



African Economic History Newsletter

Issue #62, May 2024

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

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

Leoné Walters
on behalf of the African Economic History Network

Network updates

AEHN TEXTBOOK: NEW CHAPTER

Chapter 10: Income Inequality in Colonial Africa: Methods and History

Federico Tadei

This chapter introduces students to the analysis of income inequality in colonial Africa, both from a methodological and a historical point of view. Following an introduction to inequality in Africa, the chapter presents the main theories used to interpret colonial income inequality. These theories are then brought to the data by describing which sources and indicators we can use to evaluate inequality in colonial Africa. Finally, a brief history of African income inequality under colonial rule discusses levels, trends, and main drivers. The chapter provides a number of exercises and suggests readings as well as a technical appendix, which can be helpful to students interested in the details of the calculation of inequality indicators.

AEHN WORKING PAPER SERIES

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

Circular Migration, Marriage Markets, and HIV: Long-Run Evidence from Mozambique

Jon Denton-Schneider

I study the impacts of exposure to one of Africa's largest circular migration flows using an arbitrary border within Mozambique that, from 1893 to 1942, separated areas where young men were either pushed into or prevented from migrating. Counterintuitively, but consistent with historical narratives and theoretical predictions, HIV prevalence is lower today on the former migrant-sending side of the border while living standards are similar. The evidence suggests that age gaps between partners – which promote HIV's spread – have long been smaller in this region, as circular migration allowed much younger men to afford the requisite marriage payments to brides' families.

Living Standards in Angola, 1760-1975

Hélder Carvalhal and Nuno Palma

We investigate the well-being of urban workers in Angola under colonialism. Using a newly compiled dataset derived from archival and secondary sources, we construct welfare ratios for both skilled and unskilled workers in the cities of Luanda and Benguela spanning the years 1760 to 1975. Angolan workers experienced lower economic prosperity compared to their counterparts in other regions worldwide. Living standards declined throughout the 19th century, only to recover in the 20th century, particularly from the mid-1960s onward. These patterns can be attributed to variation in the presence of various labor market distortions over time.

FRONTIERS IN AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY BLOG

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

The Side Effects of Immunity: Malaria and African Slavery in the United States

Elena Esposito

Why did slavery flourish in some American regions and not in others, and why were specific groups of Africans extensively transported to the New World? Our novel empirical evidence reveals that the introduction of malaria triggered a demand for malaria-resistant labor, which led to a massive expansion of African enslaved workers in the more malaria-infested areas. Further results document that among African slaves, more malaria-resistant individuals—i.e., those born in the most malaria-ridden regions of Africa—commanded significantly higher prices.

Sindhi Businessmen and Postcolonial Industrial Development in Ghana

Tracy Mensah

What roles did Indians immigrants play in the economic history of sub-Saharan Africa’s first independent nation? From 1951-1966, Sindhi businessmen engaged with Kwame Nkrumah’s industrialization agenda for Ghana and established various manufacturing companies that constituted one aspect of the nation’s local industry. The extent to which they were involved in retail and wholesale trade from the 1930s and industry from the late 1950s shows that they were more than commercial intermediaries in Ghana’s economic history.

News and announcements

CALL FOR PAPERS

84th EHA Annual Meeting

September 6-8, 2024

SACRAMENTO, CA

Globalization: Perspectives from the Past

The theme for the EHA 2024 meeting is Globalization: Perspectives from the Past. Globalization refers to the movement of goods, services, people, capital, and technology across countries. By many measures, the twenty-first century has become more globalized than at any time in history, yet its future is in doubt with the rise of geopolitical conflict and doubts about its benefits to workers in advanced countries. How do earlier eras of globalization compare, and what also can be learned from the interconnected nature of markets and people, which goes back to ancient times? How have government policies toward globalization differed across countries and changed over time? New data sources and methodologies have allowed researchers to examine the political, economic, and social consequences of increased trade and finance as well as migration across countries over longer periods of time and spanning a richer set of countries across the globe.

Globalization in past centuries has been marred by colonialism and forced migration, even as it has allowed technology to spread around the world. Over the past century, globalization has presented tremendous opportunities for economic growth for many countries, but one with pitfalls as well, as those seeking to manage cross-border capital flows have discovered with financial crises. Globalization also has had short-run and longer-run impact on the environment, including increased greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, habitat destruction, and invasive species. All of these facets of globalization have profound implications for society. The theme of this conference will explore past episodes, past events, and past evidence to understand how globalization affects the world in all its dimensions, for good and for ill.

The Program Committee, chaired by Kris Mitchener (Santa Clara University), welcomes submissions on all subjects in economic history, though some preference will be given to papers that fit the theme of the conference.

Each year, the EHA includes a poster session at the annual meeting for PhD students. Students accepted for the poster session are eligible for travel subsidies to help fund their travel to the meeting (click [HERE](#) for more information on subsidies).

- Students cannot participate in the poster session if they have a paper accepted for the general program.
- **The proposal form opens on March 1st. Proposals are due May 21st.** All those who submit must be active members of the EHA at the time of submission. If you are uncertain about your membership status, please email Taylor Land (taylorland@eh.net).
- To submit a poster proposal click [HERE](#).
- If you have questions or concerns about the poster session, email the Meetings Coordinator, Jeremy Land (jeremy.land@gu.se)

Economic History Society PhD Thesis Workshop

September 2024
Online

The Economic History Society is pleased to invite submissions to its PhD Thesis Workshop, to be held for the third time via Zoom in September 2024. Participants will share thesis papers or chapters-in-progress with fellow doctoral colleagues in economic and social history, and give and receive feedback on each other's work. The workshop aims to provide opportunities for PhD students to develop their research and peer reviewing skills, as well as the chance to build horizontal networks with fellow early career scholars. Last two workshops have been well-attended and participants welcomed the opportunity to receive detailed feedback on their research and also network with fellow doctoral students.

Participants will be expected to read and prepare feedback on all of their colleagues' papers, and each paper will also have one doctoral student discussant to lead the conversation. Preference will be given to applicants in the second or later year of their research. The Workshop will be held on Zoom during the afternoon (UK time) to enable participation from researchers in a wide variety of time zones.

We welcome submissions from all doctoral researchers in economic and/or social history, and we especially encourage applications from graduate students from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in the academy. **Applicants should email a short abstract (250–300 words) in a PDF file to studentrep.ehs@gmail.com by 31st May 2024. Accepted presenters will be notified by mid-June and will be asked to upload a paper of no more than 5000 words for circulation to fellow speakers by 7th July.**

Call for Presentation for an Online Webinar Series and Book Chapters October 2024 -

With the support of the Institute of New Economic Thinking's Young Scholars Initiative and Globalisation and Economy in a long-term perspective, we are hosting a series of webinars that bring together historians of economic thought from around the world who work on the History of economics of the Global South.

The History of economic thought is predominantly centered on Europe and the United States. Now that technology and economic interdependence have made the planet a single venue for struggles of interests and ideas, such bias has become untenable. The exchange of ideas and cultures has always been strong, irrespective of administrative boundaries and country-specific institutional frameworks, that have led to national reconstructions of economic thought in those countries.

A modern approach to the History of economics needs to include more ideas, theories, and practices debated beyond national or specific regional traditions. This is particularly relevant for a detailed study of the economic thought of the Global South. India, Latin America, China, and Africa – just to provide a few examples – have long-established traditions concerning a different understanding and management of economic categories and systems. Many such ideas once controlled vast geographic

areas, populations, and economies of the Global South, sometimes even spilling over the North. These traditions need to be recognized and better studied.

The History of economic thought is a history of societies; with their rich and plural ideas and practices. If it is true that some have emerged as dominant in particular historical ages, we should not forget other approaches to economics that have meanwhile been forgotten, neglected, and sometimes even completely ignored.

Ideas that traveled from East to West and from South to North without political, geographical, or ideological barriers. Ideas have also traveled from South to South. These movements equally included categories that are unknown to most economic literature, like food, culture, language, vocabulary, music, science, mathematics, home organization, domestic economy, etc. Recent contemporary economic literature has started acknowledging and recognizing their importance and presenting economic thought as the wealth of the human species rather than a singular product of the European Renaissance (without reducing its significance to the world of ideas and economics). The proposed webinar and book project aim to encourage scholars (particularly from the Global South, but not only) to present ideas discussed in the other half of the world, concerning persons, events, institutions, and/or theories, possibly focusing on transnational contaminations and cross-fertilization. When we interpret historical ideas, we must acknowledge that cultural, linguistic, and informational barriers may limit our understanding. As a result, the existing documentation of economic thought from the Global South is often incomplete or even stereotypical. This webinar workshop and book aim to fill the gap and encourage the history of economics literature to be more pluralist.

Our ambition, coherent with recent activities also pursued by other scholars in the attempt to go beyond localized and countries-specific histories of economic thought (Cambodia INET's Young Scholars Initiative workshop, Association for Latin American Economic Thought ALAHPE, Indian Society for the History of Economic thought ISHET, etc.), is: to raise a methodological issue, provide a venue for academic discussions, and encourage further studies along this line. We would include some contributions in a collective publication. We also hope the webinars will support the development of materials that could be used for teaching the history of economics courses and seminars around the world.

Organization: The seminars will be held online at a variety of different times to give the greatest opportunity for public attendance. Seminars will be moderated by Sattwick Dey Biswas (one of the coordinators of INET's Young Scholars Initiative) and Rebeca Gomez-Betancourt (University of Lyon 2 – ALAHPE).

Important dates and process:

Submission of proposals for workshop presentations: please send an abstract of a maximum of 500 words by May 30th, 2024 to Sattwick Dey Biswas at sattwick@gmail.com, and/or Rebeca Gomez-Betancourt (Rebeca.GomezBetancourt@univ-Lyon2.fr), Fabio Masini (fabio.masini@uniroma3.it), Alexandre (Reichart.alexandre.reichart@ruc.edu.cn).

Acceptance of proposals for workshop presentation: acceptances will be communicated to their authors on June 15, 2024.

Submission of drafts for discussion in the workshop: drafts must be shared by September 15th, 2024. Participants will be invited to deposit drafts into an online folder. Details to be provided. The virtual workshop will take place from October 2024.

Organisers: Rebeca Gomez Betancourt, Sattwick Dey Biswas, Fabio Masini, Alexandre Reichart

Winter School

In-between: Intermediaries and Intermediate Places in Global Labour - Past & Present

17-21 February 2025
New Delhi

Labour history has experienced a profound change in the last twenty years, moving away from a Eurocentric model spotlighting the male, Western industrial worker to a global labour history that seeks to explore labourers, labour regimes and labour relations in different places and different time periods. Importantly, this has led to a questioning of any straightforward free- unfree divide which posits a shift from unfree to free labour that followed a scheme(s) of “modernisation”. In the last decades, labour historians have highlighted the need to move beyond the ‘free’/‘unfree’ divide (van der Linden and Brass, 1997; van der Linden 2008), expanding the range of labour relations under study, and insisting on the relevance of a processual perspective. Especially the latter approach highlights the complex making of labour coercion, and offers the possibility to rethink key concepts, e.g. the ‘working class’, and periodisations in labour history, questioning also the binary approach of ‘free’ and ‘unfree’ labour (De Vito, Schiel and van Rossum, 2020; Schiel and Heinsen, forthcoming). This new approach has emphasised how ‘free’ and ‘unfree’ and in-between forms of labour co-exist and even reinforce each other.

Furthermore, actors and spaces have been at the forefront of global history, and we propose to probe a particular type of actor: intermediaries, and a particular type of space: intermediate places. This helps us investigate what lies in-between, the transitions and transformations people experienced in the past and experience in the present. In this winter school, we aim to benefit from such insights in order to explore intermediaries and intermediate places. Intermediate places include a wide variety of spaces where people have been forced to stay for a limited or transitional period of time, for example the ships which brought enslaved and indentured people to their owners or work sites, or convicts to penal colonies. Other examples include prisons and jails, penal settlements, concentration or prisoner of war camps, gulags, market places, work and living sites of indentured labourers, holding pens, depots where indentured and enslaved people were held, ports, private households, farmers, rural and other workers, who were evicted and had to take refuge in temporary settlements, which could include roadside settlements, school grounds, or public land. For some, time spent in such places were limited, for others it could span years, even decades, and for yet others it might have been a place where they died.

PhD students are invited to submit a paper proposal (approx. 500 words), abstract, a short summary of their argument, current affiliation, and short bio-note latest by 1 August, 2024 to: Michaela Dimmers, Max Weber Forum for South Asian Studies, New Delhi: dimmers@mwsindia.org.
Subject: Winter school: In-between: Intermediaries and Intermediate Places

Candidates with PhD funding are expected to fund their trips. However, candidates without funding can apply in their application for support of their travel expenses. You will be informed about the outcome of your application by 30 September, 2024. Successful applicants will be expected to pre-circulate their papers among the participants by 1 December, 2024. **For further information and queries, please contact: Michaela Dimmers, Max Weber Forum for South Asian Studies, New Delhi: dimmers@mwsindia.org.**

What counting means in an Imperial and colonial situation

December 19 and 20, 2024

International Congress

Economic and financial ministries, Paris Bercy

This conference intends to open in new ways the file of accounting and statistical approaches produced in imperial and colonial context (thematic maps, surveys, statistical series etc.) to extract all the information that they are likely to provide on societies and situations that they are supposed to illuminate. Taking into account the numerous historiographical findings, the critiques of the different numerical elements used, their racialist and normative aims, it is as much a question of being interested in the conditions of their production, whether they are visible (investigators) or invisible (interpreters, village elites), than to analyze the reactions to their production, their distribution or to specify the expectations of the sponsors and the uses to which they give rise. The conference intends to encourage the crossing of the scales mobilized by the different supports of these accounting elements, starting from individuals and up to the relations between administrations or colonial companies and the Metropolis.

The stories of investigations and investigators carried out as close as possible to the field, those of the open or quiet resistance they arouse, those of the initiatives launched to improve accounting and statistical representations and their limits will allow both better evaluate the gaps between the apparent rationality of the supports used and the actual colonial situations, to point out the room for maneuver and capacity for adaptation of actors (agency) often considered passive, to examine their impact on institutions, businesses or the societies that produce them and reciprocally the effect of these organizations on the figures (reflexivity).

The omnipresence of accounting elements in empires opens perspectives of comparison and should also make it possible to think about the inter-imperial circulations of actors, models, and practices. In this regard, the production and dissemination of quantitative and/or cartographic expertise by certain international organizations could also be highlighted.

The conference is deliberately open to all accounting dimensions, well beyond demographic statistics which are often better known than others. Accounting elements, labor, production, prices, etc. will thus be largely considered; this list is not exhaustive.

This conference will mark the middle of the course of the ANR Cocole (ANR-21-CE41-0012) "Counting in a colonial situation. French Africa 19th-20th century. » whose geographical and chronological horizons he will broaden. Communication proposals capable of reinserting the colonial moment into the periods which precede or follow it, to analyze the continuities and ruptures as well as the consequences of these accounting and statistical elements will therefore also be welcome.

The only requirements from the organizers, apart from the chosen theme, are unpublished work based on sources (archives, oral survey, etc.).

Based on the observation that these accounting elements exist despite their incontestable shortcomings, that their production mobilized different stakeholders and was financed, the conference intends to better understand the contrast between the abundance and the great diversity of these elements in the imperial and colonial context (cf. the precision and volume of the British *Blue Books*, the bulimia of numerical data of certain Belgian and French governors and administrators, the volume of official and unofficial numerical documentation on the empires) and their insufficiency. In doing so, he also hopes to attract students, and particularly historians, to an object that they most often try to avoid.

Proposals may focus on several points:

- What the production of figures tells us about the colonial relationship, the nature and role of the intermediaries who intervene in the investigations, the transformations in the modalities of colonization, the effective role or not of the administration of the colonies as well as its legacies after independence.
- What the accounting elements and their silences or the categories that they contribute to sediment or construct truncate, do not say or say poorly and the way in which they draw the image of the colony, the construction of the statistical illusion and accounting and the analysis of its consequences.
- How they influence the societies they are supposed to represent or the companies whose situation they are supposed to describe, and how these societies and companies shape them in return.
- A questioning of the specificities of the accounting elements produced in a colonial situation in relation to what historiography says about data production in Europe or elsewhere.
- More broadly, all works critically questioning the production and use of accounting elements in a colonial context are welcome.

Working language: French and English

The proposal will include:

a summary of approximately one page (excluding bibliography), a title, a thematic and the materials on which they are based. A brief biographical note (around fifteen lines indicating the last publication) and five key words representative of the submitted proposal are also expected.

The organizers will only cover the costs of speakers whose institutions have no means of financing. Participants are strongly encouraged to turn to their institutions for support.

A hybrid format, in person and, to avoid too long journeys, some remote communications, is possible.

Timeline

Proposal to be submitted by **June 20, 2024**, response **July 15, 2024**.

Final summary to be returned by **November 30**

Scientific committee

S. Coghe (U. Ghent), X. Daumalin (U. Aix-Marseille), B. Fall (Director of the IEA of Saint-Louis du Senegal, coordinator of the IRN COUNT network), O. Feiertag (U. Paris 1), A. Lacroix (U. Nanterre), A. Mukhopadhyaya (U. Kent), B. Piret (State Archives-UCL, Belgium), E. Sibeud (U. Paris 8) and B. Touchelay (U. Lille)

Information and submission of proposals

beatrice.touchelay@univ-lille.fr (subject "FIGURES conference December 2024")

Research notebook: <https://chiffrempire.hypotheses.org/>

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HISTORY SOCIETY
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Please fill in the [membership form](#) and send it to EHSSA secretary, Kate Ekama,
kateekama@sun.ac.za.

AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY TEACHING TRIP TO BENIN

13 March – 4 April 2024

by Leo Dolan

During March In the vibrant heart of West Africa, an enriching educational venture unfolded as we embarked on a teaching trip to Benin for the African Economic History course. Spearheaded by Leigh Gardner (London School of Economics), Rebecca Simson (Oxford), and myself, Leo Dolan (Carlos III Madrid), our time in Benin was not only academically stimulating but also culturally enriching.

Over the course of four weeks, we delved into pivotal topics such as the dynamics of development, the legacies of the Atlantic Slave Trade, and the intricacies of urbanization and human capital development in Africa. The sessions were structured around comprehensive discussions of key chapters from our core textbook, *The History of African Development*, complemented by critical analyses of scholarly articles.

Our students, who were exceptionally talented and particularly adept in quantitative methods, showed remarkable enthusiasm and intellectual curiosity. Many expressed ambitions to pursue PhD studies, reflecting a robust commitment to advancing their expertise in African economic history. Their presentations, particularly on topics like "Economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa, 1885-2008", "Education and Human Capital Externalities in Colonial Benin" and "National Movements and

Democratization were not only insightful but demonstrated a sophisticated understanding of complex economic issues.

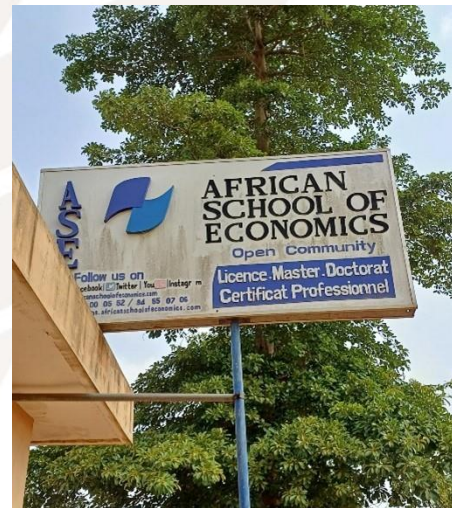
When not teaching, we explored the cultural tapestry of Benin. A visit to Ganvie, known as the "Venice of Africa," allowed us to witness the remarkable lifestyle of the watermen who have made the stilt village their home on Lake Nokoue. This experience was a profound reminder of the adaptability and resilience of human cultures.

In Ouidah, we immersed ourselves in the occult culture of the region. The Temple of Pythons and The Musée de la Fondation Zinso provided fascinating insights into Vodou rituals and Benin's colonial past. Walking the Route des Esclaves was a poignant experience, offering a sombre reflection on the tragic histories of the transatlantic slave trade and the resilience of the human spirit.

Our teaching trip coincided with exciting developments at the African School of Economics, which continues to expand its influence across the continent with campuses now in Nigeria, Ivory Coast, and soon, Zanzibar. These expansions are a testament to the increasing importance and recognition of comprehensive economic studies in Africa.

Looking ahead, the African School of Economics is keen to welcome new instructors for next year's course. The opportunity to teach such dynamic and engaging material in a setting as rich in history and culture as Benin is unparalleled. We invite interested educators to join in this growing academic community, contributing to the vibrant exchange of knowledge and ideas in Africa.

Our teaching experience in Benin was really once in a lifetime. The combination of engaging academic work and immersive cultural experiences made for an unforgettable journey. We are immensely proud of our students' achievements and are excited about the future of the African School of Economics as it continues to foster academic excellence and cultural understanding across Africa.



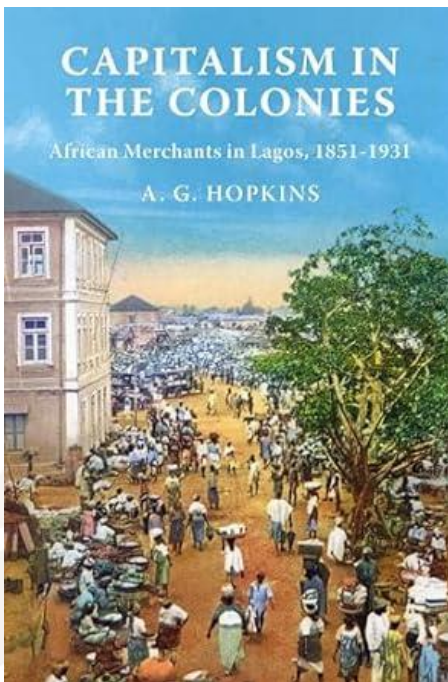
New research in African economic history

FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF

Capitalism in the Colonies: African Merchants in Lagos, 1851–1931

A. G. Hopkins

In *Capitalism in the Colonies*, A. G. Hopkins provides the first substantial assessment of the fortunes of African entrepreneurs under colonial rule. Examining the lives and careers of 100 merchants in Lagos, Nigeria, between 1850 and 1931, Hopkins challenges conventional views of the contribution made by indigenous entrepreneurs to the long-run economic development of Nigeria. He argues that African merchants in Lagos not only survived, but were also responsible for key innovations in trade, construction, farming, and finance that are essential for understanding the development of Nigeria's economy.

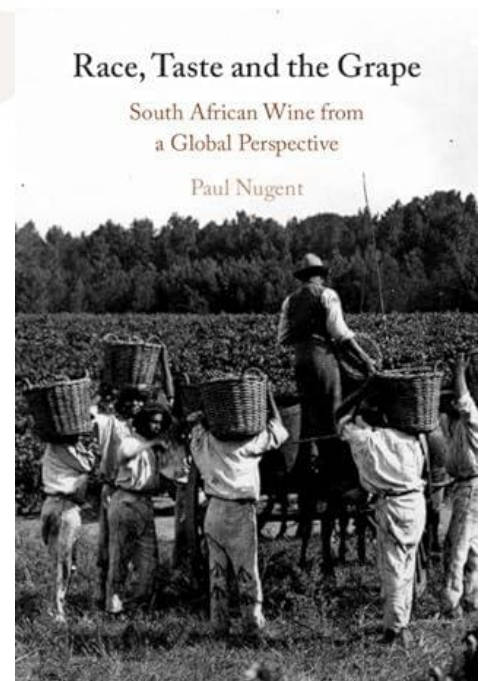


The book is based on a large, representative sample and covers a time span that traces mercantile fortunes over two and three generations. Drawing on a wide range of sources, Hopkins shows that indigenous entrepreneurs were far more adventurous than expatriate firms. African merchants in Lagos pioneered motor vehicles, sewing machines, publishing, tanneries, and new types of internal trade. They founded the construction industry that built Lagos into a major port city, moved inland to start the cocoa-farming industry, and developed the finance sector that is still vital to Nigeria's economy. They also took the lead in changing single-owned businesses into limited liability companies, creating freehold property rights and promoting wage labour. In short, Hopkins argues, they were the capitalists who introduced the institutions of capitalism into Nigeria. The story of African merchants in Nigeria reminds us, he writes, that economic structures have no life of their own until they are animated by the actions of creative individuals.

Race, Taste and the Grape: South African Wine from a Global Perspective

Paul Nugent

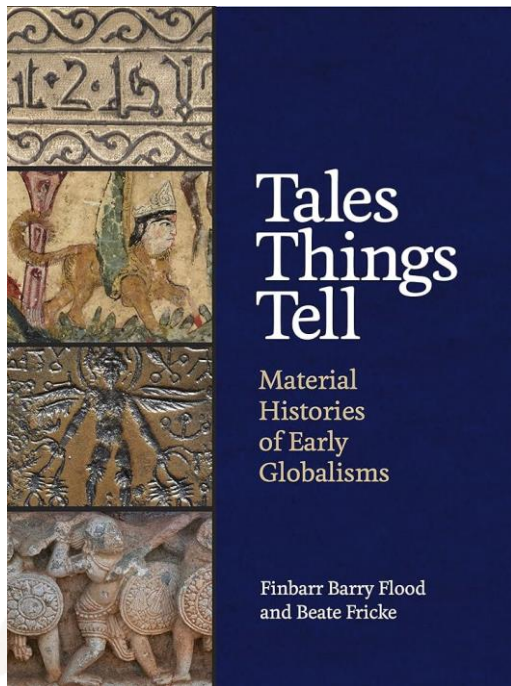
With the introduction of wine to the Cape Colony, it became associated locally with social extremes: with the material trappings of privilege and taste, on the one side, and the stark realities of human bondage, on the other. By examining the history of Cape wine, Paul Nugent offers a detailed history of how, in South Africa, race has shaped patterns of consumption. The book takes us through the Liquor Act of 1928, which restricted access along racial lines, intervention to address overproduction from the 1960s, and then latterly, in the wake of the fall of the Apartheid regime, deregulation in the 1990s and South Africa's re-entry into global markets. We see how the industry struggled to embrace Black Economic Empowerment, environmental diversity and the consumer market. This book is an essential read for those interested in the history of wine, and how it intersects with both South African and global history.



Tales Things Tell: Material Histories of Early Globalisms

Finbarr Barry Flood and Beate Fricke

Tales Things Tell offers new perspectives on histories of connectivity between Africa, Asia, and Europe in the period before the Mongol conquests of the thirteenth century. Reflected in objects and materials whose circulation and reception defined aesthetic, economic, and technological networks that existed outside established political and sectarian boundaries, many of these histories are not documented in the written sources on which historians usually rely. Tales Things Tell charts bold new directions in art history, making a compelling case for the archival value of mobile artifacts and images in reconstructing the past.

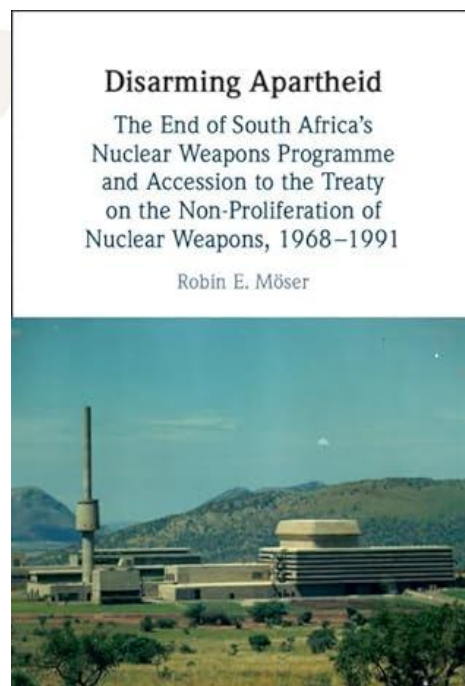


In this beautifully illustrated book, Finbarr Barry Flood and Beate Fricke present six illuminating case studies from the sixth to the thirteenth centuries to show how portable objects mediated the mobility of concepts, iconographies, and techniques. The case studies range from metalwork to stone reliefs, manuscript paintings, and objects using natural materials such as coconut and rock crystal. Whether as booty, commodities, gifts, or souvenirs, many of the objects discussed in Tales Things Tell functioned as sources of aesthetic, iconographic, or technical knowledge in the lands in which they came to rest. Remapping the histories of exchange between medieval Islam and Christendom, from Europe to the Indian Ocean, Tales Things Tell ventures beyond standard narratives drawn from written archival records to demonstrate the value of objects and images as documents of early globalisms.

Disarming Apartheid: The End of South Africa's Nuclear Weapons Programme and Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 1968–1991

Robin E. Möser

South Africa remains the only state that developed a nuclear weapons capability, but ultimately decided to dismantle existing weapons and abandon the programme. Disarming Apartheid reconstructs the South African decision-making and diplomatic negotiations over the country's nuclear weapons programme and its international status, drawing on new and extensive archival material and interviews. This deeply researched study brings to light a unique disarmament experience. It traces the country's previously neglected path towards accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Rather than relying primarily on US government archives, the book joins the burgeoning field of national nuclear histories based on unprecedented access to policymakers and documents in the country studied. Robin E. Möser, in addition to providing access to important new documents, offers original interpretations that enrich the study of nuclear politics for historians and political scientists.



Gold, Finance and Imperialism in South Africa, 1887–1902: A View from the Stock Exchange

Mariusz Lukasiewicz

This book provides a unique account of the financial and political history of the South African War by analysing the organisation and operations of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE), the oldest existing stock exchange on the African continent. Identifying the JSE as the nexus between international finance, South African gold mining and British imperialism, the book exposes the financial and political connections between Johannesburg, Pretoria, London, and Paris during the final stage of the imperial 'scramble for southern Africa.' Gold mining presented the South African Republic (ZAR) and the whole southern African regional economy with a long-term economic future and new prospects of industrialisation. However, this socio-economic transformation was dependent on extensive capital investments and the institutionalisation of a coercive labour regime based on racial discrimination. This monograph provides the first empirical examination of how international finance, imperial politics, and racialised industrial relations became entrenched in a key financial intermediary in colonial South Africa - first in Kimberley in the Cape Colony, and then in Johannesburg in the ZAR. By studying the Johannesburg capital market's social microstructures, the author demonstrates how colonial and international financial intermediaries underwrote and financed the largest wave of mining investments in Africa prior to the First World War. Filling an important gap in literature on nineteenth-century British imperialism and Anglo-African-Afrikaner relations, this insightful book uses the JSE as a lens to carefully expose the structures and agency of global finance in the outbreak of the South African War, and the making of South Africa as a unified colonial state.



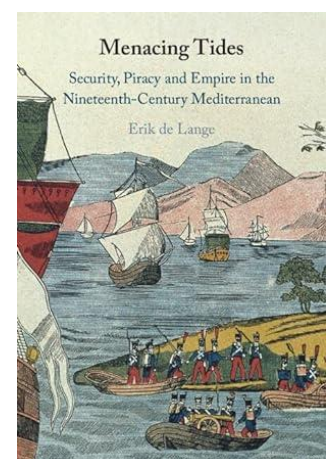
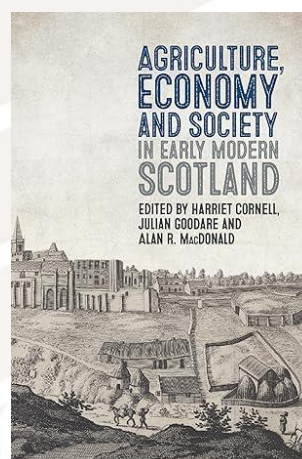
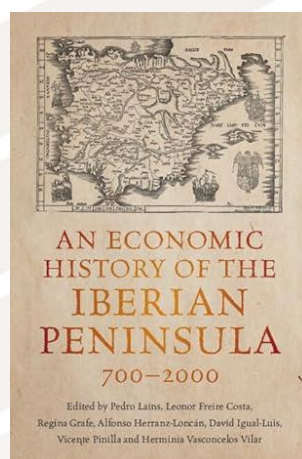
CAMBRIDGE IMPERIAL
AND POST-COLONIAL STUDIES

Gold, Finance and Imperialism in South Africa, 1887–1902 A View from the Stock Exchange

Mariusz Lukasiewicz



Other new books in economic history



ARTICLES

Nutrition Matters: Numeracy, Child Nutrition and Schooling Efficiency in Sub-Saharan Africa in the Long Run

The Journal of Development Studies
Sarah Ferber and Jörg Baten

School enrolment has increased at an unprecedented scale in Sub-Saharan Africa but learning and the associated education efficiency have not. Given that resources are limited, the efficient use of inputs is of utmost importance for sustainable development. Hence, we investigate whether improvements in children's nutrition can improve learning and hence efficiency. To assess this relationship, we employ average female height as our proxy for nutrition during childhood. For learning, we estimate numeracy and efficiency using a linearized version of the Whipple Index. Our data is at the subnational level focusing on the birth decades from 1950 to 1999. To deal with the endogeneity of nutrition, we use an instrumental variable approach. Our instrument is negative rainfall shocks during childhood which can adversely affect nutrition. We find that better nutrition increases education efficiency. Therefore, investments in nutrition can advance self-sustaining long-term growth based on human capital in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Of Rule not Revenue: South Sudan's Revenue Complex from Colonial, Rebel, to Independent Rule, 1899 to 2023

Comparative Studies in Society and History
Matthew Sterling Benson

This article analyses taxation practices in colonial, post-colonial rebel-led, and independent South Sudan and argues that the ethos of taxation in the region has been and remains primarily oriented around predatory and coercive strategies of rule. This overarching pattern endures because the fundamental structure and rationale of revenue-raising practices, which collectively constitute South Sudan's revenue complex, have not changed since at least Anglo-Egyptian occupation of the region in 1899. The paper explains how tax collecting as predation began when the first colonial administration deployed taxes to acquire loyalty from customary authorities such as chiefs and sheikhs, who personally benefitted from their taxation powers. From the early 1960s to 2005, armed groups in the region periodically fought against Khartoum-led rule, and rebels extorted taxes from the population to help fuel their war efforts. Taxes in today's South Sudan, which acquired independence in 2011, are not collected to raise revenue except to pay off the individuals collecting them, and they continue to generate predation. The rise of international aid and windfalls from oil revenues have further diminished taxation's financial significance for the national government and have altered local authorities' coercive demands for payment. The portrait that emerges from the practices of South Sudan's successive war-makers and state-makers is one of taxation wielded as a technology of rule, one of coercion and often extortion, to fulfil the self-interests of tax collectors. The article is based on archival research in Sudanese and South Sudanese national archives, British colonial archives, and 205 interviews conducted in South Sudan.

'When There Is a Ban, There Is a Way': Everyday Gambling and the Nigerian Political Economy, 1977–83

The Journal of African History
Folarin Ajibade

This article focuses on the gambling milieu in Nigeria between the late 1970s and early 1980s. I consider the moment when the Federal Military Government (FMG) banned gambling nationwide, and ask why it became such a divisive issue during this tenuous period in Nigeria's history. I argue that amid impending transitional elections to a democratic regime, gambling embodied three key tensions that saturated Nigerian political and civil society during this period: job creation, the state's relationship with private capital, and the division of political power. Additionally, I propose that

examining gambling's recreational value alongside its functional significance opens new avenues for the study of the gambling phenomenon in Africa that move beyond ethical considerations.

Tensions on the Railway: West Indians, Colonial Hierarchies, and the Language of Racial Unity in West Africa

The Journal of African History

Philip Janzen

Beginning in 1900, colonial railway departments in Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, and Nigeria began turning to the Caribbean for skilled labor instead of hiring African workers. When West Indian railway workers began to arrive in West Africa, Africans were indignant, and they voiced their objections in newspapers. West Indians sometimes responded to these grievances with calls for racial unity, yet their appeals were inflected with colonial hierarchies. Such exchanges were centered on railway jobs, but they were also embedded in larger discussions about empire, race, and the legacies of the transatlantic slave trade. I argue that these exchanges reveal the significance of colonial hierarchies and diasporic tensions in the intellectual history of pan-Africanism in early twentieth-century West Africa. The article draws on newspapers and archival research from West Africa, the Caribbean, and the UK.

Inter-Imperial Entanglement: The British Claim to Portuguese Delagoa Bay in the Nineteenth Century

Journal of World History

Anjuli Webster

Over the nineteenth century, England and Portugal contested the possession of Delagoa Bay in south eastern Africa. Using documents from a British hydrographical survey mission of the east coast of Africa, and British Parliamentary Papers recording the dispute over possession of the bay in the 1870s, I demonstrate that bordermaking in the region was rooted in interimperial claims and disputes reaching back to the 1820s. The English claim to Delagoa Bay highlights how hydrography and cartography were used as tools of empire in the new imperial expansion and land appropriation of the nineteenth century. The production of the colonial border between Portuguese Mozambique and British South Africa interrupted and disconnected indigenous networks of relation, trade, and movement, while simultaneously entangling imperial projects of white worldmaking through racialized dispossession.

The Suffering Subject: Colonial Flogging in Northern Nigeria and a Humanitarian Public, 1904–1933

Comparative Studies in Society and History

Steven Pierce

Shortly after the start of colonial rule in Northern Nigeria, a series of scandals over flogging brought international attention. A network of newspapers reported on flogging cases, particularly those involving women and educated, often Christian, Africans from outside the north. International attention focused on these cases as humanitarian outrages. The Nigerian administration and the Colonial Office deflected the scandals through a shifting series of strategies: justifying flogging as appropriate and humane, attempting to ensure floggings were only administered by Africans, carefully regulating the practices of flogging, and investigating cases of flogging to exculpate the officials responsible. These scandals led to a reform of the criminal justice system in 1933, but had long-lasting effects. They entrenched the trope of whipped bodies as a particularly “African” outrage. They helped to institutionalize the notion that particular judicial and governmental techniques were culturally specific. They politicized key markers of personal identity.

Early life determinants of social disparities among young adults: A longitudinal study in vulnerable communities in South Africa

World Development

Georg Loss, Sara Naicker, Linda Richter and Günther Fink

South Africa has achieved major poverty reductions in the post-Apartheid era, but substantial variations in progress between population groups have been documented, and inequalities between poor Black communities and other parts of South Africa persist. Similarly, life chances and inter-generational mobility vary with proximal early life economic environments. The long-term interrelationships of different aspects of these environments are not well understood.

Using prospective data from the Birth to Thirty (Bt30) cohort, we assess the relative importance of early life family and neighborhood socioeconomic status (SES) for later life educational attainment and criminality among Black children from low-income communities in Soweto-Johannesburg, South Africa. We follow a multi-step nonparametric adjusted regression approach to reduce assumptions about the nature of the relationships between outcomes and exposure variables, and we express interactions as nonlinear marginal effects.

Our study finds that both childhood home SES and neighborhood SES are predictive of more favorable outcomes later in life. Home SES appears generally more predictive of young adulthood outcomes than neighborhood SES, particularly for educational outcomes. Girls fare substantially better both in terms of educational attainment and in terms of lower criminal engagement. These pro-female gaps appear to be particularly large in higher SES homes for educational attainment.

Our findings highlight the critical importance of children's home environments in general, and particularly for children's educational attainment. Further support for programs to reduce socioeconomic inequalities in the current adult population can likely contribute substantially to reducing inequalities in future generations.

The economic impact of CGIAR-related crop technologies on agricultural productivity in developing countries, 1961–2020

World Development

Keith O. Fuglie and Ruben G. Echeverria

The international agricultural research centers that comprise the CGIAR got their start in the 1960s. They soon made major contributions to crop improvement in developing countries, particular in rice and wheat in Asia. Today, farmers can acquire new technologies from many sources, and evidence of whether the CGIAR continues to play an important role in crop improvement has become dated. This paper brings together an expanded set of evidence on the diffusion and productivity impact of CGIAR crop research through 2020, and breaks out these impacts by crop, region, and over time. By 2016–2020, CGIAR-related crop technologies had been adopted on at least 221 million hectares across Asia, Africa and Latin America, generating economic welfare gains of \$47 billion annually. In the 2010s, technology adoption and welfare impacts were increasing by about \$600 million annually, almost as much as in the 1990s. In the early days of the “Green Revolution,” these welfare impacts were largely confined to rice and wheat in Asia, but in recent decades have grown to include a larger range of crops and geographies, notably cassava and maize in Sub-Saharan Africa. Although improved crop varieties have been the main technology through which CGIAR crop centers have achieved these impacts, CGIAR-related integrated pest management and natural resource management technologies have also made significant contributions to crop productivity. In addition to raising farm income, productivity gains in staple crops have lowered food prices, thereby benefitting the whole population. This is a key reason why agricultural productivity growth, and food crop productivity growth in particular, has had greater impacts on poverty reduction in low-income countries than comparable productivity growth in other sectors.

WORKING PAPERS

Revisiting National Institutions and Subnational Development in Africa with New Nighttime Light Data

Soyoka Okamura, Yotaro Ueno Toma, Yamagoshi and Hisaki Kono

We revisit the empirical investigation of the importance of national institutions for sub-regional economic development using more accurate nighttime light data. In contrast to the original study by Michalopoulos and Papaioannou (2014), we find that national institutions matter even after controlling for ethnic-homeland fixed effects, and even in areas far from the capital. This suggests that the spatial imprecision and blurring of nighttime light data attenuated the association between national institutions and economic activity in their analysis. Nevertheless, our analyses generally corroborate their argument, particularly regarding the role of the limited penetration of national institutions in African countries.

Fertilizer subsidies in Malawi: From past to present

Todd Benson, Joachim De Weerd, Jan Duchoslav, and Winford Masanjala

Malawi has been at the center of the debate on agricultural input subsidies in Africa ever since it significantly expanded its fertilizer subsidy program about two decades ago. When it did so, Malawi was a trailblazer, receiving international attention for seemingly leveraging the subsidy program to move the country from a situation characterized by food deficits and widespread hunger to crop production surpluses. In this paper we trace the history of Malawi's subsidy program over the past 70 years, describing how the country arrived at that watershed moment earlier this century and how the subsidy program has developed since. We show how donor support for the program has wavered and how external pressure to remove the subsidy has repeatedly been unsuccessful. We also demonstrate how over the years the program's total fiscal burden has fluctuated significantly. However, we find that since the expansion of the subsidy program in 2004, the fiscal costs of the program have shown little correlation with the maize harvest that same agricultural season. We show that the subsidy program has succeeded in raising awareness about the value of the fertilizer for increased crop productivity. However, despite its continued prominence in the country's agricultural policy, most Malawian smallholder do not manage to grow sufficient maize to feed their households throughout the year, and every year millions depend on food assistance during the worst months of the lean season.

Inherited Inequality: A General Framework and an Application to South Africa

Paolo Brunori, Francisco Ferreira and Pedro Salas-Rojo

Scholars have sought to quantify the extent of inequality which is inherited from past generations in many different ways, including a large body of work on intergenerational mobility and inequality of opportunity. This paper makes three contributions to that broad literature. First, we show that many of the most prominent approaches to measuring mobility or inequality of opportunity fit within a general framework which involves, as a first step, a calculation of the extent to which inherited circumstances can predict current incomes. The importance of prediction has led to recent applications of machine learning tools to solve the model selection challenge in the presence of competing upward and downward biases. Our second contribution is to apply transformation trees to the computation of inequality of opportunity. Because the algorithm is built on a likelihood maximization that involves splitting the sample into groups with the most salient differences between their conditional cumulative distributions, it is particularly well-suited to measuring ex-post inequality of opportunity, following Roemer (1998). Our third contribution is to apply the method to data from South Africa, arguably the world's most unequal country, and find that almost three-quarters of its current inequality is inherited from predetermined circumstances, with race playing the largest role, but parental background also making an important contribution.

Long Run Money Superneutrality Evaluation of the Relevance of Money in Africa: An ARDL Approach

Peter Kehinde Mogaji

Neutrality of money holds that the real economy is not affected by the level of the money supply level. Superneutrality of money as a property stronger than neutrality of money connotes that the rate of money supply growth has no effect on real variables. The hypothesis of money superneutrality is about what the long run relationship between money supply growth and growth in real output and changes in price levels and what these suggest for the use of monetary aggregates in the conduct of monetary policy. This paper assesses the validity of the hypothesis of money superneutrality in the long run by gathering empirical evidence for 50 African economies within five (5) monetary and economic blocs of Africa (EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, AMU/MENA, and SADC), including Djibouti and Ethiopia. This study determines if money supply growth is influential across economies in Africa. The autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL) bound testing cointegration approach developed by Pesaran et al (2001) was employed to test money superneutrality in this study. Relevant time series annual data of money supply growth, and real GDP growth and inflation spanning over a period of 42 years between 1980 and 2022 were sourced and applied for 53 African countries under the study. Findings and results generated from the ARDL estimation results produced evidence to suggest that money is not superneutral in monetary policy outcomes and implementation virtually all the economies of Africa evaluated, from both perspectives of the influence of money supply growth on real output and on inflation. However, it is necessary to state that the assessments of the influence of money supply growth on inflation rate yield establish the relevance of money across African economies.

Cultivating change: the long-term impact of forced labour in Mozambique

Margherita Bove, Rute Martins Caeiro, Rachel Coelho, Sam Jones and Patricia Justino

Following the abolition of slavery, various forms of compulsory labour were adopted by colonial powers to develop their economies. This paper analyses the contemporary consequences of compulsory cotton production—a forced labour system that operated in colonial Mozambique from 1926 to 1961. During this period, the Portuguese colonial government granted geographic concessions to private companies, within which smallholder farmers were forced to cultivate cotton for payment in cash. Women bore the brunt of this regime, but in doing so often took on responsibilities traditionally reserved for men and engaged in active resistance strategies. Employing a spatial regression discontinuity, we explore the enduring impact of this exposure to forced cotton cultivation on present-day human and social capital, focusing specifically on rural southern Mozambique. Our estimation strategy relies on the arbitrarily defined historical borders of the concessions, which reflected the tendency of concessionaires to absorb as much territory as possible, often ignoring agronomic conditions. Drawing on bespoke individual-level survey data collected along the concession border, we find lower educational outcomes among women in former concession areas. However, this is counterbalanced by positive effects on social capital, in the form of higher levels of civil participation, more progressive attitudes towards gender norms, and an increased presence of women in leadership positions. These results suggest that exogenous ruptures that push women outside traditional boundaries can help to reinforce their role in society.

Occupational structure in a black settler colony: Sierra Leone in 1831

Stefania Galli

Occupational structure is a valuable proxy for economic development when more direct indicators are lacking. This study employs occupational structure for the Colony of Sierra Leone in 1831 with the aim of contributing to shed new light on African economic development at a very early stage. This work is based on data extracted from the 1831 census, one of the first reliable censuses in African history. This source provides valuable information on the whole colonial population, including occupational titles for a vast part of it. The results show that the Colony was far from homogeneous, combining a largely primary oriented countryside with a more modern urban sector centre around the Freetown's harbour.

Identifying local conflict trends in North and West Africa

Steven Radil and Olivier J. Walther

Several states in West Africa have experienced significant episodes of political violence since the early 2010s. These have included civil wars, religiously motivated terrorism, separatist insurgencies, military coups and communal strife, each of which have local, national and transnational dimensions. Intended to help guide responses to the region's political challenges, the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC/OECD) created an interactive, spatial tool for policy makers in 2019, the Spatial Conflict Dynamics indicator (SCDi). The SCDi monitors political violence at subnational scales. It combines different quantitative dimensions of conflict into a mappable tool that describes the circumstances in each location. The latest enhancement to the SCDi brings two new features to aid the identification of local conflict trends. First, the tool now identifies regions that are newly entering into or exiting from conflict. This allows a more detailed picture of how the geography of conflict is spreading or contracting within and across national borders. Second, the tool now characterises the current conditions in a location as either worsening or improving, based on past conditions at the same location. The SCDi is implemented in SWAC's new Mapping Territorial Transformations in Africa (MAPTA) platform.

(Un)principled agents: monitoring loyalty after the end of the Royal African Company monopoly

Anne Ruderman and Marlous van Waijenburg

The revocation of the Royal African Company's (RAC) monopoly in 1698 inaugurated a transformation of the transatlantic slave trade. While the RAC's exit from the slave trade has received scholarly attention, little is known about the company's response to the loss of its trading privileges. Not only did the end of the company's monopoly increase competition, but the unprecedented numbers of private traders who entered the trade exacerbated the company's principal-agent problems on the West African coast. To analyze the company's behavior in the post-monopoly period, we exploit a series of 292 instruction letters that the RAC issued to its slave-ship captains between 1685 and 1706, coding each individual command in the letters. Our database reveals two new insights into the company's response to its upended competitive landscape. First, the RAC showed a remarkable degree of organizational flexibility, reacting to a heightened principal-agent problem. Second, its response was facilitated by the infrastructure of the transatlantic slave trade, which gave the company a monitoring mechanism by virtue of the slave-ship captains who continually sailed to the West African coast.

The 1992-93 EMS Crisis and the South: Lessons from the Franc Zone System and the 1994 CFA Franc Devaluation

Rodrigue Dossou-Cadja

The CFA franc devaluation on 11 January 1994 stands out as the most significant reform within the Franc Zone system since political independences of former African French colonies in 1960, yet a topic shrouded into profound taboo. So far, the economic literature has failed to draw any connection between this pivotal event in African macroeconomic history and its historical context: the 1992-3 European Monetary System (EMS) crisis. Using the narrative approach coupled with quantitative analysis (DCC-MGARH-X and SVARs) and powered by an unprecedented set of archival data from the Banque de France, the Bank of England, and the Bundesbank (the latter two from Eichengreen and Naef, 2022), as well as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), we document a brand-new route on understanding a certain integrated African-European common history. Evidence unveils the CFA franc devaluation as a fundamental role player in backing up credibility of the French franc amidst the 1992-3 EMS crisis. A 'new democratic Franc Zone's Transition Committee' at the Banque de France, appears as a key feature for the future of the Zone's management.

The fragmentation of conflict networks in North and West Africa

Olivier J. Walther and David Russell

African armed conflicts involve a myriad of state forces, rebel groups and extremist organisations bound by rapidly changing alliances and rivalries. Organisations that were allies one day can fight each other the next and co-operate later still. The objective of this note is to update the pioneer work on conflict networks conducted by the OECD Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC) in the region by using a formal approach to networks known as dynamic social network analysis. Leveraging a dataset of 3 800 actors and 60 000 violent events from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) from 1997-2023, the note monitors how the co-operative and rivalrous ties between violent actors have changed over time, both at the regional and local levels. The growing number of belligerents, increasing density of rivalrous relationships and growing polarisation of the conflict networks observed in this note are extremely worrying for the future of the region. Not only do they make peaceful efforts more difficult than ever, but they also contribute to increasing the number of potential victims among the civilian population.

