AEHN
AFRICAN ECONOMIC HISTORY NETWORK

UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, ECONOMICS AND LAW

19th Annual Meeting of the African Economic History Network

Department of Economy and Society
University of Gothenburg
Sweden

23-24 October 2026

Parallel Sessions Programme

Friday				
	Room 1	**Room 2**	**Room 3**	**Room 4**
Room number	**Viktoriasalen**	**A252**	**A243**	**A245**
08.30-09.00	Registration (the Piazza, Viktoriagatan 13)			
09.00-10.15	Welcome: Prof. Klas Rönnbäck (University of Gothenburg) Opening keynote: Prof. Mohamed Saleh (London School of Economics): *Across the Sahara: Toward an Integrated Economic History of Africa*. Room: Viktoriasalen			
10.15-10.30	Coffee break			
10.30-12.00 (90 mins)	Session A1: *Colonial institutions and long-run development (1)*	Session A2: *Wealth and inheritance*	Session A3: *Mining and labour*	
12.00-13.00	Lunch break			
13.00-15.00 (120 mins)	Session B1: *Colonial institutions and long-run development (2)*	Session B2: *North Africa*	Session B3: *Money and currencies*	Session B4: *States and taxation*
15.00-15.30	Coffee break			
15.30-17.00 (90 mins)	Session C1: *Domestic trade networks and merchants*	Session C2: *Living standards*	Session C3: *Migration*	Session C4: *Slave trade to Postslavery*
18.00-	Social Event 1: see information below for options			

Please note: *We kindly ask the last presenter in each session to act as the chair of the session in question.*

Saturday				
	Room 1	**Room 2**	**Room 3**	**Room 4**
Room number	**Viktoriasalen**	**A252**	**A243**	**A245**
09.30-10.00	Coffee break			
10.00-12.00 (120 mins)	Session D1: *Long-term development and structural transformation*	Session D2: *Land, natural resources and agriculture*	Session D3: *Commodity economies, trade and global markets*	Session D4: *Shocks and economic adjustment*
12.00-13.00	Lunch break			
13.00-14.30 (90 mins)	Session E1: *Slavery and other coercive labour regimes (1)*	Session E2: *Human capital (1)*	Session E3: *Capital and business (1)*	Session E4: *States and governance (1)*
14.30-15.00	Coffee break			
15.00-16.30 (90 mins)	Session F1: *Slavery and other coercive labour regimes (2)*	Session F2: *Human capital (2)*	Session F3: *Capital and business (2)*	Session F4: *States and governance (2)*
16.30-16.45	Short break			
16.45-18.00	Closing keynote: Jutta Bolt (University of Groningen): From Persistence to Transformation: Diversity in African Development Paths Room: Viktoriasalen Info about next AEHN conference, and closing of conference			
18.00 -	Social Event 2: further information tba			

Please note: *We kindly ask the last presenter in each session to act as the chair of the session in question.*

Welcome and Opening Keynote Speech: Friday 09.00-10.15

Room: Viktoriasalen, Viktoriagatan 13

Welcome and practical information: Klas Rönnbäck (University of Gothenburg)

Opening keynote speech:
Prof. Mohamed Saleh (London School of Economics): *Across the Sahara: Toward an Integrated Economic History of Africa*.

Mohamed Saleh is Professor of Economic History at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Professor Saleh's research has been focused on the Economic History of the Middle East and North Africa. He has been interested in two main themes of research. The first theme is the Economic History of Identity, and in particular how fiscal policy impacted the formation of religious groups, their socioeconomic outcomes, and their narratives, via tax-induced conversions. The second theme is Historical Political Economy, and in particular, coercion of labour, forced migration, land inequality, and historical roots of political authoritarianism.

Parallel Session A: Friday 10.30-12.00

Session A1: Colonial Institutions and Long-Run Development (1)

Jonathan Dries (LUISS Guido Carli University) — *The Cultural Foundations of State Legitimacy: Kinship Intensity and Institutional Mismatch*
Sultanul Arefin Bayezeied (University of Gothenburg) — *Elite Persistence and Foreclosed Futures: Institutional Underpinnings of Rural Inequality in Colonial Kenya*
Paul Schaudt (KU Leuven), Richard Bluhm (University of Stuttgart), Roland Hodler (University of St. Gallen) — *Regional Majorities*

Session A2: Wealth and Inheritance

Leone Walters (University of Cape Town) and **Johan Fourie (Stellenbosch University)** — *Selection Bias in Probate Inventories*
Christiaan de Swardt (RWI Essen), Renate Hartwig (RWI-Leibniz Institute for Economic Research) **–** *Revisiting Murdock's Atlas: Validating Historical Marriage Institutions in Uganda's Contemporary Legal and Socioeconomic Context*
Giulia Martini (University of Gothenburg) — *Contested Inheritances: Gender, Custom, and Land Rights in Colonial Ghana, 1861-1940*

Session A3: Mining and Labour

Tapiwa Madimu (Rhodes University) — *Challenging Hegemonic Accumulation: Unregulated Gold Mining in Early Colonial Zimbabwe*
Ajibade Samuel Idowu (University of Ibadan) — *Artisanal Mining and the Fragmentation of Labour Markets in Nigeria's Marble Industry, 1986-2010*
Véronique Pouillard (University of Oslo), Kristin Ranestad (University of Oslo) — *Copper, Risk, and Safety: A Comparative History of Mining Accidents in Chile and the Congo.*

Parallel Session B: Friday 13.00-15.00

Session B1: Colonial Institutions and Long-Run Development (2)

Joan Ricart-Huguet (Loyola University Maryland and LSE), Jack Paine (Emory University), Xiaoyan (Christy) Qiu (Washington University in St. Louis) — *Unequal Education: The Origins of Elite Power in Postcolonial Africa*
Etienne Le Rossignol (Stellenbosch University), Stelios Michalopoulos (Brown University), Elias Papaioannou (London Business School), Giorgio Chiovoli (Universidad de Montevideo) — *Private Colonialism in Africa*
Beatrice Mbinya (University of Nairobi) — *The Long Shadow of the Fiscal Contract: Colonial Coercion, Care Deficits, and the Roots of Informalization in Africa*
Sarah Ferber (University Erlangen-Nürnberg), Moritz Kaiser (University of Tübingen) — *The Aftermath of Colonial Uprising: Land, Violence, and Economic Expansion in German East Africa*

Session B2: North Africa

Mathias Holland Johansen (University of Gothenburg) — *Africa and Rome: Infrastructure, Extraction, and Roman Exploitation*
Juan Carlos Mangas Puente (University of Extremadura), Francisco Manuel Parejo Moruno (University of Extremadura), José Francisco Rangel Preciado (University of Extremadura) — *Cork as a strategic material. North Africa and World War II*
Dacil Juif (University of Carlos III Madrid), Laura Maravall (Universidad de Alcala) — *Schools across Empires: Colonial Legacies and Postcolonial Educational Inequality in Morocco*

Session B3: Money and Currencies

Tinashe Nyamunda (University of Glasgow), Mariusz Lukasiewicz (Leipzig University) — *Gold, Coins and Conflict: British – Transvaal Currency Contests and the Minting of the South African war, 1891-1899*
Alessandro De Cola (University of Vienna) — *Mapping a Stateless Currency: The Maria Theresa Thaler and the Monetary Geography of the Western Indian Ocean, 1753–1970*
Enrique Martino (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia) — *Ghost Units and Corporate Ledgers: Rethinking Price Data in the Gulf of Guinea (1680–1920)*
Alexander Moradi (University of Bozen-Bolzano), Lauren Coetzee (University of Luxembourg), Alessandro De Cola (University of Vienna), Karin Pallaver (Bologna), Edward Kerby (Stellenbosch University) — *Bead Currency Areas in Pre-colonial Africa*

Session B4: States and Taxation

Laura Channing (Durham University) — *Who paid colonial taxes? Freetown's taxpayers in 1925*
Samuël Coghe (Ghent University) — *To Register, to Count and to Tax: Cattle Policies and Colonial Extraction in French Madagascar*
Sean Bradley Cooper (MBS School of Business) and Niamh M. Brennan (University College Dublin) — *Native Taxation and Coerced Labor to Sustain a Chartered Company Colony: Subjugation by Design*
Johan Fourie (Stellenbosch University), Munashe Chideya (Stellenbosch University) — *Building the Colonial State: Bureaucratic Expansion and the Glen Grey Act in the Cape Colony, 1892-1902*

Parallel Session C: Friday 15.30-17.00

Session C1: Domestic Trade Networks and Merchants

Louise Barré (Ghent University), Samuël Coghe (Ghent University) — *Provisioning Central Africa's Cities: The Cattle and Beef Trade to Brazzaville and Kinshasa (1920s-1970s)*

Guilherme Lambais (University of Porto), Leonard Wantchekon (Princeton University and African School of Economics) — *Les Agoudas: Pre-colonial business networks and intergenerational mobility of liberated returnees*

Paola Marrero Rodríguez (Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria) — *From Sail to Containers: Maritime Connectivity and Trade in Cabo Verde, 1890–2019*

Session C2: Living Standards

Lauren Coetzee (University of Luxembourg) — *Beads, Guns, and Language Models: An LLM-Assisted Approach to Precolonial African Commodity Exchange*

Josephine Tierney (University of Manchester) — *Creating Consumers: Understanding Lever Brothers' Congolese Plantations as Sites of Consumption, 1911-1930s*

Sascha Klocke (Lund University) — *What's in a Welfare Ratio? Revisiting Real Wages in Colonial East Africa*

Session C3: Migration

Donatella Strangio (Sapienza University of Rome) — *Italian migrants recruited in the interwar years: empire, labor mobilizatiin and propaganda*

Hamdi Genç (İstabul Medeniyet University), Ali Aslan (Ministry of National Education, Türkiye) and Musa Demirdağ (Independent scholar) — *Migration from Ottoman Territories to the African Continent during the Age of Global Migration (1880–1915)*

Bezawit Abebe (University of Gothenburg) — *Selective Internal Migration to the Capital: Evidence from the 1984 Ethiopian Census*

Session C4: Slave Trade to Post-slavery

Pietro Querci (University of Bolzano and University of Trento) — *The Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Instability of African States*

Gerard Farrell (Trinity College Dublin) — *Mercantilism without Muscle: The Swedish Africa Company (1649–1663) and the Limits of Market Efficiency on the Gold Coast*

Tom Westland (University of Groningen) — *Slaveholders to speculators: the transformation of the urban property market in Saint-Louis, Senegal, 1850-1910*

Social Event 1: Friday 18.00 - late

There are three alternative social events on Friday evening.

Social event 1a: The Conference Football Match

This social event offers a 7-a-side football game at Heden, one of Gothenburg's main outdoor sports grounds. Those registered to play, as well as anyone who would like to come along and watch, are welcome.

Kondwani Happy Ngoma will meet participants at the **entrance of the conference venue** (Viktoriagatan 13) at **17.30 on Friday the 23rd**. The group will leave for Heden at approximately **17.35**, and the walk takes around 15 minutes. Participants may also make their own way and meet the group directly at the pitch at approximately **17.50**. This will allow time to change and organize the teams before the game begins at **18.00**. The game will take place at **Heden, Pitch No. 1 (artificial turf), Half-Pitch 1**, at Sten Sturegatan 1. Changing facilities are available at Heden. Players should bring their kit and suitable football shoes with them to the conference venue. Football bibs are expected to be available at Heden. Heden is also approximately a 15-minute walk from Gothenburg city centre, with a number of options nearby for food or drinks after the game.

Social event 1b: Walking-tour to Gothenburg's economic history

As part of the conference's social programme, participants are invited to join a guided walking tour of some of the key sites in Gothenburg's economic history. The tour will be led by Per Hallén, Senior Lecturer at the Unit for Economic History whose research expertise centres on Gothenburg's economic history.
The tour is free of charge. Registered participants will meet Per at the **entrance to the conference venue** (Viktoriagatan 13) at **18.00 on Friday the 23rd**, and the tour will depart from there.

Social event 1c: Microbrewery beer-tasting

This social event entails a visit to the microbrewery Majornas Bryggeri for beer-tasting and a short tour of their brewery (https://majornasbryggeri.se/provning.html). Participation costs **499 SEK per person**, which includes the tour and four taster glasses of beer, and is paid on site at the microbrewery. The local AEHN committee is not subsidizing participation in this event, so the fee has to be paid in full by participants themselves. Participation needs to be registered in advance to klas.ronnback@econhist.gu.se.

The microbrewery is a short tram-ride away from the conference venue. Confirmed participants can meet up with Klas Rönnbäck at the **entrance of the conference venue** (Viktoriagatan 13), at **17.30 on Friday the 23rd**, and we head over there together by tram. One can also go there directly oneself: then take tram number 3 from Vasa/Viktoriagatan, close to the conference venue (or tram 9 from other locations), and get off at the stop Chapmans Torg. Continue in the same direction as the tram for around 100 meters, and the microbrewery is on the left-hand side.

Parallel Session D: Saturday 10.00-12.00

Session D1: Long-Term Development and Structural Transformation

Leigh Gardner (London School of Economics and Political Science), Stephen Broadberry (University of Oxford) — *Comparative Long Run Development in Sub-Saharan Africa: Estimates of Real and Nominal GDP in Eight Countries Since 1885*

Pietro Querci (University of Bolzano and University of Trento), Alexander Moradi (University of Bolzano): *Feeding the state, the consequences of maize introduction on Africa state formation*

Ewout Frankema (Wageningen University), Tom Westland (Wageningen University) — *South-South Divergence: How Southeast Asia and Tropical Africa grew apart before the Green Revolution*

Session D2: Land, Natural Resources and Agriculture

Samuel Uwem Umoh (University of Hradec Králové), Pedro Valery Odior (EDUVOS, South Africa), Aluko Opeyemi Idowu (Ajayi Crowther University) — *Raffia Palm Industries in the Economy of Precolonial and Colonial Annang Nigeria, 19th Century*

Adrià Mateu-Romero (University of Mannheim) — *The Legacy of Rubber: The Persistent Effects of Colonial Extractive Systems in the Democratic Republic of Congo*

Erik Green (Lund University), Igor Martins (LU), Stefan Grab (University of Witwatersrand) — *Rainfall, Wealth Inequality and Agricultural Output in Eighteenth Century Cape Colony*

Stefania Galli (University of Gothenburg), Giulia Martini (University of Gothenburg) — *Land, Custom, and the Colonial Court: Tenure and Conflicts in Southern Ghana, 1860–1940*

Session D3: Commodity Economies, Trade, and Global Markets

Rebecca Simson (University of Oxford), Denis Cogneau (Paris School of Economics) — *Africa Declining and Rising and the Global Commodity Cycle*

Molly Kiniry (University of Cambridge) — *Volatility and non-volatility in postcolonial African growth rates*

Federico Tadei (University of Barcelona) — *Colonial Legacies in Global Markets: Import Pricing and Market Power in Africa after Independence*

Cristián Ducoing (Public University of Navarre & Lund University), Tobias Axelsson, (Lund University) — *Technological Vulnerability: The Impact of Rubber and Sugar Price Collapses in the Global South*

Session D4: Shocks and Economic Adjustment

Gareth Austin (University of Cambridge) — *Worst Case to Best Case: Lessons from Ghana 1973-92*

Simbai Masikinye (University of Cambridge) — *"It is our money that Southern Rhodesia is after." A Northern Rhodesian Perspective on the Establishment of the Central African Federation in 1953*

Belinda Archibong (Johns Hopkins University), Chinemelu Okafor (Harvard University), Evans Osabuohien (Covenant University CEPDeR and DIaDeRC) and Tom Moerenhou (Columbia University) — *Protest Matters: The Effects of Protests on Economic Redistribution*

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

Parallel Session E: Saturday 13.00-14.30

Session E1: Slavery and other Coercive Labour Regimes (1)

Lauren Stevens-Harris (Stellenbosch University), Calumet Links (Stellenbosch University) — *The 1713 Smallpox Epidemic and Manumission at the Cape Colony*
Ellen Hillbom (Lund University) — *The Long-Term Effects of Indentured Labour Conditions and Incomes in Mauritius*
Jonathan Jenner (University of Manitoba and University of Johannesburg), Peter Gitau (Max Planck Institute) — The *Native Reserve System as Labour Coercion in Colonial Kenya, 1926-1963*

Session E2: Human Capital (1)

Furnandy Jade Henn (University of the Western Cape) — *Measuring the Long-Term Socio-Economic Outcomes of Inhabitants at South African Mission Stations*
Gabriel Brown (Lund University), Lisa Martin (Stellenbosch University) — *No Church in the Wild? Mission Stations and Education in Africa*
Felix Meier zu Selhausen (Utrecht University), Shane Doyle (Leeds University), Auke Rijpma (Utrecht University) — *Patients, Pathologies and Healing at Ugandan Hospitals: Evidence from Inpatient Records, 1897-1945*

Session E3 — Capital and Business, part 1

Gijs Dreijer (Erasmus University Rotterdam) — *Dutch Capital Investments and Economic Competition in Southern Africa (1875-1920)*
Bernard Kusena (University of Zimbabwe) — *A Historical Analysis of the of the Non-mandatory Character of Corporate Social Responsibility in the Extractive Industry in Zimbabwe, 1963-2023*
Kondwani Happy Ngoma (Stockholm School of Economics) — *Constructive Neutrality? Firms, Apartheid, and the Mediation of Economic Statecraft, 1960-1990*

Session E4 — States and governance, part 1

Oliver Brufal (University of Groningen), Jutta Bolt (University of Groningen) — *The Political Economy of Local Governance in Colonial Nigeria*
Loveday Enyinnaya Ogbuleke (National Research Tomsk State University) — *The Early British Involvement in The Gambia: Motivations, Interactions, and Limitations (1800-1850)*
Munashe Chideya (Stellenbosch University), Edward Kerby (Stellenbosch University) — *Speed Money, Access Money, and State Formation: Evidence from the Cape Colony*

Parallel Session F: Saturday 15.00-16.30

Session F1: Slavery and other Coercive Labour Regimes (2)

Mohammed Bashir Salau (University of Mississippi) — *Revenue Generation Through Incarceration: Evaluating Convict Labor in Colonial Nigeria*.

Leo Dolan (University of Groningen) — *Defying Economic Gravity? Reassessing Living Standards in South African Mining through Welfare Ratios, 1911–1979*

Calumet Links (Stellenbosch University), **Anne McCants (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)** — *Slow to Register? Labour Adjustment and Institutional Substitution after the 1807 Slave Import Ban at the Cape Colony*

Session F2: Human Capital (2)

José Antonio Ortega (Universidad de Salamanca) — *Rainfall, economic and health conditions in Colonial Bioko (Fernando Poo), 1924-1960*

Nick Fitzhenry (London School of Economics and Politics) — *Segmented Transitions: A Cause-Specific Decomposition of Racial Mortality Gaps in Late Apartheid South Africa, 1968–1988*

Jeanne Cilliers (Linköping University), Jutta Bolt (University of Groningen) — *Lasting Care? The Long-term Effects of Maternal Health Services in Colonial Tanganyika*

Session F3: Capital and Business (2)

Niamh M. Brennan (University College Dublin), Christopher J. Napier (Royal Holloway London), Sean Bradley Power (MBS School of Business) — *Maps of Rhodesia in the British South Africa Company Annual Reports: Portrayal of Minerals and Natural Resources*

Enrico Berbenni (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano) — *Beyond European Expansion: Egyptian Agency and Italian Banking in the Interwar Economy*

Edward Kerby (Stellenbosch University), Munashe Chideya (Stellenbosch University) and Johan Fourie (Stellenbosch University) — *Power and Patronage: Political Influence and Private Enterprise in the Cape Colony*

Session F4: States and Governance (2)

Chibueze Pipi (King's College London) — *Building and Using Indices to Better Understand Colonial Nigerian Mineral Prices*

Phillip Kumbirai Jonhera (Economic History Society Southern Africa) — *Dual Economic Structures and Colonial Inequality in Southern Africa: Implications for Industrialization, 1890–2000*

Prince Young Aboagye (Lund University) — *Austerity and African Agency in the Gold Coast, 1930-1939*

Closing Keynote: Saturday 16.45-18.00

Room: Viktoriasalen, Viktoriagatan 13
Closing keynote speech: **Prof. Jutta Bolt (London School of Economics):** *From Persistence to Transformation: Diversity in African Development Paths*

Jutta Bolt is a professor of global economic history at the University of Groningen, in the Netherlands. She is the chair of the executive committee of the board of the African Economic History Network. Her research interest are long-run economic growth and development with a focus on developing regions, to a great extent focusing on African economic history. Current research projects include understanding long-term health inequalities in Sub-Saharan Africa and understanding the historical origins of present-day income inequality in Africa.

Information about next AEHN conference: Felix Meier zu Selhausen

Closing & goodbye: Klas Rönnbäck (University of Gothenburg)

Social Event 2: Saturday 18.00 - late

Buffet and drinks reception

After the closing keynote, the local organizing committee invites all conference participants to a buffet dinner and drinks reception in the piazza of the conference venue. The buffet will feature a selection of Swedish dishes, including vegetarian and vegan options. Dietary requirements and food allergies previously communicated to the organizers will be accommodated. The dinner will have a mainly standing format, with a limited number of seats available and no assigned seating

Practical Information

Venue

The conference will take place at Viktoriagatan 13 (ground floor), School of Business, Economics and Law, Gothenburg. Registration will be open from 8.30 on Friday morning.

Organising committee

Klas Rönnbäck
Klas Rönnbäck is Professor in Economic History, with a research interest in the history of slavery and colonialism. Prof. Rönnbäck is the managing editor of Economic History of Developing Regions since January 2026.

Stefania Galli
Stefania Galli is Associate Professor in Economic History at Gothenburg University. Her research focuses on the intersection between inequality and institutions, with a focus on colonialism.

Kondwani Happy Ngoma
Kondwani Happy Ngoma is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Center for Statecraft and Strategic Communication (CSSC) at the Stockholm School of Economics, with research interests in business history and the dynamics of risk management in state–business relations in 20th and 21st century Africa.

Bezawit Abebe
Bezawit Abebe is a PhD candidate in the Economic History unit at the University of Gothenburg, with her research centered on Ethiopia's economic and social history throughout the 20th century.

Giulia Martini
Giulia Martini is a PhD candidate in Economic history at the University of Gothenburg. Her thesis focuses on women's access to resources in the Gold Coast Colony.

Other information

Other practical information can be found on the department's webpages for the conference: https://www.gu.se/en/economy-society/19th-annual-meeting-of-the-african-economic-history-network