be provided for all participants. This event has been generously co-sponsored by the Society for History of Childhood and Youth.

Abstracts of maximum 300 words and a brief bio of no more than 100 words should be sent to childhoodyouthsouthernafrica@gmail.com by 15 December 2023. Participants will be notified of acceptance by **15 January 2024.**

For further enquiries, please email:

Rebecca Swartz, History Department, University of the Free State (SwartzR@ufs.ac.za)

Sarah Emily Duff, History Department, Colby College (seduff@colby.edu)

Charmaine Modisane, History Department, North West University

(Charmaine.Modisane@nwu.ac.za)

Jared McDonald, History Department, University of the Free State (mcdonaldjr@ufs.ac.za)

Economic History Workshop of Developing Regions

YSI and Figuerola Institute invite you to the Economic History Workshop of Developing Regions at Carlos III University of Madrid on February 16, 2024

Young Scholars Initiative and Figuerola Institute invite you to the Economic History Workshop of Developing Regions at Carlos III University of Madrid (UC3M). There has been recent growth in the economic history literature on developing countries, backed by quantified evidence. However, this expansion lags significantly behind the well-established corpus of literature centered on the core European and North American contexts. Bridging this gap in the literature is crucial to comprehensively addressing the major questions in economic history. Indeed, we still lack comparable historical datasets of markets, land ownership, human capital, and tax records in developing regions due to limited access to primary sources and insufficient funding opportunities.

The organizing committee cordially encourages you to submit your working paper, preferably quantitative, on any topic and peripheral region (including the periphery of Europe). Scheduled for February 16, 2024, the one-day workshop will be hosted at Getafe Campus of UC3M in Madrid.

Professor Giovanni Federico from New York University Abu Dhabi will deliver the keynote speech. Young scholars in attendance will also benefit from the comments of experienced scholars from various institutions working on different topics and regions. The academic committee will consist of Christopher Absell (U. of Gothenburg), Dácil Juif (UC3M), Laura Maravall (U. of Alcalá), Leonard Kukić (UC3M), and María Gómez León (U. of Valencia). The collaborative effort of the Young Scholars Initiative and the Figuerola Institute in undertaking this workshop holds the potential to enrich academic knowledge within the field, bringing together diverse perspectives.

The submission deadline for extended abstracts (max. 1000 words) is December 1, 2023. Please use the [application form](#) to submit your extended abstracts. There is no submission fee. Authors of accepted papers will receive notifications by mid-December 2023. To facilitate discussion, 8000-word papers must be submitted to the organizing committee by January 31, 2024. Accommodation will be provided by the organizing committee. Travel stipends are not guaranteed but will be provided based on availability.

Organizing committee:

Onur Yükcü (UC3M) - oyukcu@clio.uc3m.es

Víctor Gómez Blanco (UV and Figuerola Institute) - victor.m.gomez@uv.es

OPPORTUNITIES

Call for MA Scholarship Applications



With a recently awarded NIHSS grant, the research project “Currencies, Colonial Economies, and the Making of South African State: Studying Economic History in South Africa” (CRP22/1090) has opened a call for two fully funded MA scholarships at the **Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WiSER) and Wits History Department**, offering R130 000 per year for two years.

MA research projects supported by this scholarship should align with the overarching theme of the grant-funded project, which aims to examine an aspect of South Africa’s economic past that has received scant attention at best: the history and origins of the South African colonial monetary system. As such, there is very little analysis of the relationship between currency, colonialism, and the making of the South African state – a set of mutually constitutive processes that need full exploration to understand the significance of colonial conquest and the reconfiguration of local African systems of value and exchange that underpinned centuries of long-distance trade within and beyond Africa’s borders.

Students will register in the Wits History Department for a Masters of Arts – Research, and will be based between the Department and WiSER. Students will receive joint supervision from the project leader and team members (Laura Phillips – Wits; Abraham Mlombo - University of Pretoria; Tinashe Nyamunda - University of Glasgow).

Eligibility requirements:

- Honours in History or cognate discipline
- Minimum of 65% for Honours
- Interest in Economic History

Applicants should submit the following documents:

- A cover letter (1-2 pages) outlining your research interests and why you are well suited to the grant-funded project. Applicants may want to read and respond to the following article to understand the significance of the project: G. Krozewski and T Nyamunda, ‘Money for Africa and Money in Africa: Colonial Currencies and the Making of Economies and States, 1860s–1960s,’ *Africa Studies Review*, Vol. 66, Issue 3, September 2023, pp. 587 – 594.)
- Up-to-date detailed CV including the names and contact details of two referees
- Academic transcripts and certificates of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees

Questions about the application and scholarship can be sent to laura.phillips@wits.ac.za

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: 30 November 2023

SUBMIT by emailing: laura.phillips@wits.ac.za

Two-year postdoctoral position

Laboratory for the Economics of Africa's Past (LEAP), Department of Economics, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

The Laboratory for the Economics of Africa's Past (LEAP) and the Department of Economics at Stellenbosch University in South Africa invite applications for a two-year postdoctoral position in economic history.

Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to academic excellence, possess a robust research trajectory, and have the aptitude to publish in top-tier economic history journals. The primary role of the postdoc will be to undertake research in the realm of economic history, with a preference for research centred on African economic history, though this is not a strict requirement.

The successful candidate will join LEAP and contribute to the newly established Chair in Economics, History and Policy, including organising a seminar series and workshops. We strongly encourage candidates with an interest in research communication to apply. The candidate is not expected to teach undergraduate or graduate courses.

Requirements:

- Applicants must hold a PhD degree in economics or economic history. Applicants must have graduated within the last five years.
- Applicants must have a strong interest in (African) economic history. An interest in research dissemination and communication would be an added advantage.
- Skills such as data management, historical GIS, R visualisation or OCR transcription would be an added advantage.

Conditions:

- Two-year fixed term, subject to the availability of funds and satisfactory academic progress.
- Starting from March 2024 (the starting date is flexible).
- Fellowship value: R400 000.
- Please note that postdoctoral fellows are not appointed as employees, and their fellowships are awarded tax-free. Although they are therefore not eligible for employee benefits. The University reserves the right NOT to make an appointment if suitable candidates do not apply.

Application process:

Interested candidates are invited to apply online (via <https://econjobmarket.org/>): including CV, proof of qualification, cover letter, a job market paper, and three letters of reference (including your supervisor's). For more information on the position, please contact Prof Johan Fourie (johanf@sun.ac.za).

The closing date is Jan 15, 2024, but will be accepted until the position is filled.

Junior Research Professor

Modern social and/or economic history of Central Africa (from the 18th century onwards)



Department: Department of History
Regime Full-time

The University of Antwerp is a dynamic, forward-thinking, European university. We offer an innovative academic education to more than 20000 students, conduct pioneering scientific research and play an important service-providing role in society. We are one of the largest, most international and most innovative employers in the region. With more than 6000 employees from 100 different countries, we are helping to build tomorrow's world every day. Through top scientific research, we push back boundaries and set a course for the future – a future that you can help to shape.

As part of its dynamic research policy, and supported by the University Research Fund (Dutch: Bijzonder Onderzoeksfonds, BOF), the Department of History has the following full-time vacancy:

Junior research professor (tenure track ZAPBOF) in the field of Modern social and/or economic history of Central Africa (from the 18th century onwards)

Position

As a member of the Academic Staff (Dutch: Zelfstandig Academisch Personeel, ZAP), you will contribute to the University of Antwerp's three core tasks: research, services and education. Your role may also include organisational and managerial aspects. As a research professor, your role will consist primarily of academic research with some limited involvement in the educational programmes for a maximum of 10 years.

Want to apply?

You can apply for this vacancy through the University of Antwerp's online job application platform up to and including 8 January 2024 (by midnight Brussels time). Click on 'apply', complete the online application form and don't forget to include the following documents:

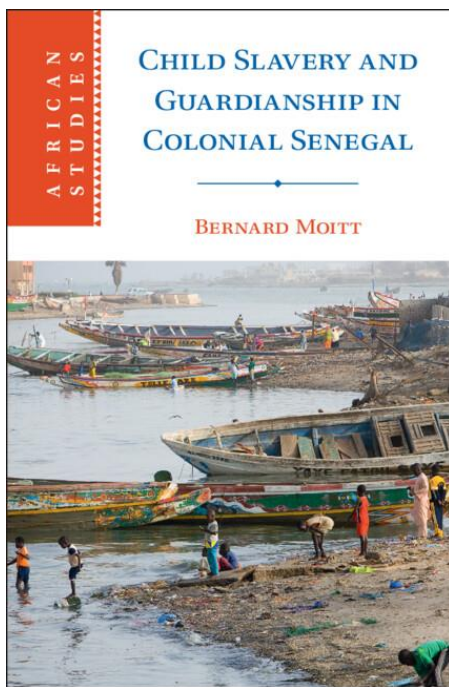
- your motivation letter,
- the completed job application appendix for ZAP,
- your academic CV,
- a short research plan for the next five years (maximum 2000 words),
- a report on your previous scientific research activities (maximum 1000 words),
- an abstract on the scientific content of the research plan (maximum 500 words or 4000 characters).

If you have any questions about the online application form, please check the frequently asked questions or send an email to jobs@uantwerpen.be. If you have any questions about the job itself, please contact Tim Soens, vice-chair of the History Department (tim.soens@uantwerpen.be). If you have any questions about the typical appointment framework for this research role, please contact the TTZAPBOF officers in the Department of Research Affairs & Innovation, Ms. Marianne De Voecht (0032 3 265 30 29) or Ms. Birgit Houben (0032 3 265 31 39).

Position details and link to apply can be found [here](#).

New research in African economic history

FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF



Child Slavery and Guardianship in Colonial Senegal

Bernard Moitt

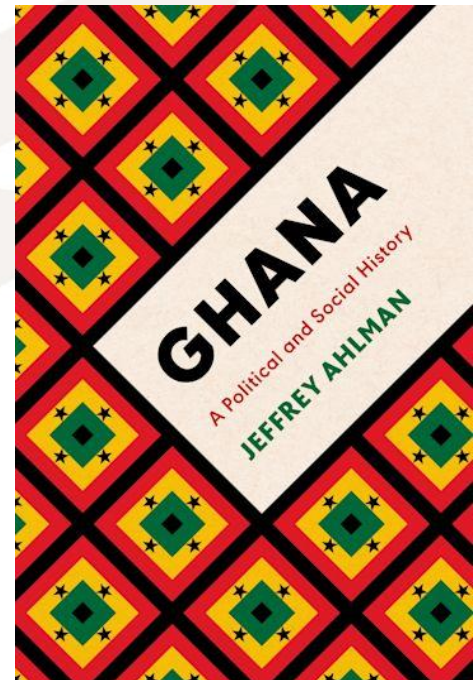
In the immediate aftermath of the French abolition of slavery in 1848, many previously enslaved children suddenly became wards of the colonial state. The colonial administration in Senegal created an institution called tutelle, a form of guardianship or wardship, that aimed both to prevent the loss of labor from liberated minors and to safeguard the children's welfare. Drawing from extensive archival research, Bernard Moitt uncovers the stories of these liberated children who were entrusted to Africans, Europeans, institutions like orphanages, Catholic orders and the military, and, often, their former owners. While the literature on servitude in French West Africa has primarily focused on the period before 1848, Moitt demonstrates that tutelle allowed slavery to persist under another name, with children continuing to be subject to the same widespread labor exploitation and abuse. Using a range of rich case studies, this book offers new insights into the emancipation of enslaved people in Senegal, the tenacity of servility, and children's agency.

Ghana: A Political and Social History

Jeffrey Ahlman

Few African countries have attracted the international attention that Ghana has. In the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the then-colonial Gold Coast emerged as a key political and intellectual hub for British West Africa. Half a century later, when Ghana became the first sub-Saharan state to emerge from European colonial rule, it became a key site for a burgeoning, transnational, African anticolonial politics that drew activists, freedom fighters, and intellectuals from around the world. As the twentieth century came to a close, Ghana also became an international symbol of the putative successes of post-Cold-War African liberalization and democratization projects.

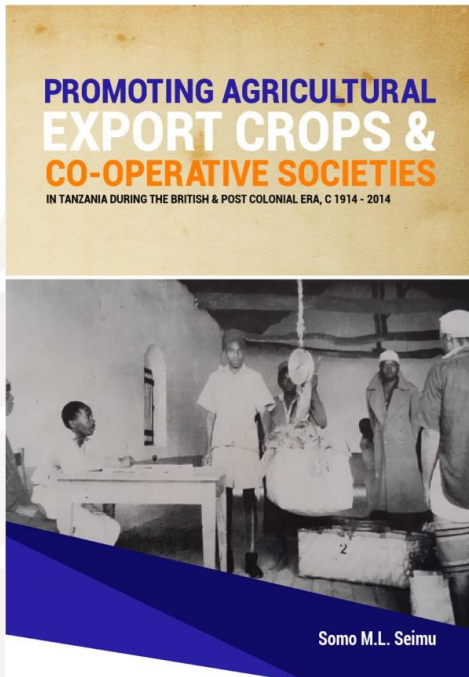
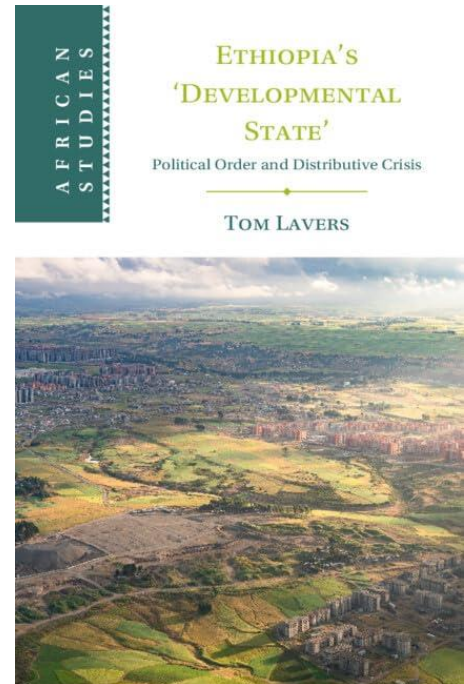
Here Jeffrey Ahlman narrates this rich political history stretching from the beginnings of the very idea of the "Gold Coast" to the country's 1992 democratization, which paved the way for the Fourth Republic. At the same time, he offers a rich social history stretching that examines the sometimes overlapping, sometimes divergent nature of what it means to be Ghanaian through discussions of marriage, ethnicity, and migration; of cocoa as a cultural system; of the multiple meanings of chieftaincy; and of other contemporary markers of identity. Throughout it all, Ahlman distills decades of work by other scholars while also drawing on a wide array of archival, oral, journalistic, and governmental sources in order to provide his own fresh insights.



Ethiopia's 'Developmental State': Political Order and Distributive Crisis

Tom Lavers

Ethiopia stands out as a leading example of state-led development in Africa. Tom Lavers offers in this book a comprehensive, multi-sector analysis of Ethiopia's development project, examining how regimes maintain power during the extended periods required to bring about economic transformation. Specifically, Lavers explores how the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF, 1991-2019) sought to maintain political order through economic transformation, and why the party collapsed, leading to the outbreak of civil war in 2020. The book argues that the EPRDF sought to secure mass acquiescence through distribution of land and employment. However, rapid population growth and the limits of industrial policy in the contemporary global economy led to a distributive crisis that was a central factor in the regime's collapse. This Ethiopian experience raises important questions about the prospects for economic transformation elsewhere on the continent.



Promoting Agricultural Export Crops and Co-operative Societies in Tanzania during the British & Post-Colonial Era, c1914 - 2014

Somo M.L. Seimu

This book has extensively utilised primary source material to provide an historical overview of the growth and development of the co-operative movement in Tanzania during the colonial, inter-war, post-war and post-colonial periods. Essentially, it considers political and policy aspects as well as other interlocking issues that either contributed to or undermined the growth and development of various types of co-operative societies in the country.

A Country of Defiance: Mapping the Casamance in Senegal

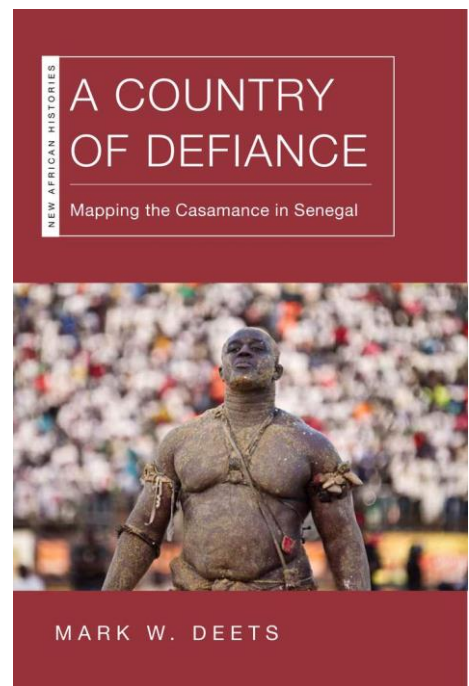
Mark W. Deets

This book is a spatial history of the conflict in Casamance, the portion of Senegal located south of The Gambia. Mark W. Deets traces the origins of the conflict back to the start of the colonial period in a select group of contested spaces and places where the seeds of nationalism and separatism took root. Each chapter examines the development of a different piece of the still unrealized Casamançais nation: river, rice field, forest, school, and stadium. Each of these locations forms a spatial discourse of grievance that transformed space into place, rendering a separatist nation from the pieces where a particular Casamançais identity emerged. However, not every Casamançais identified with these spaces and places in the same way. Many refused to tie their beloved culture and landscape to the

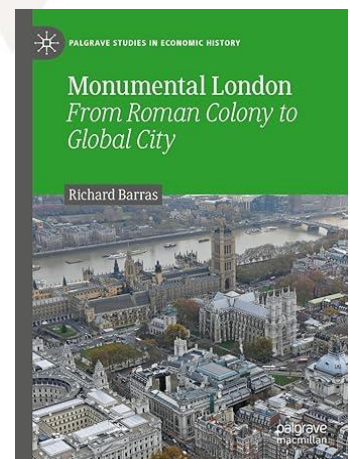
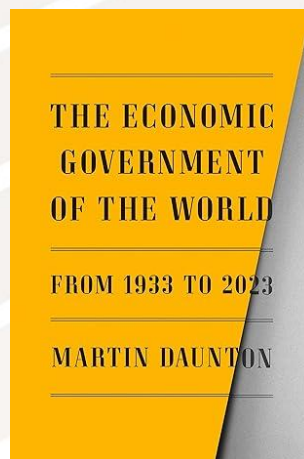
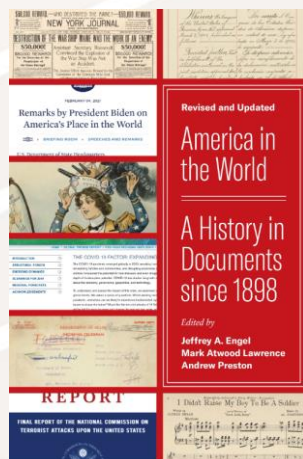
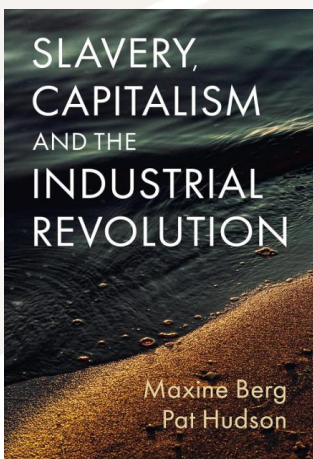
project of separatism, revealing a layer of counter-mapping below that of the separatist leaders like Father Augustin Diamacoune Senghor and Mamadou “Nkrumah” Sané.

The Casamance conflict began on December 26, 1982. After an oath-taking ceremony in a sacred forest on the edge of Ziguinchor, hundreds of separatists from the Movement of Democratic Forces of the Casamance (MFDC) marched into the town to remove the Senegalese flag in front of the regional governor’s office and replace it with a white flag. The marchers were met by gendarmes who quickly found themselves outnumbered. Government surveillance, arrests, and interrogations followed into the next year, when gendarmes went to the sacred forest to stop another MFDC meeting. This time, the separatists greeted the gendarmes with a burst of violence that left four dead, their bodies mutilated. Senegalese security responded with force, driving the separatists—armed only with improvised rifles, bows and arrows, and machetes—into the forest. The Casamance conflict continues to the present day, so far having left more than five thousand dead, four hundred killed or maimed by land mines, and another eight hundred thousand living in a state of insecurity, with limited possibility for economic development.

Ordinary Casamançais—on the Casamance River, in the rice fields, in the forests, in the schools, and in the sports stadiums—have demonstrated a diversity of opinions about the separatist project. Whether by the Senegalese state or by the separatists, these ordinary Casamançais have refused to be mapped. They have made the Casamance “a country of defiance.”



Other new books in economic history



ARTICLES

Child labour, Africa's colonial system, and coercion: The case of the Portuguese colonies, 1870–1975

Economic History of Developing Regions
Pedro Vaz Goulart

Labour studies in the African colonial period are facing a revival, but literature on the role and working conditions of children remains over-generalized. At the same time, child labour has played a central role in economic activities in Africa, and it still does. This article contributes to filling this gap by studying Portuguese colonial Africa as a narrative of tension between labour market forces, public policy, and (limited) agency of children. Labour scarcity facing demand hikes contributed to the increased use of children for labour in the colonial period. We contribute to the history of African labour by compiling data on the – until now – largely neglected use of child labour in mining and agriculture in the Portuguese African colonies. We find children were used to support adults or, with less agency, simply replaced (often forced) adult labour in plantations, mining, and other activities abandoned by adults. (Promised) wage differentials, taxes, forced labour, pass systems, and forced cultivation schemes acted as (dis)incentives to labour migration. Intra and inter-country movement of large numbers of adult labourers stimulated the demand for child labour.

The sins of the church: The long-term impacts of Christian missionary praxis on HIV and sexual behaviour in Zambia

Economic History of Developing Regions
Michael Chanda Chiseni

This study examines the long-term effect of Christian missionary exposure on HIV infection and related sexual behaviour in Zambia. I use distance to a historical missionary church and health facility as proxies for missionary exposure. I constructed a geocoded data set combining information on the historical locations of churches and missionary health centres with contemporary individual-level data. I find that individuals who live close to a historical missionary church have a higher likelihood of being infected with HIV. I find no significant effect of proximity to a missionary health centre on HIV. Considering that heterosexual transmission is the main channel of HIV transmission in Zambia, I analyse the effect of missionary exposure on sexual behaviour. The following patterns emerge: individuals who live close to a Protestant church are less likely to engage in premarital sexual abstinence; they also have their first sexual encounter at an earlier age, with the effect being stronger for men than women. Living near a Catholic church is associated with having a higher number of sexual partners.

"In Native Areas, Stores Have a Big Influence on the People": Trading Sites and the Reorganization of African Agriculture, Colonial Zimbabwe, 1945–1955

African Economic History
Tawanda Valentine Chambwe

This article explores the experiences of African traders as they applied for trading sites in the African reserves in colonial Zimbabwe between 1945 and 1955. Using empirical evidence and drawing on previously underutilized archival sources, it argues that the trading sites became intertwined with the colonial state's efforts to reorganize African agriculture during the 1940s and 50s. As such, officials of the Native Affairs Department (NAD) used the trading sites to reward and punish Africans who cooperated with, and flouted the state's conservation efforts, respectively. At the same time, white traders gained ground in the African reserves because of their capacity to buy African grain, a key concern for the implementors of the Native Land Husbandry Act (NLH Act) of 1951. Cumulatively, this undermined African entrepreneurship exposing the colonial rhetoric of "protecting" African traders in the African reserves. African responses, in turn, showed resourcefulness and involved the employ of lawyers and colonial institutions such as African Councils.

The Great War and the Warfare–Welfare Nexus in British and French West African Colonies

Social Science History

Carina Schmitt and Amanda Shriwise

In the Global North, mass warfare created a huge demand for social protection, pushing governments to provide income for invalids, war victims, and the survivors of fallen soldiers. Most European colonial powers, including France and Great Britain, recruited soldiers and other security forces not only from their metropolises but also from their colonies during both World Wars. However, the question of how mass warfare influenced social reforms in former colonies has not been systematically addressed, particularly with respect to how these influences varied across colonial powers. To begin to address this gap, this paper explores the warfare–welfare nexus in the context of British and French colonies of West Africa around World War I (WWI). The paper finds that, while Britain and France had similar overarching imperial and military objectives in West Africa of securing their colonies, enforcing order within them, and promoting commerce to increase profit, they went about achieving them very differently, with direct and indirect implications for social reforms after WWI. While only a first step, research on the distinct nature of the warfare–welfare nexus in colonial contexts is critical in order to historicize and close research gaps by widening and deepening our understanding of social policy trajectories in countries of the Global South.

The colonial gap: An analysis of income distribution in the Port of Dakar, 1911–1940

Economic History of Developing Regions

Daniel Castillo Hidalgo

This study presents new empirical evidence on the structure of income of African workers in the Port of Dakar between 1911 and 1940. It provides a systematic series of public wages earned by the African and European workforce in a colonial seaport. This series includes income structure by skill tier of public employees and labourers employed at the port. Did wage structure evolve according to relative increases in human capital accumulation in this major colonial seaport? In this investigation, I use data collected from the annual budgets of the port to seek explanations for the structural differences in income in three consecutive decades between 1911 and 1940. I found that the skill premium between highly skilled and unskilled African workers was 3.8 on average during the period analysed. Moreover, the skill premium between mid-skilled and unskilled workers is estimated to be 2.7. Furthermore, top and senior European staff (less than 10% of the staff) accounted for 36% of the overall income. I provide quantitative evidence on how colonial allowances were the key element that contributed to the increasing income gap between European and African workers in similar job categories.

Rebel group formation in Africa: Evidence from a new dataset

World Development

Janet I. Lewis

Theories of internal armed conflict onset often conceptualize an eruption emerging from pre-existing, non-violent opposition movements or organizations. This paper argues that this is not the most common pathway to armed conflict in Africa. It introduces new data on rebel group formation in 47 African states (1997–2015) that offers a more complete picture than existing conflict datasets; about two-thirds of the groups in the new dataset are not named in standard conflict datasets. The strong majority of these rebel groups formed in rural areas; did not emerge from nearby protest movements or civil society organizations; and initially did not benefit from substantial material resources nor commit large-scale violence. Analyses suggest that rebel groups forming in rural parts of African states draw less often on pre-war, public, non-violent contestation than those of urban areas. The paper highlights the need for more theory on the varied pathways to internal armed conflict, and the importance of – and challenges of collecting – systematic evidence on armed group formation.

Statistical Capacity Matters: The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trade on Development Reflected by Nighttime Light Intensity

Journal of African Economies
Erkan Gören and Adalbert Winkler

Empirical research depends on reliable data. Yet, in many countries, statistical agencies do not have the capacity to collect high-quality data on economic development. This is especially the case in Africa, where the capacity to collect such data is affected by the same historical factors that explain economic development—in particular, the slave trade. We hypothesise that the impact of the slave trade on economic development in Africa is biased because cross-country heterogeneity in statistical capacity related to the slave trade creates a non-classical measurement error in gross domestic product (GDP) per capita. Our empirical evidence supports this view. When replacing GDP per capita by nighttime light intensity per capita—an indicator of economic development unrelated to statistical capacity—the impact of the slave trade on economic development drops by a factor of 2–4 depending on model specification and estimation methodology (OLS, IV and high-dimensional sparse models). Various robustness tests further corroborate our main hypothesis.

The relevance of domestic and foreign factors in driving Ghana's business cycle

SN Business & Economics
Emmanuel Ameyaw

It is commonly assumed that external shocks dominate economic fluctuations in least-developed countries (LDCs), particularly commodity-exporting LDCs. Nonetheless, the magnitude and extent of the impact of such shocks compared to other domestic drivers of the business cycle in these countries remain unclear. This study employs a business cycle accounting model to empirically explore the relative contributions of domestic and external factors to Ghana's post-independence business cycle. Contrary to widely held beliefs, our results suggest that external factors do not exert a predominant influence on Ghana's business cycle. Instead, Ghana's business cycle is driven largely by productivity shocks (or efficiency wedges), with the 1980s recession being an exception (which was largely driven by investment wedges). Furthermore, we also show that it is better to capture Ghana's 2011 oil boom as a productivity shock rather than a government spending or an external shock (as some have done) when building a model of economic fluctuations for Ghana's economy for that episode of the business cycle. These results have important implications for building models of economic fluctuations for Ghana's economy.

"To Serve Administrative Purposes and Native Interests?": Road Infrastructural Investment in African Reserves in Colonial Zimbabwe, 1924–1948

African Economic History
Clement Masakure and Eric Kushinga Makombe

Based on archival material from the Natives Reserves Trust, this study examines the history of infrastructural development in African areas in colonial Zimbabwe. The article historicizes a generally neglected theme in Zimbabwe's economic history: road investments in what were called African reserves. It addresses the themes around the nature of infrastructure in the countryside, funding of rural infrastructure, labor mobilization for road construction and the impact thereof on African areas. Furthermore, the article addresses the question behind the colonial state's need to improve road infrastructure in rural areas. It notes that although colonial officials emphasized the development aspects that would come with improved road infrastructure and some Africans benefited from the improved road network, it was mainly whites and the colonial state that benefited more. Improved roads enabled white traders and colonial officials to have a greater presence in reserves. Furthermore, colonial officials coerced Africans into providing labor services for road building and maintenance, while improved roads facilitated the reorganization of rural areas to promote colonial policies. Ultimately, the improvement of roads in African areas entrenched further unequal access to land between Africans and Europeans in colonial Zimbabwe.

Egypt as a Gateway for the Passage of Pathogens into the Ancient Mediterranean

Journal of Interdisciplinary History

Sabine R. Huebner and Brandon T. McDonald

Ancient Egypt plays a crucial role in the history of infectious disease. An intersection for communication and commerce, Egypt linked disparate civilizations and ecologies, allowing the spread of local epidemics and Mediterranean-wide pandemics. The region south of Egypt developed a pestilential reputation, due in part to Thucydides' account of the Plague of Athens, which traced the disease's origins to that area. Later records are modeled on Thucydides' account, muddling the true origins and scope of later outbreaks. Critical reading of ancient literature and documents—particularly papyri—supplemented with archeological and palaeoscientific evidence, significantly improves our understanding of how Egypt facilitated the circulation of pathogens between the western Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean.

The demand for extraterritoriality: Religious minorities in nineteenth-century Egypt

The Economic History Review

Cihan Artunç and Mohamed Saleh

The transplantation of European legal systems in the periphery often occurred via semi-colonial institutions, where Europeans were subject to their own jurisdictions that placed them outside the reach of local courts. In nineteenth-century Egypt, the option of extraterritoriality was extended to local non-Muslims. Drawing on Egypt's population censuses in 1848 and 1868, we show that locals did not seek extraterritoriality to place themselves under more efficient jurisdictions. Rather, legal protection mitigated uncertainty about which law would apply to any contractual relationship in an environment where multiple legal systems co-existed and overlapped.

Nkrumah's "Industrial Middlemen": Sindhis and Ghana's Postcolonial Industrial Drive, 1951–1966

African Economic History

Tracy Mensah

On the eve of Ghana's independence, Kwame Nkrumah was confronted with the challenge of creating an industrial society in the form of local manufacturing of basic goods. He believed setting Ghana on an industrial drive would decolonize the economy, make Ghanaians self-reliant, create job opportunities, and offer technical knowledge to the masses. However, Nkrumah was skeptical of the extent to which foreign capital should be allowed to dominate Ghana's industrialization. His skepticism allowed Sindhi businessmen, hitherto invested in retailing and wholesaling to evolve into "industrial middlemen" and spearhead one of his economic agendas. This article illustrates how Sindhi manufacturers engaged with Nkrumah's development rhetoric in the early years after independence by placing themselves at the forefront of local industry to diversify from their earlier economic position as retailers to manufacturers in post independent Ghana.

Revisiting the effects of the Ethiopian land tenure reform using satellite data. A focus on agricultural productivity, climate change mitigation and adaptation

World Development

Alexis Rampa and Stefania Lovo

This study examines the effects of the land registration and certification programme introduced in 1998 in the Tigray region of Ethiopia on agricultural productivity, climate change mitigation and adaptation. We use satellite-based measures of greenness and implement a difference-in-differences approach, comparing pixels on both sides of the Tigray-Amhara regional border. Results show positive and persistent effects of the programme on agricultural productivity and climate change mitigation. By examining years when adverse climate and weather events occurred, we also find evidence of increased adaptation to climate change. We show that our results are consistent with the reform enhancing farmers' tenure security and inducing an increase in the adoption of climate smart agricultural practices.

The Political Economy of Postwar Southern Rhodesia: The 1949 Tobacco Tax Crisis

African Economic History

Sibanengi Ncube and Honest E. Koke

This article focuses on the events of 1949 in the Southern Rhodesia tobacco industry. In that year, the Southern Rhodesian government under Godfrey Huggins unilaterally announced the imposition of an export tax on the colony's tobacco industry. This triggered opposition and resistance among various economic interest groups in the colony in what later became known as the 1949 Tobacco Tax Crisis. By tracing how the crisis unfolded, the article contributes to the literature on white settler politics and taxation in Southern Rhodesia, opening a new frontier towards understanding fiscal policy framing and interest group politics in Africa. At the same time, the article agrees with recent scholarship that goes beyond the role of the colonial state in the settler colonial economy to cast light on how white settler economic interest groups charted their course. The article draws on archival data from the National Archives of Zimbabwe, newspaper reports, and parliamentary debates to make its case.

The use of quantile methods in economic history

Historical Methods: A Journal of Quantitative and Interdisciplinary History

Damian Clarke, Manuel Llorca Jaña and Daniel Pailañir

Quantile regression and quantile treatment effect methods are powerful econometric tools for considering economic impacts of events or variables of interest beyond the mean. The use of quantile methods allows for an examination of impacts of some independent variable over the entire distribution of continuous dependent variables. Measurement in many quantitative settings in economic history have as a key input continuous outcome variables of interest. Among many other cases, human height and demographics, economic growth, earnings and wages, and crop production are generally recorded as continuous measures, and are collected and studied by economic historians. In this paper we describe and discuss the broad utility of quantile regression for use in research in economic history, review recent quantitative literature in the field, point to potential limits in its use, and provide an illustrative example of the use of these methods based on 20,000 records of human height measured across 50-plus years in the 19th and 20th centuries. We suggest that, despite limitations in certain settings, there is still considerably more room in the literature on economic history to convincingly and productively apply quantile regression methods.

Historical newspaper data: A researcher's guide

Explorations in Economic History

Brian Beach and W. Walker Hanlon

Digitized historical newspaper databases offer a valuable research tool. A rapidly expanding set of studies use these databases to address a wide range of topics. We review this literature and provide a toolkit for researchers interested in working with historical newspaper data. We provide a brief description of the evolution of historical newspapers, focusing on aspects that are likely to have implications for the design of empirical studies. We then review the main databases in use. We also discuss some key challenges in using these data, most importantly the fact that even the most extensive datasets contain only a selected sample of the universe of historical newspaper articles. We offer tools for evaluating the comprehensiveness of available newspaper datasets, show how to assess potential identification concerns, and suggest some solutions.

WORKING PAPERS

Cultural Distance and Ethnic Civil Conflict

Eleonora Guarnieri

Ethnically diverse countries are more prone to conflict, but why do some groups engage in conflict while others do not? I show that civil conflict is explained by ethnic groups' cultural distance to the central government: an increase in cultural distance, proxied by linguistic distance, increases an ethnicity's propensity to fight over government power. To identify this effect, I leverage within-ethnicity variation in linguistic distance resulting from power transitions between ethnic groups over time. I provide evidence that the effects can be attributed to differences in preferences over both the allocation and the type of public goods.

Colonialism, Institutional Quality, and the Resource Curse

Jubril Animashaun, Ada Wossink and Katsushi S. Imai

This paper tests the hypotheses that (1) European colonization indirectly hinders the development outcomes, namely GDP per capita growth, by lowering institutional quality and encouraging corruption in colonized oil-rich countries, and (2) better macro institutional quality mitigates the historically-rooted resource curse. We constructed the instrumental variable by categorizing countries based on the evidence of settlers' mortality and the persistence of European colonial languages as official post-independence languages in oil-rich non-western countries. Also, we isolate the effect of giant oil discoveries with the depth of oil fields because of the plausible relationship with the geological characteristics of oil formation. We estimate a 2-Step GMM model that controls the lagged moments of GDP per capita using the data for 69 countries with at least a discovery of giant oil fields from 1960 to 2015. We show that oil-rich countries without colonial experience have better institutions, which translates to improving GDP per capita and reducing the corruption index. Our findings highlight the importance of historical factors associated with state origin when formulating policies to address the resource curse.

Roots of Inequality

Oded Galor, Marc Klemp, and Daniel C. Wainstock

Why does inequality vary across societies? We advance the hypothesis that in a market economy, where earning differentials reflect variations in productive traits, a significant component of the differences in income inequality across societies can be attributed to variation in societal interpersonal diversity, shaped during the prehistoric Out-of-Africa Migration. The roots of income inequality within the US population provide supporting evidence for the hypothesis. It suggests that variation in income inequality across groups of individuals originating from different ancestral backgrounds can be traced to the degree of diversity of their ancestral populations as was carved in the course of the dispersal of humanity from Africa.

Prison Labor: The Price of Prisons and the Lasting Effects of Incarceration

Belinda Archibong and Nonso Obikili

Institutions of justice, like prisons, can be used to serve economic and other extrajudicial interests, with lasting deleterious effects. We study the effects on incarceration when prisoners are primarily used as a source of labor using evidence from British colonial Nigeria. We digitized 65 years of archival records on prisons from 1920 to 1995 and provide new estimates on the value of colonial prison labor and the effects of labor demand shocks on incarceration. We find that prison labor was economically valuable to the colonial regime, making up a significant share of colonial public works expenditure. Positive economic shocks increased incarceration rates over the colonial period. This result is reversed in the postcolonial period, where prison labor is not a notable feature of state public finance. We document a significant reduction in present-day trust in legal institutions, such as the police, in areas with high historical exposure to colonial imprisonment; the resulting reduction in trust is specific to legal institutions.

Historical View of Diabetics Mellitus: From Ancient Egyptian Polyuria to Discovery of Insulin

Devajit Mohajan

History is the pioneer of all researches and developments, and the history of diabetes has its beginnings in antiquity about over three millennia. Diabetes mellitus is one of the oldest diseases from the human civilization. Also it is one of the most studied diseases in the history of medicine. Main symptoms of this disease are hyperglycaemia, excessive thirsty, increased appetite, gradual loss of body weight, and continuous passing of huge honey-sweet urine that often drew ants. The disease causes either for inadequate insulin production, or for the body cells do not respond properly to insulin, or both. Descriptions of diabetes mellitus have been found in the Egyptian Papyri, in ancient Indian and Chinese medical literature, and in the works of ancient Greek and Arab physicians. In the 17th century works of Thomas Willis; in the 19th century, the glycogenic action of the liver is done by French physiologist Claude Bernard; famous experiment of removing the pancreas from a dog and producing severe and fatal diabetes are performed by Oskar Minkowski and Joseph von Mering; and finally in the 19th century, isolation of insulin from pancreatic islets is done by Frederick Banting and Charles Best to save diabetes patients from the suffering from diabetes. These are the roots of all achievements in favor of welfare of diabetes patients. At present the prevalence of diabetes is very high worldwide, and is increasing day by day. In this study historical points of diabetes are highlighted for the awareness of this disease.

Anti-austerity riots in late developing states: evidence from the 1977 Egyptian Bread Intifada

Ketchley, Neil, Eibl, Ferdinand and Gunning, Jeroen

In late developing states, labor markets are often segmented as a result of import substitution and political coalitions centered on the formally employed. Building on insider-outsider and moral economy frameworks from political economy, we theorize that in such contexts labor market insiders develop strong expectations about welfare provision and public transfers that make them more likely to riot against proposed austerity measures. We test our argument with the case of Egypt during the 1977 Bread Intifada, when the announcement of subsidy cuts sparked rioting across the country. To conduct our analysis, we match an original event catalog compiled from Arabic-language sources with disaggregated employment data. Spatial models, rich micro-level data, and the sudden and short-lived nature of the rioting, help us to disentangle the importance of an area's labor force from its location and wider socioeconomic context. As we show, despite the diffuse impact of the subsidy cuts, rioting was especially concentrated in areas with labor market insiders – and this is after accounting for a range of plausible alternative explanations. The results suggest that moral economies arising from labor market segmentation can powerfully structure violent opposition to austerity.

Long Run Consequences of Ethnic Conflict on Social Capital: Evidence from South Africa

Santiago Paz

This paper studies the following research question: What are the consequences of historical ethnic conflict on contemporary levels of social capital? This question is relevant, since understanding the consequences of historical ethnic violence on contemporary social capital can provide useful inputs to design effective State-building policies. I exploit Mfecane, a period of ethnic upheaval in South African history, as a setting to examine the causal effects of historical ethnic conflict on contemporary levels of social capital. For this end, I use a combination of a historical approximation of the Mfecane warzone with geocoded data from the Afrobarometer project (2000-2016). Using an instrumental variables strategy, I find that historical ethnic conflict decreases contemporary trust in people among individuals living within the borders of Mfecane, while increasing trust in relatives and neighbors. Increases in in-group trust appear to be driven by the long run persistence of parochial altruism. Conversely, lower levels of between-group trust can be explained by the lack of economic incentives to cooperate with strangers in former warzones. These results are suggestive of a degree of substitutability between in-group and between-group social capital, at the community level.

Income inequality under colonial rule. Evidence from French Algeria, Cameroon, Tunisia, and Vietnam and comparisons with British colonies 1920–1960

Facundo Alvaredo, Denis Cogneau and Thomas Piketty

We assess income inequality across French and British colonial empires between 1920 and 1960, exploiting for the first time income tax tabulations. As measured by top income shares, inequality was high in colonies. Europeans comprised the bulk of top income earners, and only a minority of autochthons could compete income-wise. Top income shares were no higher in settlement colonies, those territories were wealthier and the average European settler was less rich than the average expatriate. Inequality among autochthons was moderate, and inequality among Europeans was similar to that of the metropolises. The post-WWII fall in income inequality can be explained by the one among Europeans, mirroring that of the metropolises, and does not imply that the European/autochthon income gap was very much reduced. After independence, the mass recruitment of state employees induced a large increase in inequality among autochthons. Dualistic structures lost their racial dimension and changed shape, yet persisted.

What Is the Point of Schooling? The Politics of Education Policy in Tanzania Since 1961

Ken Opalo

Education is one of the most important public goods provided by modern governments. Yet governments worldwide seldom perform well in the sector. This raises the question: Why do governments preside over poor education quality? This paper answers this question with evidence from Tanzania. Using data from surveys, administrative reports, and policy documents, it analyzes changing goals of education policy and associated impacts on access and learning over time. The main finding is that learning has not always been the goal of schooling in Tanzania. Furthermore, for decades the government rationed access to both primary and secondary schooling for ideological reasons. These past policy choices partially explain contemporary poor outcomes in education. This paper increases our understanding of the politics of education in low-income states. It also provides a corrective against the common assumption that governments always seek to maximize the provision of public goods and services for political gain.

The Long-Run Decline of Education Quality in the Developing World

Alexis Le Nestour, Laura Moscoviz and Justin Sandefur

We use comparable, survey-based literacy tests for repeated cross-sections of men and women born between 1950 and 2000 to study education outcomes across cohorts in 87 countries. We find that education quality, defined as literacy conditional on completing five years of schooling, stagnated across the developing world over half a century, including absolute declines in both South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Shifts in student composition clearly explain part of the downward trend we observe, but the decline pre-dates the abolition of school fees in most countries, and anthropometric data suggest students in later decades were healthier and wealthier than those in earlier cohorts. Globally, increases in schooling outpaced the decline in education quality, leading to a large increase in unconditional literacy.

Slavery, coercion, and economic development in Sub-Saharan Africa

Leigh Gardner

Recent debates on the economic history of the United States and other regions have revisited the question of the extent to which slavery and other forms of labor coercion contributed to the development of economic and political institutions. This article aims to bring Africa into this global debate, examining the contributions of slavery and coercion to periods of economic growth during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It argues that the coercion of labor in a variety of forms was a key part of African political economy, and thus when presented with opportunities for growth, elites turned first to the expansion of coerced labor. However, while labor coercion could help facilitate short-run growth, it also made the transition to sustained growth more difficult.

BLOGS TO FOLLOW

LSE Economic History Blog, Department of Economic History

The LSE Economic History Blog provides an accessible introduction to the cutting-edge work and teaching taking place at the London School of Economics and Political Science and the achievements of our students, faculty and alumni. Our blog posts are written by students, faculty, visitors and alumni and explore the wide range of economic history for which LSE is known. We will also occasionally re-post appropriate articles from other blogs.

Age of Invention, Anton Howes

I'm a historian of innovation. I write mostly about the causes of Britain's Industrial Revolution, focusing on the lives of the individual innovators who made it happen. I'm interested in everything from the exploits of sixteenth-century alchemists to the schemes of Victorian engineers. My research explores why they became innovators, and the institutions they created to promote innovation even further.

Great Transformations, Davis Kedrosky

You're reading Great Transformations, a newsletter about economic history and the origins of historical development. I'm interested in how pre-industrial societies made the transition toward modern economic growth, and why some have been much more successful than others.

Brad DeLong's Grasping Reality, Brad DeLong

Economic history, economics, political economy, finance, & forecasting. Here to try to make you (and me) smarter in a world with many increasingly deep & complicated troubles...

Economic Growth in History, Nuno Palma

This is a blog about global economic and political history. There is a special focus on Europe and the early modern period, but the analysis is comparative, and I do at times refer to other world regions and time periods.

Our Long Walk, Johan Fourie

I teach economic history to undergraduate and graduate students and frequently write on the topic, either by contributing to research or for a more popular audience, as a columnist and blogger. By subscribing, you will receive all my columns in English for free. I write a monthly column for South Africa's largest Afrikaans newspaper, Rapport (paywalled), and a bi-weekly column for the largest South African news site, News24 (also paywalled). I also invite guest authors to write posts about topics that interest me.

The Long Run Blog, Economic History Society

The Economic History Society's Blog, 'The Long Run', publishes posts concerning economic and social history. These blog posts are typically occasioned by recent or forthcoming articles in the Economic History Review; recent or forthcoming books and edited volumes; fellowships and grants funded by the Economic History Society; and papers presented at the Society's Annual Conference.

An Africanist Perspective, Ken Opalo

An Africanist Perspective covers all things African political economy, international affairs, culture and general commentary. I have spent almost two decades studying African politics, economics, and history, and thinking about the fundamental drivers of economic and political development in the region.

VoxEU, CEPR

Read write-up published by experts in Economic history by VoxEU in this segment of the blog. VoxEU was set up in June 2007 to promote research-based policy analysis and commentary by leading economists. It posts research-based policy analyses from leading economists.

African History Extra, Isaac Samuel

All about African history; narrating the continent's neglected past