



18th Annual Meeting of the African Economic History Network

Disruptions and Resilience in African Economic Transformations

Hosted by National University of Lesotho

30-31 October 2025

Venue: Central Bank of Lesotho, Maseru

Thursday, 30 October 2025

8:30-9:00 Registration

9:00-9:15 Opening and Welcome (Room 1)

9:15-10:15 Keynote 1: Johan Fourie (Stellenbosch University), Make African Economic History great again (Room 1)

10:15-10:45 Coffee Break

Session 10:45-12:45 Parallel Sessions (3)

1A: Migration and Labour Markets in Southern Africa

Chair: Jutta Bolt (Groningen University)

Room: 1

Martine Mariotti (Australian National University), Labour Market Transformation, Racial Employment Patterns and Productivity in South Africa, 1920-1990

Noah Echa Attah (National University of Lesotho), Basotho Labour Migration into Apartheid South Africa and Women: Counting the Cost

Ekanade Israel Kehinde (Tshwane University of Technology) & Kholofelo Anna Rakub, Exploring Basotho Male Migration and the Complications in the South African Mining Industry

Tapiwa Madimu (Rhodes University), At the Crossroads: Zama Zamas straddling the Mining and Immigration Laws in Post-Apartheid South Africa

Session 1B: Financial History

Chair: Leigh Gardner (London School of Economics)

Room: 2

Lauren Coetzee (University of Luxembourg), Trading on Different Terms: Mapping Pre-colonial African Currency and Exchange Network

Marvin Suesse (Trinity College Dublin), Decolonization, Legitimacy and Fiscal Capacity: Event Study Evidence from Africa

Edmore Maisvoreva (University of the Witwatersrand), Navigating Conflicts: The Standard Bank, Colonial Finance, and Imperialism in the South African Republic (1877–1921)

Simbai Masikinye (University of Cambridge), It was all about Financial Interests! The Global Image of the Central African Federation, 1953-1963

1C: Gender and the Economy

Chair: Grace Molale (National University of Lesotho)

Room: 3

Zobo Claude Aline (University of Yaoundé II), Resilience in Action: The Role of Women in Shaping Economic Transformations in Central Africa

Giulia Martini, (University of Gothenburg), Gender and Justice: Women in the Courts of the Gold Coast Colony (1861-1940)

Stephanie Jekorir Tapnyolei (Kabarak University), From Margins to Motors of the Economy: Legal Silences and Women's Unseen Labour in African Economic History

Veronica Zivava (North-West University), Gendered Transformations: Reconfiguring Spaces Amid Disruptions, The Case of the Far West Rand Mining Region in the 20th century

12:45-14:00 Lunch

14:00-16:00 Parallel Sessions (2)

2A: Slave and Commodity Trade

Chair: Gareth Austin (Cambridge University)

Room: 1

Klas Rönnbäck (Gothenburg University), Benefitting from Brutality: the profitability of the transatlantic slave trade

Johannes Norling (Mount Holyoke College), The Transatlantic Slave Trade and Preferences for Sons and Daughters in Africa

Rod Alence (University of the Witwatersrand), Trade Volatility in Sub-Saharan Africa since 1920: Comparative and Historical Estimates

Leigh Gardner (London School of Economics), Exporting the American Dream? US-Africa Trade under Colonial Rule, 1914-45

2B: Colonial Mining Developments

Chair: Martine Mariotti (Australian National University)

Room: 2

Chibueze Pip (King's College London), Calculating Resource Extraction in Colonial Nigeria, 1900-1960: Land Commercialisation and Mining Leases

David Damtar (University of Oxford), Synergic Survival in Late Colonial Mining economies: The case of mineworkers and 'Akankyemaa' in Asante (1930s-1950s)

Blessings Ashlyne Mlala (University of the Witwatersrand), Monopoly and Extraction: The South African Shipping Ring and the Gold Mining Industry, 1886-1909.

Jonathan Dries (LUISS Guido Carli), Colonial Corporations as the State: Concession Policy in the Central African Copperbelt

16:00-16:30 Coffee Break

16:30-18:30 Parallel Sessions (2)

3A: The Political Economy of Agriculture

Chair: Felix Meier zu Selhausen (Utrecht University)

Room: 1

Gareth Austin (Cambridge University), Why Ghanaian Cocoa Farming Matters in the Comparative Economic History of Africa

Michiel de Haas (Wageningen University), The Political Economy of Crisis: Distributive Impacts of the Great Depression in East Africa

Bryan U. Kauma (Southwestern University) 'Agriculture is a scam!': Agrotechnologies and the Agrarian Dream among African Grain Farmers in Colonial Zimbabwe, the 1950s to 1960s

Belinda Makare (University of the Free State), Towards a New Paradigm? The State, African Agriculture, and the Soil Conservation Discourse in Leribe District, Lesotho, c.1930s

3B: Labour and Coercion

Chair: Johan Fourie (Stellenbosch University)

Room: 2

Jonathan Donald Jenner (University of Manitoba, University of Johannesburg & Universidad Nacional de Colombia), Measuring Coercion in the Sale of Labour-Power: An Index of Unfreedom in Circuits of Social Reproduction

Leo Dolan (Universidad Carlos III Madrid), Unearthing Profit: Coercive Labour and Firm Performance in 20th Century African Diamond Mines

Lisa-Cheree Martin (Stellenbosch University), The Cape Craftsmen: Labour Outcomes of Cape Town's Emancipated Population

Mercy ChepKirui Lagat (Kenyatta University), Encampment as Economic Containment: The Labor Market Constraints on Urban Refugees in Post-Colonial Kenya

18:30-19:15 Drinks and Snacks

Friday, 31 October 2025

8:30-10:30 Parallel Sessions (3)

4A: Economic Policy and Institutions

Chair: Eric Makombe (University of Zimbabwe)

Room: 1

Jacqueline Patrick Majuva & Martin Komba (Sokoine University of Agriculture), Evolution of Economic Policies in Africa: Lessons from History and Pathways to Sustainable Development

Leseko Makhetha (National University of Lesotho), Industrial Policy in Africa: The New Structural Economics Perspective

Ntefeleng Semuli (National University of Lesotho), Matriarchal Leadership and Economic Transformation: Women's Role in Shaping Succession and Resource Control in Chieftaincy Institution

Collen Modise (Egerton University), The Role of Customary Law in the Systematisation of Tswana Patriarchy and 'Female Labour Capture' during the Colonial and Post-colonial Periods

4B: Colonial Institutions

Chair: Michiel de Haas (Wageningen University)

Room: 2

Adewumi Damilola Adebayo (York University, Toronto), Energy Independence and Development Planning in Late Colonial and Post-Colonial Nigeria, 1940s-1970s

Mohammed Bashir Salau (University of Mississippi), Senior Prison Officers and the "Civilizing" Project in Colonial Nigeria

William Musamba (Makerere University), The Economic Packet of the Colonial State and the 'Fabrication' of Busoga Ethnicity, 1890-1950

Sam Jones (University of Copenhagen), Peter Gibbon & Leo Dolan (Universidad Carlos III Madrid), Quantifying Colonial Injustice: An Economic Approach to Reparations Using Counterfactuals

4C: Trade and Globalization in 20th century Africa

Chair: Tapiwa Madimu (Rhodes University)

Room: 3

Mustapha Hussaini (Sule Lamido University), Globalization and Economic Development in Africa: The Case of Nigeria

Adelakun Ojo Johnson (National University of Lesotho) & Sanusi P. Gbenga, The Interplay of Remittances, Geopolitical Risk, and Economic Policy Uncertainty on Exchange Rate Volatility in Nigeria

Caroline Shisubili Maingi (Strathmore University), From Collapse to Resilience: The EAC's Trade Evolution in a Changing Global Economy

Ntsoaki Kholumo & Johnson Ojo Adelakun (National University of Lesotho), Institutional Dynamics and Trade: Analyzing the Impact of Governance Quality on Lesotho's Export Performance in a Globalized Context

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-13:00 Parallel Sessions (3)

5A: Industry and Transport

Chair: Edward Kerby (Stellenbosch University)

Room: 1

Ewout Frankema & Tom Westland (Wageningen University), African Manufacturing Productivity in a Southeast Asian Mirror: Evidence from Industrial Censuses in the 1950s and 1960s

Livinus Ikwuako Okeke (Imo State University), Locomotives of Change: Unpacking the Role of Railway Systems in Shaping Nigeria's Colonial and Post-Colonial Economic Systems, 1912-2020

Cherish Ojiugo Umunnakwe (Liverpool Hope University) & Oladayo Akanbi, The Role of Colonial Technological Disruptions in the Transformation of Nigeria's Cassava Industry (1900-1960).

Dagmar Schalken & Michiel de Haas (Wageningen University), The Long-Run Local Development Effects of Colonial Agro-Industry: The Case of Cotton Ginneries in Uganda

5B: Agriculture in Contemporary Southern Africa

Chair: Bokang Mareka (Postbank Lesotho)

Room: 2

Eric Kushinga Makombe (University of Zimbabwe), Land Grabbing and Local Resistance in Chipinge District: Dispossession, Adaptation, and Economic Survival in Colonial and Post-Colonial Zimbabwe

Chengetai Musikavanhu (Rhodes University), Fast Track Land Reform Programme, Agricultural Subsidies and Communal Livelihoods in Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe, 2000-2008

Samuel Adewale Abanigbe & Adewale Olutola (Tshwane University of Technology Pretoria), African Economic Transformations of Smallholder Agribusiness Sector: Evolution of Crises, Resilience and Sustainability of Small-scale Livestock Sub-sector

Patrick Whang (University of Cape Town), Agricultural Nationalist: The Legacy of Dr. J.J. Machobane and the Machobane Farming System

5C: Women and Labour Markets

Chair: Nthabiseng Mokoena (National University of Lesotho)

Room: 3

Carolina Domina (University of Pavia), "[Our] Women Are Mysterious When It Comes to Handling Money". A Historical and Ethnographic Perspective of Women in the Liquor Trading and Business of Gold Coast/Ghana

Rumbidzai Chitaukire (Stellenbosch University), "Towards Inclusivity?": Women and Informal Sector Inclusion Initiatives in Zimbabwe, 1980-2019

Sarah Yeukai Matanga (University of Pretoria), Breaking out of Frames: Representations of Migration and Resilience among Zimbabwean Women

Bernard Kusena (University of Zimbabwe), Handcuffed to the Past? A Reappraisal of the Economic Ramifications of Police Blitzes on 'Ladies of the Night' in Zimbabwe, 1980-2024

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Parallel Sessions (3)

Session 6A: Environment and Climate

Chair: Tanka Tlelima (Central Bank of Lesotho)

Room: 1

Luc Fongang Kontcheu (University of Yaoundé I), Cameroon: The Challenge of Economic Wooding Development in the Context of Climate Resilience: An Overview of Policies and Cooperation with European Union from 1970 to 2020

Peter Uledi (University of the Free State), "Plunder for Profit?" Zimbabwe's Look East Policy, Chinese Firms, and the Environment since 2000

Martin Komba & Jacqueline Majuva (Sokoine University of Agriculture), The Profit Efficiency of Climate-Smart Agriculture Techniques: An Illustration of the System of Rice Intensification in Mvomero, Tanzania

Session 6B: Education and Health

Chair: Ewout Frankema (Wageningen University)

Room: 2

Gabriel Brown (Stellenbosch University), The Persistent Economic Effects of Bible Translations in Africa

Mesfin Abraham Ali (Wageningen University), Educational and Labor Market Inequality in Ethiopia: A Historical Analysis (1941-2018)

Felix Meier zu Selhausen (Utrecht University) & Jutta Bolt (Groningen University), Colonial Origins of African Population Growth? Evidence from Lutheran Missionary Registers in Tanzania, 1890-1960

6C: Themes in Contemporary Zimbabwean History

Chair: Godfrey Hove (National University of Lesotho)

Room: 3

Primrose Nkomboni (University of the Western Cape), Intersectionality and land use change in Matobo District, Zimbabwe: Change versus Continuity

Carlington Clint Simbarashe Marowa (Ghent University), Navigating Uncertainty: Urban Mobility and Commuter Adaptation to the Postcolonial Transport System in Harare, 1980-2025

Teverayi Muguti (University of the Free State), 'Recreation and Resourcefulness': The Cue Sport of Pool and Livelihoods in Zimbabwe since 1980

15:30-16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 Remarks: Kananelo Mosito, PVC, National University of Lesotho

16:15-17:15 Keynote 2: Emmanuel Letete, Governor, Central Bank of Lesotho (Room 1)

17:15 -17:30 Closing Remarks, Prof Tsepiso Rantso, (Dean of Humanities, National University of Lesotho)

17:30-17:45 AEHN 2026 Announcement

18:30 Jay-Jay Okocha Football Trophy