

AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY NEWSLETTER  
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Your bi-monthly update from the African Economic History Network

The AEHN newsletter brings you up to date with current and forthcoming events in African Economic History. It gives you a chance to publicise your new research and opportunities to the right audience.

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Do you want to become a member of the network and receive this monthly email? Send a message to the African Economic History Network at [aehtnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:aehtnetwork@gmail.com) with 'member' in the subject line.

Anything we missed? Want to publicise your own research, events or organizing a panel for an upcoming conference? Send a message to [aehtnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:aehtnetwork@gmail.com) and we will include your news in our bi-monthly round up.

Best regards,  
The African Economic History Network

## News and Announcements

### **Book Launch: *Africa – Why Economists Get it Wrong***

On 4 June 2015, Centre of African Studies of SOAS will be holding a book launch of Morten Jerven's new book *Africa – Why Economists Get it Wrong*, where the author fundamentally reframes the debate on African economic growth, challenging mainstream accounts of African economic history.

Whilst for the past two decades experts have focused on explaining why there has been a 'chronic failure of growth' in Africa, Jerven shows that most African economies have been growing at a rapid pace since the mid-90s. In addition, African economies grew rapidly in the 50s, the 1960s, and even into the 1970s. Thus, African states were dismissed as incapable of development based largely on observations made during the 1980s and early 1990s. The result has been misguided analysis, and few practical lessons learned.

For more information visit: <https://www.soas.ac.uk/cas/events/book-launches/04jun2015-africa--why-economists-get-it-wrong.html>

### **Geneva Summer School on State and Society in Contemporary Africa**

University of Geneva is accepting applications for its interdisciplinary summer school programme on "State and Society in Contemporary Africa". The session will be held from June 22 – July 3, 2015 in Geneva. See below for more information or visit <http://genevasummerschools.ch/courses-2015/state-and-society-in-contemporary-africa#desk>

### **Publication of the Inaugural Edition of the *Journal of West African History***

The *Journal of West African History (JWAH)* is a new interdisciplinary peer-reviewed research journal that will publish the highest quality articles on West African history. Located at the cutting edge of new scholarship on the social, cultural, economic, and political history of West Africa, *JWAH* will fill a representational gap by providing a forum for serious scholarship and debate on women and gender, sexuality, slavery, oral history, popular and public culture, and religion. The editorial board encourages authors to explore a wide range of topical, theoretical, methodological, and empirical perspectives in new and exciting ways. The journal is committed to rigorous thinking and analysis; is international in scope; and offers a critical intervention about knowledge production. Scholarly reviews of current books in the field will appear in every issue. And the publication will be in both English and French; an abstract in both languages will be provided. Michigan State University Press publishes *JWAH* in collaboration with the MSU African Studies Center and the History Department. <http://msupress.org/journals/issue/?id=50-21D-5EA>

### **Working Papers Series**

If you have a paper you would like to submit for our consideration please send us an email. For questions regarding the WPS please contact Erik Green at [Erik.Green@ekh.lu.se](mailto:Erik.Green@ekh.lu.se).

# NEW ABSTRACTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

## Articles

### **Jorg Baten and Johan Fourie. Numeracy of Africans, Asians, and Europeans during the early modern period: new evidence from Cape Colony court registers**

The lack of accurate measures of human capital formation often constrains investigations into the long-run determinants of growth and comparative economic development, especially in the developing world. Using the reported ages of criminals in the Court of Justice records in the Cape Archives, this article documents for the first time numeracy levels and trends for inhabitants of the Cape Colony born between the late seventeenth and early nineteenth century: the native Khoesan, European settlers, and imported slaves from other African regions and Asia. This variety of origins allows us to compare contemporaneous levels of early modern development across three continents. By isolating those slaves born at the Cape, we also provide a glimpse into the dynamics of human capital transfer in a colonial setting. The Colony's relatively high level of human capital overall had implications for what was later to be the richest country on African soil, but the very unequal attainment of numeracy also foreshadowed extreme income inequality.

Jorg Baten & Johan Fourie, 2015. "[Numeracy of Africans, Asians, and Europeans during the early modern period: new evidence from Cape Colony court registers](#)", *The Economic History Review*, 68(2): 632-656.

### **Jan Jansen. In Defense of Mali's Gold: The Political and Military Organization of the Northern Upper Niger, c.1650-c.1850**

This analysis offers a compelling alternative to the received wisdom that the Mali Empire had dissolved by the end of the seventeenth century. It will be demonstrated that between 1650 and 1850, to the north of the gold fields of the Mali Empire the rulers of Kangaba successfully managed a defense zone. Using military and organizational innovations attributed to polities east of the Niger River (Kong, Segu [Ségou], Kano), they fused the political heritage of the Mali Empire with a system of triads of refuges or fortifications. Throughout the zone, groups of mercenaries of different ethnic origins were assimilated into the Kangaba polity and integrated into the political organization as well as Mali's political ideology. The defense zone protected the gold fields from northern military pressure, in particular from the Bambara Segu kingdom, as well as from small bands of marauders and, later, the armies of El Hadji Umar. By elaborating a regional military-strategic focus that pays close attention to the landscape, and by using the concept of warrior state as a heuristic device, this article mobilizes a variety of hitherto unused archival, architectural, genealogical, and geographical sources. This article does a historiographic reassessment of the dominance of oral traditions as sources for the study of the history of the Mali Empire and the Upper Niger.

Jan Jansen, 2015. [“In Defense of Mali’s Gold: The Political and Military Organization of the Northern Upper Niger, c.1650-c.1850”](#), *Journal of West African History*, 1(1): 1-36.

### **Moses Ochonu. Caliphate Expansion and Sociopolitical Change in Nineteenth-Century Lower Benue Hinterlands**

This article analyzes the processes of jihad, migration, and sociopolitical change in the lower Benue hinterlands of nineteenth century central Nigeria. It examines the dynamics at work in the expansion of the territorial, commercial, and symbolic frontiers of the Sokoto caliphate in this sector, as well as the impact commercial and political events spawned by caliphate expansion and consolidation in this area had on the experiences, sociopolitical organization, economies, and institutions of some non-Muslim communities. I explore the nonreligious lives that a religious movement progressively took on as it made its way through this multiethnic, politically diverse region of precolonial central Nigeria, focusing in particular on the experiences of the Agatu, a subset of the Idoma people, with the vagaries of the jihad. The article considers the proactive and reactive responses and adaptations of non-Muslim communities to the intrusions, raids, and demands of Hausa and Fulani Muslims possessing various degrees of caliphate affinities and affiliations. I argue that, although inspired by an expressed desire to construct and extend the frontiers of an ideal Islamic state, the jihad assumed a commercial character in this sector. Characterized by slave raiding and military intrusions, it left profound social and political legacies that those who encountered it had to contend with and adapt to during the tumultuous mid- to late nineteenth century.

Moses Ochonu, 2015. [“Caliphate Expansion and Sociopolitical Change in Nineteenth-Century Lower Benue Hinterlands”](#), *Journal of West African History*, 1(1): 133-178.

### **Kostadis Jason Papaioannou and Angus Edwin Dalrymple-Smith. Political Instability and Discontinuity in Nigeria: The Pre-Colonial Past and Public Goods Provision Under Colonial and Post-Colonial Political Orders**

This article explores the relative importance of pre-colonial institutional capacity and the effects of periods of peace and stability on long-term development outcomes in Nigeria. We use data on education, health, and public works at a provincial level from a variety of colonial and Nigerian state sources to apply a decade-by-decade analysis of public goods provision in Nigeria from 1900 to 2010. Using a newly constructed measure of pre-colonial institutional capacity our results suggest that colonial-era investments were influenced by pre-colonial conditions and that the pax colonia allowed for a strong path dependency until the second world war. Contrary to other studies, which find evidence of pre-colonial centralization affecting current outcomes. In particular, we find that the post-1945 era saw a break in the pattern developed earlier in the century. Rising regionalism from the 1950s led to violent conflict and military dictatorship and caused decades of unstable and unpredictable patterns of investment which ended only with the reestablishment of democracy in the 1990s. Therefore, a key explanatory variable to understanding patterns of public goods provision seems to be the level of political stability which the Nigerian state experienced at different points during the 20th century.

Kostadis Jason Papaioannou & Angus Edwin Dalrymple-Smith, (2015). [“Political Instability and Discontinuity in Nigeria: The Pre-Colonial Past and Public Goods Provision Under Colonial and Post-Colonial Political Orders.”](#) *The Economics of Peace & Security Journal*, 10(1).

## Working Papers

### **Jens Andersson. Understanding Long-Run Fiscal Capacity in Francophone West Africa, 1860-2010**

There has been a recent surge in scholarship on the history and contemporary development of taxation in Africa. This has added to our understanding of the impact of colonialism on African fiscal systems and how economic and political factors interact with taxation. However, much work remains before we can arrive at a more complete understanding of how taxation, and the state more broadly, has evolved in Africa in relation to long-run economic, political and social change. This paper contributes to African fiscal history by studying the evolution of fiscal capacity in four countries in francophone West Africa – Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Senegal - over both the colonial and independent periods. The main research question is to what extent persistence or change has dominated the evolution of fiscal capacity in the long-run. It is suggested that several measures of fiscal capacity need to be studied if we are to understand the various dimensions of taxation. Time-series regressions are used to study how the relationship between taxation and other variables change over time. The paper shows how a country's geography and history influence its fiscal pathway, but that this pattern of long-run persistence is continuously disturbed by context-specific forces of change of different magnitude. This points to the importance of “decompressing” African fiscal history in order to fully understand the region's tax systems today and their potential for supporting development in Africa in the future.

Jens Andersson, 2015. [“Understanding Long-Run Fiscal Capacity in Francophone West Africa, 1860-2010”](#), *Lunds University Department of Economic History*, Seminar Paper 143.

### **Xinshen Diao and Margaret McMillan. Toward an Understanding of Economic Growth in Africa: A Re-Interpretation of the Lewis Model**

Africa's recent economic growth is at a historical high. The patterns associated with this growth appear to be quite different from the Asian experiences where rapid growth was fueled by labor intensive, export-oriented manufacturing. Because this pattern differs with our typical view of structural transformation, a heated debate has begun over the sustainability of Africa's growth. One thing is clear: the recent growth is not well understood. Against this background, we adapt Lewis's (1954) dual-economy model to the economies of Africa to better understand the role that the “in-between” sector as defined by Lewis (1979) has played in Africa's recent growth. Our framework incorporates the coexistence of a closed and an open modern economy and takes into account the diversity and heterogeneity of the activities that characterize modern African economies. We apply this framework to the

economy of Rwanda to assess Rwanda's future growth prospects based on different levels of foreign capital inflows. We find that higher foreign inflows lead to significantly more growth in the closed modern economy and stagnant growth in the open modern economy, a phenomenon consistent with recently observed patterns of growth across several African countries.

Xinshen Diao and Margaret McMillan, 2015. "[Toward an Understanding of Economic Growth in Africa: A Re-Interpretation of the Lewis Model](#)", *NBER Working Paper* No. w21018.

### **Johan Fourie, Albert Grundlingh and Martine Mariotti. "Poor South Africa! Will no nice English people ever come out here?"—The South African Constabulary of the Second South African War**

Using newly digitized and transcribed attestation records, we provide a detailed description of the composition of the South African Constabulary, a volunteer force of mostly English recruits during and after the Second South African War. These records contain personal particulars, such as age, country of origin, occupation and religion, for 10 399 service terms. We also match these attestation records to the delistment records for each recruit, providing evidence about cause of exit and length of service. The records not only provide a wealth of genealogical data, but also inform our understanding of comparative living standards in the colonies.

Johan Fourie, Albert Grundlingh & Martine Mariotti, 2015. "["Poor South Africa! Will no nice English people ever come out here?"—The South African Constabulary of the Second South African War,](#)" *Stellenbosch Working Paper Series* No. WP04/2015.

### **Brian McCaig, Margaret McMillan, Inigo Verduzco-Gallo, and Keith Jefferis. Stuck in the Middle? Structural Change and Productivity**

This paper decomposes Botswana's growth from the late 1960s through 2010 into a within-sector and a between-sector (structural change) component. We find that during the 70s and 80s Botswana's rapid economic growth was characterized by significant structural change with the share of the labor force employed in agriculture dropping from more than 80 percent to around 40 percent. Between 1990 and 2010 growth was also rapid, but structural change detracted from growth. We hypothesize that this is one of the reasons for persistent poverty and very high income inequality in Botswana today. This leaves us with the following puzzle: why is it that a country with such an impressive track record marked by good governance and prudent macroeconomic and fiscal policy is having so much trouble diversifying its economy?

Brian McCaig, Margaret McMillan, Inigo Verduzco-Gallo, and Keith Jefferis, 2015. "[Stuck in the Middle? Structural Change and Productivity](#)", *NBER Working Paper* No. w21029.

# UPCOMING EVENTS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

**Call for Papers: Eleventh European Social Science History Conference  
Valencia, Spain  
30 March – 2 April 2016**

**Abstract Deadline: 15 May 2015**

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

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

Read more about the ESSHC and past conferences. Go to ESSHC 2016 for more information on the 2016 conference that will take place 30 March - 2 April 2016 in Valencia, Spain.

Registration for ESSHC 2016 is now open.

The Conference welcomes papers and sessions on any topic and any historical period. It is organized in a large number of networks.

## **Organization**

The European Social Science History Conference is organized by the International Institute of Social History (IISH), an institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts & Sciences. Information on the IISH is available from its website at [socialhistory.org](http://socialhistory.org)

**Additional Information:** Please visit <https://esshc.socialhistory.org/>

**Book Launch: *Africa – Why Economists Get it Wrong*  
School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London  
June 4, 2015**

Not so long ago, Africa was being described as the 'Hopeless Continent'. Recently, though, talk has turned to 'Africa Rising', with enthusiastic voices exclaiming the potential for economic growth across many of its countries. What, then, is the truth behind Africa's growth, or lack of it?

In this provocative book, Morten Jerven fundamentally reframes the debate, challenging mainstream accounts of African economic history. Whilst for the past two decades experts have focused on explaining why there has been a 'chronic failure of growth' in Africa, Jerven shows that most African economies have been growing at a rapid pace since the mid-90s. In addition, African economies grew rapidly in the 50s, the 1960s, and even into the 1970s. Thus, African states were dismissed as incapable of development based largely on observations made during the 1980s and early 1990s. The result has been misguided analysis, and few practical lessons learned.

An essential account of the real impact economic growth has had on Africa, and what it means for the continent's future.

**Respondent:** Tunde Zack-Williams (University of Central Lancashire)

**Chair:** Christopher Cramer (SOAS)

Morten Jerven teaches at the School for International Studies at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada. He is the author of *Poor Numbers: How We Are Misled by African Development Statistics and What to Do about It*, and has published widely on African economic development, especially on patterns of economic growth and economic development statistics.

All welcome. Please rsvp to [cas@soas.ac.uk](mailto:cas@soas.ac.uk)

**Additional Information:** Please visit <https://www.soas.ac.uk/cas/events/book-launches/04jun2015-africa--why-economists-get-it-wrong.html>

### The 6th European Conference on African Studies (ECAS), Paris 8-10 July 2015

Following on Lisbon in 2013, the Sixth European Conference on African Studies (ECAS-6) will take place in Paris 8-10 July 2015 at the Sorbonne and at the École pratique des hautes études (EPHE).

The co-organisers are IMAF ([Institut des mondes africains](#)) and LAM ([Les Afriques dans le monde](#)). The principal theme of ECAS 6 is [Collective Mobilisations in Africa: Contestation, Resistance, Revolt](#). This theme, however, is not exclusive. The scientific committee will also consider panel proposals on other themes, associated with emergent and more classical fields of study alike. The ECAS 6 team looks forward to welcoming you in Paris.

Panels of particular interest include:

[Brokering Africa's extraversion: Ethnography and governance in global flows of people and things](#) - Beuving Joost , Alpes Jill

[Material Culture of Politics: Contestation, Resistance, Revolt?](#) -- Dorman Sara

[African Capitalisms](#) - Bierschenk Thomas

[Beyond stigma: Mobilising around the issue of slavery in Africa](#)- Pelckmans Lotte , Hardung Christine

[Horn of Africa since the 1960s: External Factors in Political Instability, Insurgencies, and Uprisings](#)- Zahorik Jan , Ylönen Aleks

[African Colonial Soldiers: Challenging the Limits of Their Historiography](#)- Zimmerman Sarah , Ruth Ginio Ben Gurion University, Richard Fogarty SUNY, Albany

[Land governance in conflict-affected settings](#)- van Leeuwen Mathijs , van der Haar Gemma

[Agribusiness production, social control and resistances in african rural areas. A focus on peasant and wage-work mobilizations](#)- Vadot Guillaume , Grassin Paul

[Domestic workers in Africa \(19th-21th centuries\). Historical and socio-anthropological perspectives](#)- Tisseau Violaine , Jacquemin Mélanie

(Post)colonial power, environment and resistance(s) in Afrique, XXe-XXIe centuries  
-Tiquet Romain , Henriët Benoît

Comparison of Political Cultures of Post-colonial Africa and Post-communist Europe  
- Skalník Petr

Labor policies and practices across the colonial and post-colonial eras- Allina Eric , Keese Alexander

Under what conditions does economic development become politically attractive? From political capture to political mobilization- Mann Laura , Berry Marie

Economics of statelessness: Business and state formation in the Somali territories- Hagmann Tobias , Little Peter D.

Economic failure, political success? Long-term histories of development in Africa- Becker Felicitas

Under what conditions does economic development become politically attractive? From resource bounties to fiscal constraints- Akinyoade Akinyinka , Jones Will

Additional Information: Please visit <http://www.ecas2015.fr/african-capitalisms/>

**Development Studies Association Annual Conference**  
**Global Development as Relationship: Dependence, Interdependence or Divide?**  
**University of Bath, UK**  
**7-8 September 2015**

### ***Background to the Conference***

The Development Studies Association Conference in 2015 takes as its theme the forms of relationship that are valued, enacted and denied through current processes of international development. Ebola, political violence, migration, trade and climate change all assert our global interdependence, while structures of governance still tend to assume the predominance of nation state sovereignty. Contemporary growth processes have generated prosperity for many, great wealth for some and exceptional inequality. Their neo-liberal thrust valorises independence and generates increasing populations whose labour appears either surplus or highly insecure, and so rely on forms of social dependence to secure a basic livelihood. Alongside these non-inclusive growth processes new communication technologies have become an important means through which relationships are enacted, reconfiguring notions of nationality, community, neighbourhood, family and personal identity.

The conference is particularly keen to invite panels which address this theme, for example:

**Theory:** Is there a new grand narrative? Can a focus on relationality support a new conception of global transformation which supersedes both modernization and dependency with a genuinely planetary vision?

**Processes:** What kinds of social, economic, cultural, political and environmental processes are driving and being generated through the dynamics within global and local relationships? What forms of agency are evident and what are the structural constraints? How are policy and governance implicated in the formation, mediation and rupture of relationships?

**Methods:** What kinds of methodologies and methods are required to explore the forms of relationship which characterise current development processes? Can measures and metrics capture

relationality or are mixed methods essential? What is the role for critical theory in developing new methodologies? Is the co-production of knowledge essential for development policy and action?

**Scholarship and practice:** What kinds of relationship exist between scholars of development and different development actors? How do these affect the kinds of knowledge that are produced, both within and about development? Does the generation of 'evidence' require a positivist framing of research or can constructivist scholarship influence policy and practice?

**Policies:** Are the Sustainable Development Goals a shift towards recognising the relationality of all public action or simply a license for continued neo-liberal growth? Does 'inclusive growth' need to better engage with the relationality of growth processes and outcomes? Is the global rise of social protection programmes evidence of our interdependence?

In addition we welcome applications for panels or papers on other topics from:

- (i) Panels convened by DSA study groups
- (ii) Panels convened by research programmes/networks
- (iii) Papers from individuals (that have reached working paper standard).
- (iv) Poster presentations (also, this may be offered to papers that cannot be fitted in the presentations timetable).

### ***Abstract submission***

All proposals for **panels, individual or jointly authored papers** and **posters** must be submitted by **Tuesday 5th May**

To this end, please click [HERE](#) for detailed instructions on the submission process and deadlines.

#### **Key dates:**

- o All abstracts should be submitted (including complete panel proposals) by **Tuesday 5th May**
- o All abstracts should be submitted to [DSA2015@bath.ac.uk](mailto:DSA2015@bath.ac.uk) and follow the abstract submission guidelines [LINK].
- o Authors of standalone papers will be notified by **Friday 29th May 2015**.
- o Registration deadline for presenters: **Friday 3rd July 2015**

#### **Themed Panels**

Panels can be arranged by an individual, a DSA Study Group, or a group of Panel Convenors. We can offer each Panel a maximum of two sessions (subject to negotiation). Panel Convenors will be expected to take ownership of their Panels in terms of quality, ensuring panellists register for the conference by **3rd July** and post conference publication. The latter could take several forms and we strongly encourage submission to the Journal of International Development - see below.

Panels should also have a Panel Concept Note which specifies the theme and rationale and provides an overview of its (proposed) content.

#### **Key dates:**

- o Complete panel proposals which include a full set of abstracts should be submitted by **Tuesday 5th May**
- o All abstracts should be submitted to [DSA2015@bath.ac.uk](mailto:DSA2015@bath.ac.uk) and follow the abstract submission guidelines [LINK].
- o Panel convenors will be notified by **Friday 22nd May 2015**.
- o Registration deadline for presenters: **Friday 3rd July 2015**

Please see the detailed submission guidelines available which can be downloaded from

#### **Individual or Jointly Authored Papers and Posters**

In addition to 'themed' panel sessions, there will be **'open' parallel streams**. We will attempt to group papers for a best thematic fit as far as possible. Abstracts for this category of papers will be quality reviewed by the Conference Review Team.

Poster presentations are encouraged. Poster opportunities may also be offered to papers that cannot be fitted in the open sessions timetable.

**Additional Information:** Please visit <http://www.devstud.org.uk/events/conference/registration>

**The 10<sup>th</sup> New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop**  
**“Is Africa Growing out of Poverty? Africa’s Economic Transition in Historical Perspective”**  
Wageningen University  
30-31 October, 2015

Rapid economic growth in Africa over the past two decades has provoked intense public and academic debate about the nature and sustainability of Africa’s economic transition. Is this simply another commodity boom, or is current growth rooted in a more profound transformation of the African social and political fabric? Does it lead to greater inequalities within and between African countries? And to what extent is current growth related to institutional reforms and improved state capacity? Historical reflection on such questions is extremely valuable. Taking the long-term perspective allows us to assess these developments in the context of previous episodes of African growth and contraction and to adopt wider spatial and comparative perspectives.

The programme committee of the 10<sup>th</sup> New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop launches a broad call for papers presenting frontier research in the field African Economic History and a special call for papers that place the current rise of Africa in a long-term historical comparative perspective. The committee also specifically encourages scholars from Africa to come over and present their work. There are travel and accommodation funds available for scholars without access to alternative sources of funding conditional upon having a paper accepted for presentation.

Programme committee:

Gareth Austin (Graduate Institute, Geneva), Ewout Frankema (Wageningen University, Utrecht University), Leigh Gardner (LSE), Erik Green (Lund University), Morten Jerven (Simon Fraser, Vancouver), Chibuike Uche (Leiden University).

Local organisation committee (Wageningen University):

Kleoniki Alexopoulou, Angus Dalrymple-Smith, Ewout Frankema, Katherine Frederick, Michiel de Haas, Dacil Juif, Kostadis Papaioannou, Sandra van der Brink-Vermeulen, Carry Vleeming, Pieter Woltjer.

Additional Information: Please visit <http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Chair-groups/Social-Sciences/Rural-and-Environmental-History-Group/AEHW2015-The-10th-New-Frontiers-in-African-Economic-History-Workshop.htm>

# OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

**Geneva Summer School 2015**  
**State and Society in Contemporary Africa**  
**22 June – 3 July 2015**

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Narratives of the State in Africa since the late 1980s have been dominated by images of institutional 'fragility', lack of legitimacy, if not outright 'collapse' and 'failure'. For some, the purportedly 'imported' character of the State in Africa is the main cause of its structural weakness. For others, the generalisation of violent conflicts in the continent, especially in the 1990s, widespread corruption and 'bad governance' were signs of the incapacity of African States to fulfil their role and their consequent vacuity. Echoing such 'Afro-pessimistic' feelings, *the Economist* thus labelled Africa the 'hopeless continent' in its May 11<sup>th</sup> 2000 edition. Recently however, unprecedented economic growth rates in many parts of the continent, fuelled in large part by high prices of raw materials on the international markets and the mineral-hungry economies of China and other emerging powers, as well as the development of an 'African middle class', the spectacular growth of African cities and the new scramble for African land have given rise to other narratives where Africa has moved from being 'hopeless' to one of the new frontiers of global capitalism.

With this course, students will be brought to critically reflect on such narratives. The course concentrates on the **historicity of state formation processes in Africa** and looks at **how African states have developed as the dynamic product of internal and external influences** and in **close interaction with their own societies**. Interdisciplinary in nature, the course will look at the following topics:

From state failure to 'Africa rising': understanding recent changes in African states and economies; The *longue durée* of the African State: from precolonial State formations to decolonization; War and state formation in Africa; New territorialities of power: the changing geography of state-society relations; Economic growth vs. social development: making sense of the current boom.

## **FACULTY**

Academic director: Dr. Didier Péclard

Faculty: Professors from the University of Geneva and guest scholars from Africa, Europe and North America

Contact: [gss@unige.ch](mailto:gss@unige.ch)

## **TARGET AUDIENCE**

Upper year undergraduates and MA students

## **TUITION FEES AND DEADLINE**

Tuition Fees: 1000 CHF (for externals) / 500 CHF (for Swiss universities)

**Additional Information:** please visit <http://genevasummerschools.ch/courses-2015/state-and-society-in-contemporary-africa#fac>

## **University of Cape Town, Historical Studies**

### **Lecturer: Economic History**

The Department of Historical Studies invites applications for an appointment at Lecturer level in Economic History with the start date 1 July 2015 or soon thereafter. The successful candidate will teach courses, supervise research and participate in the running of the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Economic History directed principally but not exclusively at Humanities students.

#### Requirements:

- A PhD or near completion in an area of Economic History broadly defined
- Willingness to work in a team
- Interest in the Economic History of the Global South

#### Responsibilities:

- Contribute to the development of the Economic History curriculum
- Teach at undergraduate and postgraduate levels
- Supervise Economic History research
- Undertake research in Economic History
- Carry out administrative responsibilities at departmental level
- Promote Economic History across the university

#### Preference will be given to applicants with:

- A proven track record in research and publication
- Proven undergraduate teaching experience
- Interest and expertise in African and South African Economic History

The annual remuneration package for 2015, including benefits, is R528 275.

To apply, please e-mail the below documents in a single pdf file to Ms. Lily Nombombo at [recruitment02@uct.ac.za](mailto:recruitment02@uct.ac.za):

- UCT Application Form (download at <http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/sapweb/forms/hr201.doc>)
- Motivational letter, and
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)

**Deadline to apply:** 3 May 2015

**Additional Information:** please visit <http://www.uct.ac.za/>

## **Indiana Wesleyan University, History and Political Science**

### **History Faculty**

The Department of History and Political Science at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana, is seeking a historian to fill a position in non-Western history beginning Fall 2015. The candidate must have a Ph.D. by the time of employment or strong evidence of probable award of degree shortly

thereafter. The specialization is open to areas such as Asian, Middle Eastern, African or Latin American history. The successful candidate will be expected to assist in the department's general education and departmental world civilization courses, as well as a historiography course for our history majors, engaging in teaching, advising, and mentoring undergraduate students on the residential Marion, Indiana campus. Applicants should demonstrate an ability to combine engaged teaching with scholarly endeavors. Applicants who bring diverse ethnic, racial, and gender perspectives to their scholarship and teaching are especially encouraged to apply. All candidates must be dedicated to liberal learning and the integration of faith and learning within an evangelical, Wesleyan Christian perspective.

The Division of Social Sciences provides leadership in political science, economics, and history for the general education program of the College of Arts and Sciences on the Marion campus. The division offers the following majors: economics, history, international relations, political science, political science pre-law, social studies, and social studies education.

Pending budget approval, the position will be open for fall of 2015. Review of applicants will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Applicants must complete the online application, which can be found on our website, [www.indwes.edu/hr](http://www.indwes.edu/hr). The final candidate selected must have the ability to pass a comprehensive background screen.

**Deadline to apply:** 5 May 2015

**Additional Information:** Please visit [www.indwes.edu/hr](http://www.indwes.edu/hr)

### **Connecticut College, History Visiting Assistant Professor, African History**

Connecticut College invites applications for a one-year visiting position in the History Department to teach three courses in the fall and three courses in the spring. All specializations in African history from pre-colonial to modern will be considered. Responsibilities include a one-semester Introduction to African history, intermediate courses, and upper-level courses in his/her area of specialty. Ph.D. in History at time of appointment preferred; ABD in History is required. The successful candidate will demonstrate excellence in teaching and research relative to experience, as well as an awareness of the importance of diversity in education.

Connecticut College is a private, highly selective institution with a demonstrated commitment to outstanding faculty teaching and research. Recognizing that intellectual vitality and diversity are inseparable, the College has embarked on a significantly successful initiative to diversify its faculty, student body and curriculum. The College seeks creative scholars excited about working in a liberal arts setting, with its strong focus on engaged teaching, participation in shared governance, and active involvement in an institution-wide advancement of diversity.

We value the contributions visitors bring to our community and encourage their active engagement with their departments and all aspects of campus life during the course of their assignment. Visiting faculty are initially participating members of the faculty and voting members in their second and subsequent years; their presence is welcome at all faculty meetings.

Application letter, C.V., sample syllabi, and at least two letters of reference must be submitted electronically to: [apply.interfolio.com/29356](http://apply.interfolio.com/29356) by May 7, 2015. Please direct any questions to Professor David Canton, Chair, Search Committee, Department of History, Connecticut College, [dacan@conncoll.edu](mailto:dacan@conncoll.edu). Review of applications will begin on May 8, 2014, and continue until the position is filled.

**Deadline to apply:** 7 May 2015

**Additional Information:** please visit <https://www.conncoll.edu>

**University of Puget Sound**  
**Visiting Assistant Professor of African History**

Appointment: Full-time, one-year visiting position in African History; begins Fall term 2015.

Responsibilities:

Position is full-time (3/3 load), teaching lower-division surveys of early and modern African history and upper-division courses in areas of interest.

Qualifications:

Ph.D. (ABD considered) in African history and a commitment to liberal arts education. Specialties in Northern Africa, Africa's relation to the Middle East or Islamic World, or diasporic communities are particularly welcome.

Compensation and Benefits:

Rank: Visiting Assistant Professor

Salary is commensurate with education and experience.

Application Deadline: Search and selection procedures will be closed when a sufficient number of qualified candidates have been identified. Interested individuals are encouraged to submit application materials no later than March 6, 2015 to ensure consideration.

Required Documents:

Please submit curriculum vitae when prompted to submit resume. Additional documents can be attached within the application. Applications submitted without these documents requested below will not be considered:

- Curriculum vitae
- Letter of interest
- Sample syllabus
- Writing sample
- Three (3) letters of reference. You will be prompted to enter the contact information for three (3) reference providers. The system will automatically email these reference providers to request a letter.

All offers of employment are contingent on successful completion of a background inquiry.

**Deadline to apply:** 12 May 2015

**Additional Information:** For complete job description and application instructions, visit: <http://apptrkr.com/579170>

**Lecturer in African Studies**  
**University of Edinburgh, School of Social and Political Science**

With expertise in political science, social anthropology, development studies, history or cultural studies, or human geography, with special reference to Africa, you will further the School's international reputation for research and its commitment to excellence in teaching and administration.

You will make key contributions in the areas of African Studies and International Development. Demonstration of a commitment to innovative interdisciplinary teaching and research would be an advantage.

This post is full-time and open-ended and is available from 1st September 2015.

**Deadline to apply:** 14 May 2015

**Additional Information:** Please visit <http://www.jobs.ac.uk/job/AKY610/lecturer-in-african-studies/>

**City University of New York, Hunter College**  
**Open-rank, Africa and the World**

The Department of History at Hunter College, CUNY invites applications for an open-rank professorship in Africa and the World, with any chronological focus, with an anticipated starting date on or about September 1, 2016. The department is especially interested in scholars who address the history of Africa and Africans in innovative regional, global or comparative contexts. Review of applications will be in September 2015 and will continue until the position is filled. To learn more about the department, visit us at <http://hunter.cuny.edu/history>. Ph.D. in history is required at the time of appointment. We seek candidates with a strong record of scholarship, demonstrated teaching abilities, and a commitment to service. Compensation provided commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applications must be submitted on-line by accessing the CUNYfirst jobs portal: <http://www.cuny.edu/employment/jobsearch.html>. Search job number 12532.

Separately, please have three referees send their letters to:

African History Search Committee, History Department

Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue

New York, NY 10065

- OR -

Email to: [history.search@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:history.search@hunter.cuny.edu)

**Deadline to apply:** 30 September 2015

**Additional Information:** please visit <http://hunter.cuny.edu/history>