



## **African Economic History Newsletter** **Issue #51, August 2021**

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

### In this issue:

1. Network News and Announcements
2. New Abstracts in African Economic History
  - a. Now in print
  - b. Working papers
  - c. The next generation
3. Upcoming Events in African Economic History
  - a. Seminars and talks
  - b. Opportunities in African economic history

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

Best regards,

**Johan Fourie**

on behalf of the African Economic History Network

# News and Announcements

## Regional meeting of the African Economic History Network

This exceptional year the African Economic History Network is forced to postpone its regular annual meeting. It is replaced with a series of smaller regional meetings.

### Lund: 21-22 October

The Department of Economic History at Lund University will host one of these regional meetings from 21-22 October 2021.

The aim of the meeting is to provide PhD-students and early career scholars based at European universities an opportunity to present their work. We are inviting submissions in all fields of African economic history.

The abstract should not be longer than 500 words and should be submitted together with a CV to [erik.green@ekh.lu.se](mailto:erik.green@ekh.lu.se) by 9 August. Applicants will be notified if they have been accepted no later than 15 August.

The plan is to organise the meeting on campus at Lund University. Due to the uncertain times we live in, we may have to hold the meeting on Zoom or a hybrid between the two. A final decision regarding the format will be made and communicated early September 2021.

### Stellenbosch: 22 October

The Laboratory for the Economics of Africa's Past (LEAP) at Stellenbosch University will host one of these regional meetings on 22 October 2021.

The aim of the meeting is to provide PhD-students and early career scholars based at South African universities a chance to present their research. We are inviting submissions in all fields of African economic history.

The abstract should not be longer than 500 words and should be submitted together with a CV to [johanf@sun.ac.za](mailto:johanf@sun.ac.za) by 9 August. Applicants will be notified if they have been accepted no later than 15 August.

The plan is to organise the meeting on campus at Stellenbosch University. Due to the uncertain times we live in, we may have to hold the meeting on Zoom or a hybrid between the two. A final decision regarding the format will be made and communicated in early October 2021.

## 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).

## Frontiers in Economic History Blog

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

### **Merima Ali, Odd-Helge Fjeldstad and Abdulaziz B. Shifa. [The Colonial Legacy of Corruption Among Local Elites in Africa](#) (19 July 2021)**

Corruption is considered one of the main contributors to Africa’s development challenges. Less is known about the determinants of corruption and its variation between countries. We find empirical evidence that British colonial rule in Africa has fostered the corruption of local elites (chiefs), with the lasting effect of undermining society's trust in them.

### **Denis Cogneau, Yannick Dupraz and Sandrine Mesplé-Somps. [Fiscal Capacity and Dualism in Colonial States: The French Empire 1830-1962](#) (20 June 2021)**

We examine fiscal extraction and public goods provisioning in colonial French Africa and Indochina using a new dataset on revenue and expenditure, covering 21 present-day countries, between 1830 and 1962. Fiscal extraction by French colonial states was rather high, but capacity to provide public goods and services was low because of wage costs that remained a strong constraint in the “developmentalist” era of colonialism, despite a dramatic increase in fiscal capacity and large overseas subsidies.

### **Eleonora Guarnieri and Helmut Rainer. [Colonialism and Female Empowerment: A Two-Sided Legacy](#) (20 June 2021)**

Did colonialism shape African women’s lives in the long term? Exploiting the former colonial partition of Cameroon, we find that women on the British side of the historical Anglo-French border are today more economically empowered than their French counterparts, but are also more likely to be victims of domestic violence.

### **Carl Müller-Crepon. [Continuity or Change? New Evidence on \(In\)Direct Rule in British and French Colonies](#) (22 May 2021)**

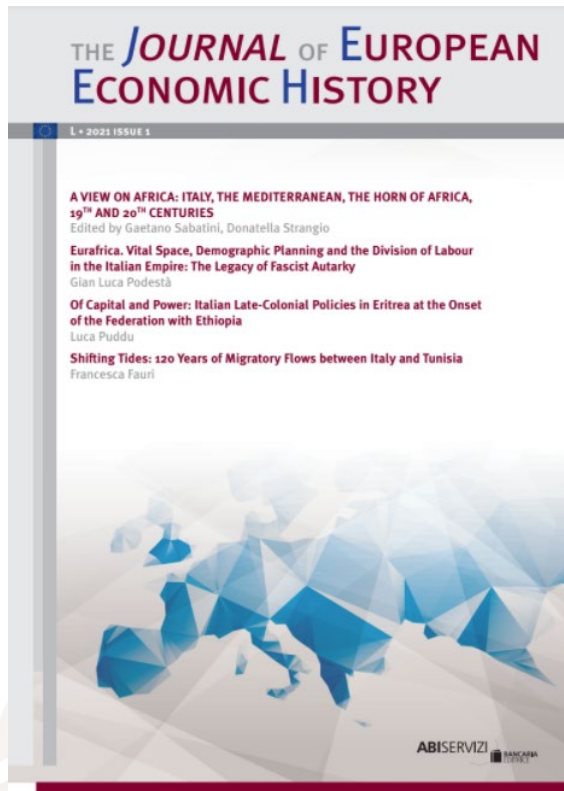
Pre-colonial institutions shaped colonial rule over African societies, but not in uniform ways. I show that British rule was more indirect in regions with centralized institutions, while the French tended to rule them more directly. This divergence affected African economic development and traditional institutions until today.

## Get in touch!

If you want to publicize your own research, events or organize a panel for an upcoming conference, please send a message to [aehtnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:aehtnetwork@gmail.com) and I will include your news in our quarterly round up. The next issue will appear in August 2021.

# NEW RESEARCH IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Now in print



**Special issue of the Journal of European Economic History, edited by Gaetano Sabatini and Donatella Strangio**

This issue is dedicated to the relations between Italy and Africa in the colonial and postcolonial period. It is well known that the Italian colonial presence in Africa has peculiar characteristics, not only its short duration (just half a century) but also its geographical centrality, which did not necessarily correspond to the areas in which the Italian communities were historically rooted. The colonial presence included North Africa in the late colonial period, with the occupation of Libya in 1911, while the Horn of Africa was the site of the first phase of expansion in the late 19th century and also of the extreme first offshoot of the world. World War II, with the conquest of Ethiopia in the mid-1930s. In the essays presented, together with some more specific insights, the focus is mainly on longer-term economic phenomena: the methods of exploiting resources, the continuous and innovative processes already underway in the pre-colonial period, but also the post-colonial legacy period the Italian presence as regards the forms of work organization, the enhancement of raw materials,

the dissemination of managerial know-how and the persistence of the Italian communities of entrepreneurs and workers. In summary, the common feature of these interdisciplinary contributions, in the fields of history, political science, economics, demography, international cooperation and finance, can be described as the effort to understand Italy's presence in Africa and its relations with the continent, transcending the traditional sharp division between colonial and postcolonial periods and focusing on factors of continuity, particularly in the context of economic strategies, migratory dynamics and the international geopolitical framework.

**Eurafrica. Vital Space, Demographic Planning and the Division of Labour in the Italian Empire: The Legacy of Fascist Autarky**, by Gian Luca Podestà

**Of Capital and Power: Italian Late-Colonial Policies in Eritrea at the Onset of the Federation with Ethiopia**, by Luca Puddu

**Shifting Tides: 120 Years of Migratory Flows between Italy and Tunisia**, by Francesca Fauri

**A Case of Its Own? A Review of Italy's Colonisation of Eritrea, 1890-1941**, by Morten Jerven, Donatella Strangio, Jacob Weisdorf

**The Economic Policy of the Italian Administration in the Eritrean Colony in the Early 1920s: The Case of the Asmara Chamber of Commerce**, by Matteo Nardozi

**Mediterranean Security Challenges, Terrorist Threats and Energy Issues: Italy and the Libyan Crisis of the 1980s**, by Massimo Bucarelli



**Economic Policies in Spanish Morocco and the Case of the Electric Cooperative: A Venture for a Nationalistic Strategy**, by Federica Ferrero, Antonio M. Morone

**Africa. Migrations Between Perceptions and Data Production in the Long Run**, by Elena Ambrosetti, Sara Miccoli, Donatella Strangio

**From Political Independence to Economic Dependence. The Different Trajectories of Stabilisation and Adjustment in Morocco and Tunisia During the 1980s**, by Vittorio Caligiuri, Gaetano Sabatini



**Special issue on 'The macroeconomic history of South Africa' in Economic History of Developing Regions**

The South African Reserve Bank celebrates its centennial this year. It has commissioned a special issue of EHDR to investigate 'The macroeconomic history of South Africa', with Johan Fourie as guest editor. The topic has attracted an audience of not only monetary historians, but also financial, banking, business and economic historians. South African and international scholars contribute, often in collaboration. New techniques, from econometric estimations to textual analysis, as well as new sources, from company records to currency collections, are on display.

**Bourses, banks, and Boers: Johannesburg's French connections and the Paris Krach of 1895**, by Mariusz Lukasiewicz

**The growth and diversity of the Cape private capital market, 1892–1902**, by Lloyd Melusi Maphosa, Anton Ehlers, Johan Fourie & Edward M. Kerby

**Gold and South Africa's Great Depression**, by Barry Eichengreen

**Two of the most eventful years in the history of the South African Reserve Bank: William Henry Clegg and Johannes Postmus and the 1931–1932 crisis**, by Bradley Bordiss, Vishnu Padayachee & Jannie Rossouw

**The Fuel of Unparalleled Recovery: Monetary Policy in South Africa between 1925 and 1936**, by Philip Fliers and Christie Swanepoel

**A tale of paper and gold: The material history of money in South Africa**, by Ellen Feingold, Johan Fourie and Leigh Gardner

**One hundred years of private shareholding in the South African Reserve Bank**, by Cobus Vermeulen

**The evolution of central bank communication as experienced by the South Africa Reserve Bank**, by Gideon du Rand, Ruan Erasmus, Hylton Hollander, Monique Reid & Dawie van Lill

**The South African small banks' crisis of 2002/3**, by Roy Havemann

**Denis Cogneau, Yannick Dupraz and Sandrine Mesplé-Somps. Fiscal Capacity and Dualism in Colonial States: The French Empire 1830–1962. *Journal of Economic History***

What was the capacity of European colonial states? How fiscally extractive were they? What was their capacity to provide public goods and services? And did this change in the “developmentalist” era of colonialism? To answer these questions, we use archival sources to build a new dataset on colonial states of the second French colonial empire (1830–1962). French colonial states extracted a substantial amount of revenue, but they were under-administered because public expenditure entailed high wage costs. These costs remained a strong constraint in the “developmentalist” era of colonialism, despite a dramatic increase in fiscal capacity and large overseas subsidies.

Cogneau, D., Dupraz, Y. and Mesplé-Somps, S., 2021. Fiscal capacity and dualism in colonial states: the French empire 1830–1962. *The Journal of Economic History*, 81(2), pp.441-480.

**Kate Ekama, Johan Fourie, Hans Heese and Lisa-Cheree Martin. When Cape slavery ended: Introducing a new slave emancipation dataset. *Explorations in Economic History*.**

When the enslaved were emancipated across the British Empire in 1834, slave-owners received cash compensation, and four years of unpaid labour as the former slaves became apprentices. In the Cape Colony, appraisers assigned a value to the former slaves. To investigate this, we transcribed 37,411 valuation records to compile a novel emancipation dataset. This gives us a new picture of the enslaved population in the Cape at the time of the emancipation. Some of our findings, for example that slaves from south-east Asia were assigned lower valuations than Cape-born slaves, are in contrast to those of an earlier literature. To distinguish between what the former slave-owners should have received and what they actually received, we matched the valuation records to the compensation claims. We argue that the uneven allocation of compensation had important implications for the distribution of capital after emancipation.

Ekama, K., Fourie, J., Heese, H. and Martin, L.C., 2021. When cape slavery ended: introducing a new slave emancipation dataset. *Explorations in Economic History*, p.101390.

**Faisal Z. Ahmed. Muslim conquest and institutional formation. *Explorations in Economic History*.**

Recent studies suggest that Muslim military conquest (632–1100 CE) generated an institutional equilibrium with deleterious long-run political economy effects. This equilibrium was predicated on mamluk institutions: the use of elite slave soldiers (mamluks) and non-hereditary property rights over agricultural lands to compensate them (iqta). This paper evaluates this historical narrative by exploring the accuracy of its initial step. Using a difference-in-differences strategy, I show that conquest changed institutions in conquered territories. I then provide suggestive evidence that the presence and efficacy of mamluk institutions affected this institutional configuration and that leaders survived longer in power during the conquest period.

Ahmed, F.Z., 2021. Muslim conquest and institutional formation. *Explorations in Economic History*, p.101400.

## **Daniel Castillo Hidalgo. No dockers, no empire. The labor question at Dakar during World War I. *International Journal of Maritime History*.**

The Great War had a major impact on port activity at Dakar in Senegal. It increased bunkering and pushed up demand for daily labourers to provide an adequate service to the allied navies. This article analyses the changes in labour organization in the port during World War I. Based on archival sources held in the National Archives of Senegal, this study explores the ways in which the colonial administration tried to manage labour shortages on the docks. This research provides evidence of the institutional shifts in the colonial regime, where coercion strategies evolved into compensatory incentives to attract African workers. The vital military and economic roles played by Dakar as the gateway to French West Africa also explains the importance of institutional shift during the construction of colonial economic and political hegemony.

Castillo Hidalgo, D. (2021), "No dockers, no empire. The labor question at Dakar during World War I", *International Journal of Maritime History* 33 (2), pp. 364-381.

## **Working Papers**

### **Ellen Hillbom, Jutta Bolt, Michiel de Haas and Federico Tadei. [Measuring historical inequality in Africa: What can we learn from social tables?](#) *African Economic History Network Working Paper 63/2021***

Limited knowledge of African inequality trajectories hampers our understanding of the drivers of heterogeneous inequality outcomes in Africa today, and leads to a major omission in debates about global inequality. In recent years, African economic history has advanced towards the reconstruction of full income distributions of African economies using 'social tables'. In this paper, we take stock of the social table literature covering the cases of Botswana, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Senegal, and Uganda, 1910s to 1960s. Our contribution is twofold.

First, we investigate commensurability and pursue methodological harmonisation. Second, we propose a new analytical framework to study income inequality in colonial Africa, revolving around export-oriented commercialisation and colonialism. We apply this framework to the six cases. Tracing country-level inequality trends and levels using three different inequality metrics, we find that i) inequality increased as commercialisation progressed and ii) relative levels of inequality differed substantially and were linked to European settlers and colonial institutions. Using inequality decompositions by sector and race, we further refine these insights. We find that capital-intensive commodities were associated with larger inequality in the self-employed sector and that the presence of European settlers and a large colonial administration increased the salience of race as a major fault line.

### **Paul Castaneda Dower, Gunes Gokmen, Michel Le Breton and Shlomo Weber. [Did the Cold War Produce Development Clusters in Africa?](#) *CEPR Discussion Papers No 15810*.**

This paper examines the lasting impact of the alignment of African countries during the Cold War on modern economic development. We show that the division of the continent into two blocs (East/West) led to two clusters of development outcomes that reflect the Cold War's ideological divide. To determine alignment, we introduce a non-cooperative game of social interactions between African countries, where every country chooses one of two existing blocs based on its predetermined bilateral similarities with other members of the bloc. We show the existence of a strong Nash equilibrium in our game and apply the celebrated MaxCut method to identify such a partition. We validate the alignment by confirming that it predicts UN General Assembly voting patterns during the Cold War. Our approach, linking global political interdependence to distinct development paths in Africa, extracts from history a micro-founded, exogenous treatment, while allowing for an endogenous, process-oriented view of historical events.



**Michel Garenne. [Tendances de la mortalité au Burkina Faso](#). HAL-03209352.**

L'étude porte sur les tendances de la mortalité au Burkina-Faso depuis l'indépendance, et tout particulièrement celles des jeunes enfants (0-4 ans) et des jeunes adultes (15-49 ans). Dans un premier temps elle résume les données recueillies lors des principales opérations démographiques conduites au niveau national : deux enquêtes démographiques (EDN) de 1961 et 1991 ; quatre recensements de population (RGPH) de 1975, 1985, 1996, et 2006 ; quatre enquêtes démographiques et de santé (DHS) de 1993, 1999, 2003, et 2010 ; et deux enquêtes sur les indicateurs du paludisme (MIS) de 2014 et 2018. Dans un second temps elle propose une reconstruction fine des tendances de la mortalité des jeunes enfants, et une analyse spécifique des trois périodes d'inversion de tendance : 1972-1974, 1982-1984, et 1991-2006. Les résultats montrent une baisse impressionnante de la mortalité entre 1960 et 2018, en milieu urbain comme en milieu rural, chez les jeunes enfants comme chez les jeunes adultes. La première période de crise montre une surmortalité, associée à la sécheresse du début des années 1970 et à la baisse des revenus concomitante. Il en va de même pour la seconde période de crise, elle aussi associée à la sécheresse du début des années 1980 et à une baisse des revenus. La troisième période est plus longue et montre une surmortalité probablement associée d'abord au sida mais aussi aux difficultés économiques du début des années 1990. Dans l'ensemble le pays semble assez résilient aux périodes de crise, et la mortalité récupère rapidement les tendances précédentes après les crises, probablement grâce à une aide internationale importante. Cependant, la période récente (2010-2019) reste mal connue du fait de l'absence de données précises, et l'épidémie de Covid-19 pourrait compliquer la situation après 2020.

**Dirk Kohnert. [On the socio-economic impact of pandemics in Africa: Lessons learned from COVID-19, Trypanosomiasis, HIV, Yellow Fever and Cholera](#). MPRA.**

Throughout history, nothing has killed more human beings than infectious diseases. Although death rates from pandemics dropped globally by about 0.8 % per year, all the way through the 20th century, the number of new infectious diseases like Sars, HIV and Covid-19 increased by nearly fourfold over the past century. In Africa, there were reported a total of 4,522,489 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 119,816 death, as of 23 April 2021. The pandemic impacted seriously on the economic and social sectors in almost all African countries. It is threatening to push up to 58 m people into extreme poverty. However, apart from the African poor, the Covid pandemic also affects the growing African middle class, i.e. about 170 million out of Africa's 1.3 billion people currently classified as middle class. Nearly eight million of may be thrust into poverty because of the coronavirus and its economic aftermath. This setback will be felt for decades to come. Moreover, in recent African History also other infectouse diseases like the 1896–1906 Congo Basin Trypanosomiasis with a death-toll of over 500.000 as well as the 1900–1920 Uganda African trypanosomiasis epidemic with 200,000–300,000 death had tremendous negative impact on Africa's societies and economies. Actually, other pandemics, like Yellow Fever, Cholera, Meningitis and Measles – not to mention Malaria – contributed to long-lasting economic downturns and seriously affect the social wellbeing for decades.

**Lucia Corno, Eliana La Ferrara, Alessandra Voena. [Female Genital Cutting and the Slave Trade](#). CEPR DP 15577.**

We investigate the historical origins of female genital cutting (FGC), a harmful practice widespread across Africa. We test the hypothesis --substantiated by historical sources-- that FGC was connected to the Red Sea slave trade route, where women were sold as concubines in the Middle East and infibulation was used to ensure chastity. We hypothesize that differential exposure of ethnic groups to the Red Sea route determined differential adoption of the practice. Combining individual level data from 28 African countries with novel historical data on slaves' shipments by country, ethnic group and trade routes from 1400 to 1900. We find that women belonging to ethnic groups whose ancestors were exposed to the Red Sea route are more likely to be infibulated or circumcised today and are more in favor of continuing the practice. The estimated effects are very similar when slave exports



are instrumented by distance to the North-Eastern African coast. Finally, the effect is smaller for ethnic groups that historically freely permitted premarital sex -- a proxy for low demand for chastity.

**Leone Walters, Carolyn Chisadza, Matthew Clance.** [The effect of Colonial and Pre-Colonial Institutions on Contemporary Education in Africa.](#) **ERSA Working Paper 850.**

This paper argues that contrary to previous findings, present-day education outcomes in Africa cannot be independently attributed to colonial or pre-colonial ethnic institutions. We propose that it is instead the complementarity or contention between colonial and precolonial institutions that result in education outcomes we observe today. Using geolocated DHS literacy outcomes for Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria, our findings suggest that the positive effect of British rule on contemporary literacy is diminished in centralised ethnic regions. This paper contributes to debates on colonial and pre-colonial ethnic influences on African development, moving beyond country-level analysis.

**Baruah, Neeraj; Henderson, Vernon; Peng, Cong.** [The effect of Colonial and Pre-Colonial Institutions on Contemporary Education in Africa.](#) **CEPR DP15327.**

Institutions persisting from colonial rule affect the spatial structure and conditions under which 100's of millions of people live in Sub-Saharan African cities. In a sample of 318 cities, Francophone cities have more compact development than Anglophone, overall, in older colonial sections, and at clear extensive margins long after the colonial era. Compactness covers intensity of land use, gridiron road structures, and leapfrogging of new developments. Why the difference? Under British indirect and dual mandate rule, colonial and native sections developed without coordination. In contrast, integrated city planning and land allocation were featured in French direct rule. These differences in planning traditions persist.

**Roy Havemann; Edward Kerby.** [Reigniting Economic Growth: Lessons from three centuries of data.](#) **ERSA Working Paper 854.**

We estimate that since 1701, South Africa has experienced 163 years of per capita growth of more than 1 per cent a year. These expansions include 55 years of sustained per capita GDP growth of more than 3 per cent a year as windfall periods that were related to the discovery of diamonds and gold, global commodity price booms and inclusion into the global economy following the end of Apartheid. These windfalls and expansions are associated with a combination of favourable global conditions and improvements in domestic policy. Empirically, the policies that matter appear to be increased levels of education, infrastructure investment, the extension of civil rights, property rights and financial liberalisation. Windfalls are, however, also associated with significant increases in inequality. Since Union in 1910, average per capita GDP growth has been about 1.1 per cent; and since 1994 (despite the recent contraction) it has been about 1.7 per cent. Over the same period, the population growth rate has slowed to about 1.5 per cent a year, and with falling fertility, this rate is expected to fall slowly to closer to 1.2 per cent over the next decade. This means that maintaining the post-apartheid GDP growth rate would require real GDP growth of about 3.4 per cent. Based on the historical experience, and with the right policy mix, this can be achieved.

**Yannick Pengl, Philip Roessler, Valeria Rueda.** [Cash Crops, Print Technologies and the Politicization of Ethnicity in Africa.](#) **CEPR DP15162.**

What are the origins of the ethnic landscapes in contemporary states? Drawing on a pre-registered research design, we test the impact of dual socioeconomic revolutions that spread across Africa in the 19th and 20th centuries - export agriculture and print technologies. We argue these changes transformed ethnicity via their effects on politicization and boundary-making. Print technologies strengthened imagined communities, leading to more salient yet porous-ethnic identities. Cash crop endowments increased groups' mobilizational potential but with more exclusionary boundaries to control agricultural rents. Using historical data on cash crops and African language publications, we

find that groups exposed to these historical forces are more likely to be politically relevant in the post-independence period, and their members report more salient ethnic identities. We observe heterogeneous effects on boundary-making as measured by inter-ethnic marriage; relative to cash crops, printing fostered greater openness to assimilate linguistically-related outsiders. Our findings not only illuminate the historical sources of ethnic politicization, but mechanisms shaping boundary formation.

**Stephen N Broadberry, Leigh Gardner.** [Economic Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa, 1885-2008.](#) CEPR DP15206.

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is often absent from discussions of long-run growth owing to the lack of data on aggregate economic performance before 1950. This paper provides estimates of GDP per capita on an annual basis for eight African economies for the period since 1885. Although the growth experienced in most of SSA since the mid-1990s has had historical precedents, there have also been episodes of negative growth or "shrinking", so that long run progress has been limited. Despite some heterogeneity across countries, this must be seen as a disappointing performance for the region as a whole, given the possibilities of catch-up growth, although African performance was not notably worse than other non-western regions before the 1980s. Avoiding episodes of shrinking needs to be given a higher priority in understanding the transition to sustained economic growth.

**Roxana Elena Manea, Pedro Naso.** [Heterogeneous Impacts of School Fee Elimination in Tanzania: Gender and Colonial Infrastructure.](#) CIES Research paper 64.

In this study, we investigate the impacts of the 2002 elimination of primary school fees in Mainland Tanzania. We explore how the magnitude of these effects depends on gender and the size of early investments in the educational infrastructure of Tanganyika. We use the 2002 and 2012 census waves as well as historical information on the location of schools in the late 1940s, and conduct a difference-in-differences analysis. We find that exposure to an average of 1.7 years of free primary education has reduced the proportion of people who have never attended primary education by 6.8 percentage points. The benefits of fee removal have been significantly larger for females compared to males, and females from districts where the size of investments in education was relatively larger during colonial rule have been the greatest beneficiaries.

**Facundo Alvaredo, Denis Cogneau, Thomas Piketty.** [Income inequality under Colonial Rule: Evidence from French Algeria, Cameroon, Tunisia, and Vietnam and comparisons with the British Empire 1920-1960.](#) CEPR DP14969.

In this article we assess income inequality across French and British colonial empires between 1920 and 1960. For the first time, income tax tabulations are exploited to assess the case studies of French Algeria, Tunisia, Cameroon, and Vietnam, which we compare to British colonies and dominions. As measured by top income shares, inequality was high in colonies. It fell after WWII, but stabilized at much higher levels than in mainland France or the United Kingdom in the 1950s. European settlers or expatriates comprised the bulk of top income earners, and only a minority of autochthons could compete in terms of income, particularly in Africa. Top income shares were no higher in settlement colonies, not only because those territories were wealthier but also because the average European settler was less rich than the average European expatriate. Inequality between Europeans in colonies was similar to (or even below) that of the metropolises. In settlement colonies, the post-WWII fall in income inequality can be explained by a fall in inequality between Europeans, mirroring that of the metropolises, and does not imply that the European/autochthon income gap was reduced.

**Christie Swanepoel and Philip Fliers. [The fuel of unparalleled recovery: Monetary policy in South Africa between 1925 and 1936. QUCEH Working Paper Series, No. 2021-05.](#)**

The newly established South African Reserve Bank (SARB) was tasked to protect the currency by navigating the interwar gold standard, and, from March 1933, maintaining parity with the Pound Sterling. We find that South Africa's exit from gold secured an unparalleled and rapid recovery from the Great Depression. South Africa's exit was accompanied by an inextricable link of the SARB's policy rate to the interest rate set by the Bank of England (BoE). This sacrifice of independent monetary policy allowed the SARB to fix the country's exchange rate without impeding the flow of gold to London. The SARB fuelled the economy by reducing its policy rates and accumulating gold. Had South Africa not devalued, the country would have suffered a severe depression and persistent deflation. An alternative to the devaluation, was for the SARB to pursue a cheap money strategy. By setting interest rates historically low, we find that South Africa could have achieved higher levels of economic growth, at the cost of higher inflation. Ultimately, South Africa's unparalleled recovery can be ascribed to the devaluation, however the change in the SARB monetary policy and the bank's control over the gold markets were of paramount importance.

**Tillman Hönig. [The legacy of conflict: aggregate evidence from Sierra Leone. WIDER Working Paper 2021/104.](#)**

This paper studies the general equilibrium impact of civil war in Sierra Leone. I first use an instrumental variable (IV) strategy and geographic conflict variation to estimate reduced-form effects. I show that civil war leads to affected areas having a higher share of workers in agriculture, fewer educated workers, and lower worker income. In order to explicitly take into account general equilibrium effects such as selective migration in response to the war, I then develop an economic geography model.

**Robert C Allen. [Slavery in Arabia and East Africa, 1800-1913. NYU AD Social Science Working Papers No. 66.](#)**

Slavery in Arabia is usually regarded as benign in contrast to slavery in the Caribbean. The difference is often explained in terms of cultural values and stress is often laid on the role of Islam. This paper analyses this view primarily in terms of men employed in oasis agriculture and pearling in Arabia in the long nineteenth century, although some attention is also given to the situation of women. It is argued here that differences in the skill requirements of growing sugar in the Caribbean and dates in Arabia, as well as differences in the importance of self-supervision, explain the differences in the character of slavery. The centrality of market forces in explaining behaviour is developed by analysing the supply of slaves from Africa to Arabia and the demand for slaves derived from models of a date plantation and a pearling voyage. The economic return to organizing date gardens, so that the slaves have enough income to raise children is also discussed, and the interface between this source of supply and that of newly purchased is analysed. A geo-referenced data base of slave prices is developed and used to explore these issues. It is argued that Britain's efforts to suppress the slave trade, the division of east Africa among colonial powers, and state development in Ethiopia drove long run increases in the supply price of slaves. The opening of the Suez canal increased the demand price of dates after 1869, while rising incomes led to an increased demand for pearls later in the nineteenth century. The increased prices of these products increased the demand price of slaves. The evolution of demand and supply both contributed to a long run rise in the price of slaves.

**Paul Castaneda Dower, Gunes Gokmen, Michel Le Breton, Shlomo Weber. [Did the Cold War Produce Development Clusters in Africa? Lund Working Paper 2021:10.](#)**

This paper examines the lasting impact of the alignment of African countries during the Cold War on their modern economic development. We find that the division of the continent into two blocs

(East/West) led to two clusters of development outcomes that reflect the Cold War's ideological divide. To determine alignment, we introduce a non-cooperative game of social interactions where each country chooses one of the two existing blocs based on its predetermined bilateral similarities with other members of the bloc. We show the existence of a strong Nash equilibrium in our game and apply the celebrated MaxCut method to identify such a partition. The alignment predicts UN General Assembly voting patterns during the Cold War but not after. Our approach, linking global political interdependence to distinct development paths in Africa, relies on history to extract a micro-founded treatment assignment, while allowing for an endogenous, process-oriented view of historical events.

**Emilio Depetris-Chauvin, Ömer Özak.** [Borderline Disorder: \(De facto\) Historical Ethnic Borders and Contemporary Conflict in Africa](#). DDT 551.

We explore the effect of historical ethnic borders on contemporary conflict in Africa. We document that both the intensive and extensive margins of contemporary conflict are higher close to historical ethnic borders. Exploiting variations across artificial regions within an ethnicity's historical homeland and a theory-based instrumental variable approach, we find that regions crossed by historical ethnic borders have 27 percentage points higher probability of conflict and 7.9 percentage points higher probability of being the initial location of a conflict. We uncover several key underlying mechanisms: competition for agricultural land, population pressure, cultural similarity and weak property rights.

**Jacobo Grajales.** [From war to wealth? Land policies and the peace economy in Côte d'Ivoire](#). HAL- 02553089.

This article studies the production of economic domination after the end of the Ivorian armed conflict. It investigates the interaction between post-conflict development policies, people's expectations and fears unleashed by the end of war, and the capacity of local actors to establish external alliances. The inquiry focuses on a region located at the margins of the conflict, but at the core of post-war development schemes. In this warless land, policies implemented in the name of peace provide resources for dominant actors seeking to consolidate their position, thus reinforcing the social structures of agrarian capitalism that had been challenged during the war.

## The next generation

### Calumet Links.

Calumet Links successfully defended his PhD in Economics, titled: 'The Economic Impact of the Khome on the North-Eastern Frontier of the Cape Colony', Stellenbosch University, on 21 June 2021.

**Please send us details of your successfully defended PhD related to the field of African economic history.**



## Seminars and talks

### *Economic History of Developing Regions Virtual Seminar Series*

Monday, 13 September (3PM UK Time):

Speaker: **Leonard le Roux (Sciences Po)**, Organizer: Johan Fourie

Dates to follow: September 27, October 11, October 25, November 8, November 22 and December 6.

Full programme with links: <http://www.ehssa.org.za/index.php/workshops-and-conferences/>

### **LEAP Economic History Seminar Series: Stellenbosch University**

LEAP WEBINAR SERIES 2021

# SLAVERY, EMANCIPATIONS, LEGACIES

Wednesday, 4 August – 27 October 2021  
13h00 – 14h00 (GMT +2 (Pretoria/Harare))

JOIN LIVE  
Zoom

For enquiries or to be added to our mailing list, please contact [laurencoetzee@sun.ac.za](mailto:laurencoetzee@sun.ac.za)

*Biography of an Uncharted People*

**Slavery, Emancipations, Legacies (Wednesdays from 13h00-14h00, Zoom). To join the mailing list, send a message to Laura Coetzee at [lauracoetzee@sun.ac.za](mailto:lauracoetzee@sun.ac.za).**

Wednesday, 11 Aug:

Speaker: Linda Mbeki (Iziku Museums, South Africa)

Wednesday, 25 Aug:

Speaker: Bronwen Everill (University of Cambridge)

Wednesday, 1 Sep:

Speaker: Sarah Balakrishnan (University of Minnesota)

Wednesday, 22 Sep:

Speaker: Thomas Mareite (University of Duisburg-Essen)

Wednesday, 29 Sep:

Speaker: Jake Richards (LSE)

Wednesday, 6 Oct:  
Speaker: Lisa Ford (University of New South Wales)

Wednesday, 13 Oct:  
Speaker: Nira Wikramasignhe (Leiden University)

Wednesday, 27 Oct:  
Speaker: Georgina Arnott and Jeremy Martens (University of Melbourne, University of Western Australia)

### **Sixth annual LEAP Lecture**

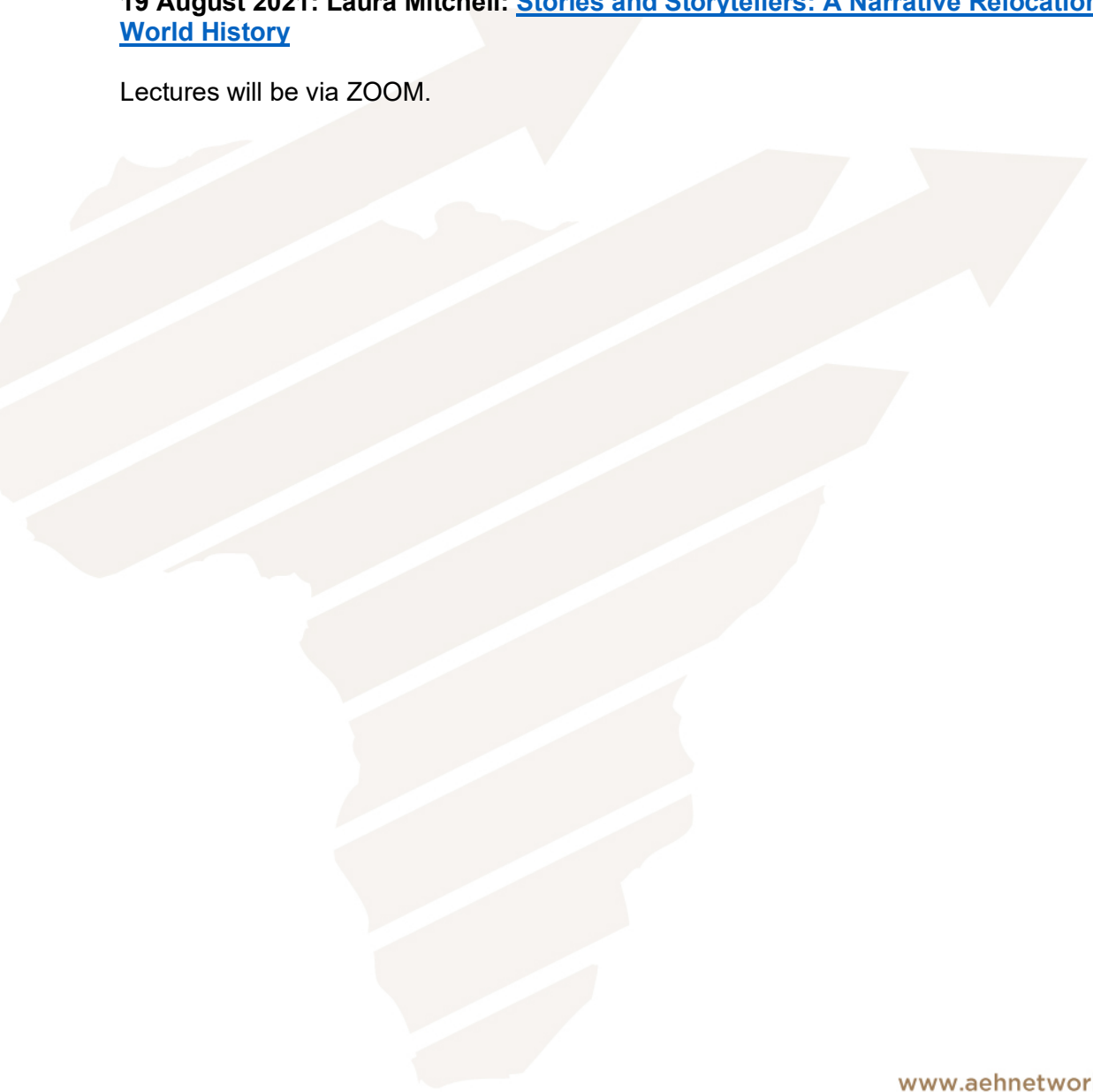
**15 September (18h00 SAST): Dozie Okoye, Dalhousie University, Canada**

Lecture will be via ZOOM. Please send an email to [leap@sun.ac.za](mailto:leap@sun.ac.za) for more information.

### **Cape of Good Hope Panel Public Lectures**

**18 August 2021: Alfani Guido: [Economic inequality in preindustrial times: the case of Europe](#)**  
**19 August 2021: Laura Mitchell: [Stories and Storytellers: A Narrative Relocation of the Cape in World History](#)**

Lectures will be via ZOOM.



# OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

## Postdoctoral fellowship: Stellenbosch University

### LEAP, Department of Economics

#### Postdoctoral position available:

Want to combine history and Big Data? Interested in the long-run outcomes of historical shocks? Have a background in quantitative social science?

The Laboratory for the Economics of Africa's Past (LEAP) and the School for Data Science and Computational Thinking at Stellenbosch University invite applications from economists and other social scientists for a postdoctoral position at Stellenbosch University, starting between January and June 2022. The successful candidate will be expected to work on a new project related to the long-run effects of twentieth-century health shocks in South Africa.

The ideal candidate will:

- Hold a PhD, or be close to completion, in Economics or related field.
- Have proven experience in managing and analysing big data and in data science methods.
- Have experience in the field of economic history or economic development.
- Given the available source material, the ability to read Afrikaans/Dutch would be an advantage.

To apply, submit a CV, a letter of interest and two reference letters to [leap@sun.ac.za](mailto:leap@sun.ac.za) by 3 September 2021.

The Laboratory for the Economics of Africa's Past (LEAP) is dedicated to the quantitative study of African economic and social history. It brings together scholars and students interested in understanding and explaining the long-term economic development of Africa's diverse societies.

LEAP is based within the Department of Economics at Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

The School for Data Science and Computational Thinking at Stellenbosch University aims to be a world-class institution for data science and computational thinking in and for Africa. It facilitates non-conventional, trans-faculty approaches to teaching and research in data science and computational thinking in an interdisciplinary setting.



## PhD position: Wageningen University

### Rural and Environmental History Group

A PhD candidate in the field of history or economic history to develop a research project on the historical relationship between food and health from a long-term perspective. The project will focus on the period since 1850, which has been characterized by major technological transitions affecting the global production, distribution and consumption of food crops, as well as the treatment and prevention of disease. In a context of imperialism and growing global inequalities, these transitions have had a highly uneven impact on different regions, for example in the extent to which they have continued to face recurrent famines.

For this PhD position you will develop your own research project under supervision of scholars at the Rural and Environmental History Group. You will participate in the research program of this Group, and follow the PhD-education programmes of Wageningen University and the N.W. Posthumus Institute. You will be able to develop your personal research CV and will co-lecture one or two courses in economic, global and/or environmental history to social science students.

For more information about this position, please contact Dr Daniel Gallardo Albarran, [daniel.gallardoalbarran@wur.nl](mailto:daniel.gallardoalbarran@wur.nl) or Dr Ingrid de Zwart, [ingrid.dezwarte@wur.nl](mailto:ingrid.dezwarte@wur.nl). This vacancy will be listed up to and including the 15th of September, 2021. We will schedule the first job interviews soon after closing date. Visit <https://www.wur.nl/en/vacancy/PhD-position-Food-and-Health-in-Historical-Perspective-.htm> for more information.