

# Morten Jerven

B.Sc. (Budapest), M.Sc., Ph.D. (LSE)

[Assistant Professor](#)

[School for International Studies, Simon Fraser University](#)

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## Education:

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**2005 – 2008**                      **London School of Economics, PhD Economic History**

Thesis Title: 'African Economic Growth Reconsidered: Measurement and Performance in East-Central Africa, 1965-1995'

Supervisor: Dr. Gareth M. Austin

**2003 – 2004**                      **London School of Economics, MSc Economic History**

Thesis Title: 'Dynamics of Growth in Post-Colonial Sub-Saharan Africa'

Supervisor: Dr. Gareth M. Austin

**1999 – 2003**                      **Corvinus University of Budapest, BSc International Economics**

Thesis Title: 'The International Monetary Fund, Structural Adjustment and Developing Countries. Case Study: Tanzania'

Supervisor: Prof Tamas Szentes

**1998 – 1999**                      **University of Oslo**

Intellectual History

## Publications and Research Contributions:

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### Monographs

[Poor Numbers: How we are misled by African development statistics and what to do about it.](#) Book forthcoming with Cornell University Press (scheduled for March 2013 publication).

### Chapters in edited volumes

'Economic Growth' in *Oxford Handbook of Modern African History* edited by John Parker and Richard Reid, forthcoming.

## Articles in Refereed Journals

1. [The Relativity of Poverty and Income: How Reliable Are African Economic Statistics?](#), *African Affairs*, 109:434, pp. 77-96, 2010.
2. [Random Growth in Africa? Lessons from an Evaluation of the Growth Evidence on Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia, 1965–1995](#), *Journal of Development Studies*, 46:2, pp. 274 – 294, 2010.
3. [Accounting for the African Growth Miracle: The official Evidence, Botswana 1965-1995](#), *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 36:1, pp. 73-94, 2010.
4. [African Growth Recurring: An Economic History Perspective on African Growth Episodes, 1690-2010](#). *Economic History of Developing Regions*, 25:2, pp. 127-154, 2010.
5. Social Capital as a Determinant of Economic Growth in Africa, *Africa Review*, 2, 2, pp. 139-162, 2010.
6. [The Quest for the African Dummy: Explaining African Post-Colonial Economic Performance Revisited](#), *Journal of International Development*.23:2, pp. 288-307, 2011.
7. [Revisiting the Consensus on Kenyan Economic Growth, 1964-1995](#), *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, 5:1, pp. 2-23, 2011.
8. [Users and Producers of African Income: Measuring African Progress](#), *African Affairs*, 110:439, pp. 169–190, 2011.
9. [Growth, Stagnation or Retrogression? On the Accuracy of Economic Observations, Tanzania, 1961-2001](#), *Journal of African Economies*, 20:3, pp. 377-394, 2011.
10. [A Clash of Disciplines? Economists and Historians Approaching the African Past](#), *Economic History of Developing Regions*, 26:2, pp. 111-124, 2011.
11. [Un demi-siècle de fictions de croissance en Afrique](#) (with Béatrice Hibou and Boris Samuel), *Politique Africaine*, 124, pp. 29 – 43. 2011.
12. [Counting the Bottom Billion: Measuring the Wealth and Progress of African Economies](#), *World Economics*, 12: 4, pp. 35 – 52. 2011.
13. [An Unlevel Playing Field: National Income Estimates and Reciprocal Comparison in Global Economic History](#), *Journal of Global History*, 7: 1, pp. 107 – 128, 2012.
14. [Revising GDP Estimates in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons from Ghana](#) (with Magnus Ebo Duncan). *African Statistical Journal*. 15, pp 12-24, 2012.
15. [Comparability of GDP Estimates in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Effect of Revisions in Sources and Methods Since Structural Adjustment](#), *Review of Income and Wealth*. Early view.
16. [For Richer, For Poorer: GDP Revisions and Africa’s Statistical Tragedy](#), *African Affairs*. Early view.

## Reports/Working Papers

[“Social Capital as a Determinant of African Growth”](#). *Ratio Working Papers* No. 108. Stockholm: Ratio Institute, 2006. 29 pp.

[“Prospects for Growth in Africa: Learning from Patterns of Long-Term Economic Change”](#) prepared for the launch of the LSE IDEAS Africa International Affairs Programme, March 2010 published in Strategic Update 4.

“Economics in Society.” In [Horse and Sparrow](#). Vernon: Vernon Art Gallery, 2010.

[“African Growth Recurring: An Economic History Perspective on African Growth Episodes, 1690-2010.”](#) Simons Papers in Security and Development, No. 4/2010, School for International Studies, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, June 2010.

[“Users and Producers of African Income: Measuring African Progress”](#), Simons Papers in Security and Development, No. 7/2010, School for International Studies, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, June 2010.

[“Comparing colonial and post-colonial output: Challenges in estimating African economic change in the long run”](#), Center of Global Economic History Working Paper Series, No. 10, Utrecht University, June 2011.

[“Rethinking economic statistics: Lessons from Sub-Saharan Africa”](#) (with Gerardo Serra), *Re-Public*.

[“Controversy, Facts and Assumptions: Lessons from Estimating Long Term Growth in Nigeria, 1900–2007”](#) Simons Papers in Security and Development, No. 13/2011, School for International Studies, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, August 2011.

[“The Political Economy of Fertilizer Subsidies and Agricultural Output Data: Evidence from India, Nigeria and Malawi”](#), Simons Papers in Security and Development, No. 18/2012, School for International Studies, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, March 2012.

“Recurring Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa: Learning from patterns of long term economic change”, *Chinese Social Sciences Today*, September 5, Page B5, foreign ideas.

(In Chinese: 莫顿·杰文, 2012. 重新审视非洲经济增长的历史. 中国社会科学报, 9月5日, B5版, 域外。)

[“Moving Forward in African Economic History: Bridging the Gap in Methods and Sources”](#), (with Austin, Gareth; Green, Erik; Uche, Chibuike; Frankema, Ewout; Fourie, Johan; Inikori, Joseph E.; Moradi, Alexander and Hillbom, Ellen) African Economic History Network, Working Paper No. 1, 2012.

[“Future challenges in measuring Africa’s past: Lessons from estimating GDP for the Gold Coast, 1891-1954”](#), African Economic History Network, Working Paper No. 3, 2012.

[“Recurring Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa: Learning from patterns of long term economic change”](#), *The Nordic Africa Development Policy Forum*. September 27, 2012

## **Book Reviews**

Review of ‘Globalization and Poverty’ (3 Volumes) Paul Collier and Jan Willem Gunning in the *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, vol. 11, no. 1, Feb 2010.

## **Reference Works**

Entries on “Capitalism: Africa”, “Development, Industrial: Africa”, “Land: Africa”, “Poverty: Africa” and “World Economy” in *Oxford Encyclopaedia of the Modern World*, ed. Peter N. Stearns. 8 vols. London and New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Entry on “Economy – Kenya”. In *The World and Its Peoples* (Volume 4, Eastern Africa). Oxford: BCS Publishing, 2010. pp. 536-539.

## **Invited Talks**

“Poor Numbers! What do we know about income and growth in Sub-Saharan Africa?” presented at the Centre of African Studies, SOAS, London, 3 October 2011.

and; University of Oklahoma Economics Seminar, 28 October 2011.

and; Center of Global Development, Washington DC. 17 November 2011.

and: Fafu Institute for Applied International Studies, Oslo, 12 December 2011.

“Some New Directions in African History” presented at the Department of History and the Department of Government, University of Texas at Austin, 27 October 2011.

“Historical sources for economic change and development: Macroeconomic measures in African Economic History” presented at the African Economic History Network at Lund University, 16 December 2011.

“Future Challenges in Measuring Africa’s Past: Lessons from estimating GDP for the Gold Coast, 1891-1954” presented at the Economic History Seminar, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, May 24, 2012.

## **Conference Presentations**

“Regressions on African Growth” presented at the African Economic History Workshop, LSE May 2006.

“Social Capital as a determinant of African Growth” presented at the Ratio Institute, Stockholm, August 2006.

“National Accounts in Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania – A Comparative Review of the Methodology and Evidence and the Implications for Growth Time Series” presented at the African Economic History Workshop, LSE May 2007.

“The Quest for the African Dummy” presented at the Economic History Society Annual Conference University of Nottingham 28 – 30 March 2008.

“Explaining Growth in Africa: The Methodology and the Evidence” presented at the Sound Economic History Workshop, Lund University, 23 Nov. 2007.  
and; 11th Conference of Africanists, Moscow, Russia 22-24 May, 2008  
and; African Studies Association UK Conference - Sept, Preston 2008.

“Accounting for the African Growth Miracle: The official evidence, Botswana 1965-1995” presented at the African Economic History Workshop at LSE April 2008.

“Users and Producers of African Income: A Measurement Perspective” presented at the London School of Economics, African Anthropology Seminar, February, 2009  
and; at the School of Oriental and African Studies, African History Seminar, April, 2009.  
and; at the London School of Economics, DESTIN, March 2010.

“The African Growth Evidence: Validity, Reliability and Measurement Bias in East- Central Africa, 1965-1995” presented at the Center for the Study of African Economics, St Catherine's College, Oxford, 22nd - 24th March 2009.

“Colonial Copper and Post-Colonial Diamonds: Boom and Bust in Zambia and Botswana Compared, 1900–2000” presented at the African Economic History Workshop at LSE May 2009.  
and; European Conference for Africa Studies, Leipzig, 4-7 June 2009.  
and; World Economic History Congress, Utrecht, 3-7 August 2009.  
and; North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, Burlington, Vermont, April 2010.  
and; Economic and Business Historical Society Conference, Braga, May 2010.

“The African Growth Evidence: Reliability, Validity and Volatility” presented the World Economic History Congress, Utrecht, 3-7 August 2009.

“The African Diaspora and Economic Development” presented at the African on Focus on Africa - Africa and its Diasporas, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, September 2009.

“Controversy, facts and assumptions: population growth and agricultural productivity in Nigeria, 1911-2006” presented at the African Economic History Workshop at LSE, April 2010,  
and; HEDG workshop, School of Oriental and African Studies, June 2010-09-24,  
and; African Studies Association UK Conference, Oxford, Aug. 2010.

“African Growth Recurring: An Economic History Perspective on African Growth Episodes, 1690-2010.” Presented at African Studies Association US Conference, San Francisco, Nov. 2010.

“Comparing colonial and post-colonial output: Challenges in estimating African economic change in the long run” presented at the Third European Congress on World and Global History, LSE April, 2011.

“The Political Economy of Fertilizer Subsidies and Agricultural Output Data: Evidence from India, Nigeria and Malawi” presented at the African Economic History Workshop at Graduate Institute Geneva, May 2011.

and; African Studies Association US Conference, Washington DC, Nov. 2011.

“Revising per capita GDP Estimates in Sub-Saharan Africa: From Structural Adjustment to SNA 2008” presented at the 2011 IARIW-SSA Conference on Measuring National Income, Wealth, Poverty, and Inequality in African Countries, Cape Town, September 28-October 1, 2011.

and; World Economic History Congress, Stellenbosch, 8-13 July 2012.

“External Trade and Economic Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa, 1895-1965: Some preliminary estimates”, Conference on Trade, Poverty and Growth in History, 17-18 May 2012, Madrid.

“Perils, Pitfalls and Potential of National Income Accounting: African Experience over the 20th Century” presented at the Centre for African Studies Annual International Conference, University of Edinburgh, 6th – 8th June 2012.

and; World Economic History Congress, Stellenbosch, 8-13 July 2012.

and: African Studies Association UK, Leeds, 6-8 September 2012,

“The Slow Spread of Industrialization in Sub-Saharan Africa: From Colonization to the Present”, presented at the World Economic History Congress, Stellenbosch, 8-13 July 2012.

“The missing link: Reconstructing African population growth, 1850-present”, presented at the World Economic History Congress, Stellenbosch, 8-13 July 2012 (with Ewout Frankema).

and: African Studies Association UK, Leeds, 6-8 September 2012,

and; African Economic History Workshop, Geneva, 10-12 September 2012.

“Moving Forward in African Economic History: Bridging the Gap in Methods and Sources”, presented at the World Economic History Congress, Stellenbosch, 8-13 July 2012 (with the African Economic History Network)

“Government, trade, population and economic growth in the Gold Coast and Ghana, c. 1890 - 2010”, presented at African Economic History Workshop, Geneva, 10-12 September 2012.

“Poor Numbers. How We Are Misled by African Development Statistics and What to Do about It”, African Studies Association Conference US, Philadelphia, November 2012.

### **Panels Organized and Chaired**

“Historical Roots of Poverty and Well-Being in Developing Countries“, World Economic History Congress, Utrecht, 3-7 August 2009. (with Alexander Moradi).

“Historical Roots of Poverty and Well-Being in African Countries“, Third European Conference on African Studies, Leipzig, Germany, 4-7 June 2009. (with Alexander Moradi and Gareth Austin).

“Evaluating the 20th Century in Africa: Linking Colonial and Post-Colonial Economic Development”, African Studies Association UK Conference, Oxford, Aug. 2010.

“New African Economic History” African Studies Association US Conference, San Francisco, Nov. 2010.

“Colonial Legacies in Africa and Asia: Accumulation, Extraction and Investment Compared”, Third European Congress on World and Global History, LSE April, 2011.

Organized and co-chaired the First meeting in the African Economic History Network with Erik Green at Lund University, 16-17 December 2011.

“Planning and Measurement in African Development” Centre for African Studies Annual International Conference, University of Edinburgh, 6–8 June 2012 (with Gerardo Serra).

“New African Economic History”, World Economic History Congress, Stellenbosch, 8-13 July 2012 (with Erik Green).

“The Data Base for African Economic Development 20 years on: What have we learned?” A stream of four panels organized with Deborah Johnston at African Studies Association UK, Leeds, 6-8 September 2012.

### **Academic Teaching and Work Experience:**

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|-------------|---|
| <b>2012</b> | <b>Assistant Professor, School for International Studies, Simon Fraser University</b><br><br>IS450 Seminar on Global Problems in Interdisciplinary Perspective<br>IS324 African Economic Development: Theory and Practice<br>IS 888 MA Project Supervision<br>IS 490/499 Honours Seminar and Honours Essay (4 Students)   |
| <b>2011</b> | <b>Assistant Professor, School for International Studies, Simon Fraser University</b><br><br>IS802 The Political Economy of Development – A Historical Perspective<br>IS801 Institutions, Policies and Development<br>IS800 Problems in International Development Policy and Practice<br>IS450 Seminar on Global Problems in Interdisciplinary Perspective<br>IS410 Institutions, Policies and Development<br>IS324 African Economic Development: Theory and Practice<br>IS220 Wealth and Poverty of Nations<br>IS101 Introduction to International Studies<br>IS 888 MA Project Supervision<br>IS 490/499 Honours Seminar and Honours Essay (4 Students) |
| <b>2010</b> | <b>Assistant Professor, School for International Studies, Simon Fraser University</b>   |

IS101 Introduction to International Studies  
IS429/809 African Economic Development: Theory and Practice  
IS 408/418/428 Directed Readings (2)  
IS 888 MA Project Supervision

**2009**                    **Assistant Professor, School for International Studies, Simon Fraser University**

IS101 Introduction to International Studies  
IS802 Political Economy of Development

**2008**                    **Associate Professor, American Institute for Foreign Study,**

EC300 Comparative Economic Systems

**2008**                    **Adjunct Assistant Professor, Richmond, The American International University in London,**  
EC353 Economic Problems of Developing Countries

**2008**                    **Lecturer, London Metropolitan University,**

UG Year 3 International Economic History Since 1870  
UG Year 1 International Economic Growth from 1850

**2008 – 2009**           **Research Assistant, London School of Economics,**

US productivity growth since 1890 with Dr. Bakker and Prof. Crafts

**2007 – 2009**           **Graduate Teaching Assistant, London School of Economics,**

EH220 Comparative Economic Development: Late Industrialisation in Russia, India and Japan with Prof. Janet Hunter and Dr. Tirthankar Roy

## **Awards/Funding granted:**

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International Economic History Association Dissertation Prize, nominated in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century category at the World Economic History Congress, Stellenbosch, 8-13 July 2012.

Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Sweden, Research Network Grant, 'The Origins of (mis)Fortune: Long-term trends in Africa's economic development since 19<sup>th</sup> century', Project Leader: Erik Green, Foreign Partner: Morten Jerven, Awarded \$51,000 (2011-2013)

Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada, Standard Research Grant, 'Measuring African progress: validity and reliability of African statistics and the study of African long term development', Awarded \$62,500 (2010-2013)

Simon Fraser University, Rapid Publication Fund (2012).

Tog A Skaugs Researchfund (2011)

Professor Wilhelm Keilhaus Grant (2010)

Simon Fraser University, Endowed Research Fellowship (2009)

Simon Fraser University, President's Research Start-up Grant (2009)

Erasmus Mundus 'Outgoing Mobility' (Stellenbosch 2008)

Norway Bank Fund for Economic Research (2008)

Economic History Association Exploratory Grant (2007)

Radwan Travel and Discovery Fund, (LSE 2007)

Conradi Grant (Independent, 2005- 2008) Annual.

Hambro Grant (University of Bergen, 2005 & 2008)

Best GPA, Budapest University of Economic Sciences (2000, 2002, 2003)

## Other:

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**Languages:** Norwegian (Mother tongue)  
English (Fluent)  
Hungarian (Good working knowledge)  
German (Good working knowledge)  
Kiswahili (For research)  
French (For research)

**Reviewer:** *African Affairs, Economic History Review, Explorations in Economic History, Canadian Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Rural and Community Development, British Journal of Political Science, Journal of Institutional Economics and Review of International Organizations.*

Reviewed (2) book proposals for Oxford University Press, one book manuscript for James Currey and Zed Books.

Faculty Editor/Advisor for *Undercurrent*  
Reviewed book chapter for the Africa Taskforce of Nobel Laureate Stiglitz' Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD) in July 2009.

**Research:** August-September 2010, Visiting Researcher at Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala.  
September-December 2010, Visiting Fellow at Economic History Department, LSE.  
April 2011, Visiting Researcher at Economic History Department, LSE.

## Field Research:

Tanzania, Zambia, Burundi, Uganda and Kenya (Spring 2005).  
Botswana, Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya (Spring 2007).  
Ghana and Nigeria (Spring 2010).  
Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia (Fall 2010).

## Monthly Columnist:

'Kron og Mynt' (Heads and Tails), in the Norwegian daily *Klassekampen*.

## Network:

Cofounder of the African Economic History Network and editor of the African Economic History Newsletter (<http://www.aehnetwork.org/>)

## Recent Media Coverage:

[The Guardian](#), [African Arguments](#), [Marginal Revolution](#) (Tyler Cowen's blog), [BBC 4](#), [Econtalk](#), [Washington Post](#), [Bloomberg Businessweek](#) and [Foreign Policy](#).