

Morten Jerven

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Education:

London School of Economics, PhD Economic History, 2009
London School of Economics, MSc Economic History, 2004
Corvinus University of Budapest, BSc International Economics, 2003

Employment:

Simon Fraser University
Assistant Professor, 2009-2013.
Associate Professor, 2013-.

Publications:

Monographs

Poor Numbers: How we are misled by African development statistics and what to do about it. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2013.

Economic Growth and Measurement Reconsidered in Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia, 1965-1995, Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2014.

Africa's Growth Tragedy or Africa Rising? How Economists Are Misunderstanding Growth in Africa, London; New York : Zed Books, forthcoming 2014.

Chapters in edited volumes

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

'The Emergence of Capitalism in Africa' in *Cambridge History of Capitalism* edited by Larry Neal Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

'Measuring Economic Progress in the African Context' in *Handbook of Africa and Economics* edited by Celestin Monga and Justin Lin, Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

Guest Editor of Special Issues

‘Statistical Tragedy in Africa? Evaluating the Data Base for African Economic Development’ in *Journal of Development Studies* (with Deborah Johnston), forthcoming 2014.

‘Measuring African Progress: Past and Present’ in *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, forthcoming 2013.

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.
Republished in *L'Economie politique* n° 059 - Juillet 2013
12. [Counting the Bottom Billion: Measuring the Wealth and Progress of African Economies](#), *World Economics*, 12: 4, pp. 35 – 52. 2011.
13. [An Uneven 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*, 112:446. pp 138-147, 2013.
17. [Reading economics: the role of mainstream economics in international development studies today](#), *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, forthcoming.

18. [The Political Economy of Agricultural Statistics and Input Subsidies: Evidence from India, Nigeria and Malawi](#), *Journal of Agrarian Change*, forthcoming.
19. Writing History Backwards or Sideways: Towards a Consensus on African Population, 1850-present (with Ewout Frankema), *Economic History Review*, forthcoming.

Professional Affiliations:

Visiting Researcher, Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, 2010.
Visiting Fellow, Economic History, London School of Economics, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2013.
Research Associate, African Studies Center, School for Oriental and African Studies, 2013.
Co-founder and editor, African Economic History Network, 2010-.

Reviewer:

African Affairs, Economic History Review, Explorations in Economic History, Canadian Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Political Economy, British Journal of Political Science, Journal of Institutional Economics and Review of International Organizations, Public Choice, South African Historical Journal, Journal of Economic Policy Reform, Journal of Rural and Community Development, Undercurrent, Economic and Social Research Council, Israel Science Foundation, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Oxford University Press, James Currey and Zed Books.

Research Grants and Awards:

Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada, Insight Grant, 2013-2018
International Development Research Center, Small Grant, 2013
Global Venture Fund, 2013
Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada, Connection Grant, 2013
Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Sweden, Research Network Grant, 2011-2013
Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada, Standard Research Grant, 2010-2013
Simon Fraser University Funds: Conference Funding, Rapid Publication Fund 2012, Endowed Research Fellowship 2009, President's Research Start-up Grant 2009, Vice President Research Travel Grant 2010 and 2012, Work Study Grants (2009-2013), VPR Social Sciences & Humanities Undergraduate Student Research Award (5 times) and VPR Social Sciences & Humanities Graduate Student Research Award 2013.
Various Small Grants: I og A Skaugs Researchfund (2011), Professor Wilhelm Keilhaus Grant (2010), 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 (2005- 2008), Hambro Grant (University of Bergen, 2005 & 2008)

Awards:

International Economic History Association Dissertation Prize. Nominated in the 20th Century category at the World Economic History Congress, Stellenbosch, 8-13 July 2012.
Best GPA, Budapest University of Economic Sciences (2000, 2002, 2003)

Invited Talks:

Annual African Studies Lecture, African Studies Centre, Leiden, The Netherlands, 7 November, 2013.

Panel Discussion on “Towards Better Economic Policy Making in Africa: The Criticality of Sound Data ” The Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, 11-13 October.

Opening Statement, Inauguration Meeting of the Continental Steering Committee (CSC) for the African Project for the Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts, 18 September 2013, Addis Ababa Ethiopia.

Invited to speak in a session on Economic Statistics at the annual DFID Economist Conference, 18-20 September, London, UK.

Poor Numbers: How We Are Misled by African Development Statistics and What to Do about It presented at: Centre of African Studies, SOAS, London, 3 October 2011; University of Oklahoma Economics Seminar, 28 October 2011; Center of Global Development, Washington DC. 17 November 2011; Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies, Oslo, 12 December 2011; Cornell University 11 April 2013; School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins, Washington DC 23 April 2013, Center for West African Studies in Birmingham on 7 May 2013, the Royal African Society London, UK 8 May 2013; Oxford University 13 May 2013; Graduate Institute Geneva 15 May 2013; CERI and Sciences Po Paris 16 May 2013, OECD and PARIS21, 17 May 2013; Cambridge University, 20 May 2013; Sussex University, Institute of Development Studies 21 May 2013; London School of Economics 22 May 2013, Overseas Development Institute 23 May 2013; Center of Global Development, Washington DC 30 May, 2013; University of Washington, Tacoma, 6 June 2013, University of Life Sciences, Norway, 13 and 14 August, 2013; Statistics Norway, 19 August, 2013; Michigan University, 9 September 2013; University of Edinburg, 18 September, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 3 October 2013.

“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.

“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.

Conference and Workshop Presentations:

African Economic History Workshop, LSE May 2006; Ratio Institute, Stockholm, August 2006; African Economic History Workshop, LSE May 2007; Economic History Society Annual Conference University of Nottingham March 2008; Sound Economic History Workshop, Lund University November 2007; 11th Conference of Africanists, Moscow, Russia May, 2008; African Studies Association UK Conference September Preston 2008; African Economic History Workshop at LSE April 2008; Center for the Study of African Economics, St Catherine's College, Oxford, March 2009; African Economic History Workshop at LSE May 2009; European Conference for Africa Studies, Leipzig, June 2009; World Economic History Congress, Utrecht, August 2009; North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa, Burlington, Vermont, April 2010; and; Economic and Business Historical Society Conference, Braga, May 2010; African Economic History Workshop at LSE, April 2010; HEDG workshop, School of Oriental and African Studies, June 2010; African Studies Association UK Conference, Oxford, Aug. 2010; African Studies Association US Conference, San Francisco, November 2010; Third European Congress on World and Global History, LSE April, 2011; African Economic History Workshop at Graduate Institute Geneva, May 2011; African Studies Association US Conference, Washington DC, November 2011; IARIW-SSA Conference on Measuring National Income, Wealth, Poverty, and Inequality in African Countries, Cape Town, September -October 2011; Conference on Trade, Poverty and Growth in History, May 2012, Madrid; the Centre for African Studies Annual International Conference, University of Edinburgh, June 2012; World Economic History Congress, Stellenbosch, 8-13 July 2012; African Studies Association UK, Leeds, 6-8 September 2012; African Economic History Workshop, Geneva, 10-12 September 2012; African Studies Association Conference US, Philadelphia, November 2012; European Conference on African Studies, Lisbon, Portugal, June 2013.

Conferences and Panels Organized

[African Economic Development: Measuring Success and Failure](#), Vancouver 18-20 April 2013.

“Historical Roots of Poverty and Well-Being in Developing Countries“, World Economic History Congress, Utrecht, 3-7 August 2009 and at the 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.

Courses Taught:

IS450 Seminar on Global Problems in Interdisciplinary Perspective; IS324 African Economic Development: Theory and Practice; IS802 Political Economy of Development – A Historical Perspective; IS801 Institutions, Policies and Development; IS800 Problems in International Development Policy and Practice; IS410 Institutions, Policies and Development; IS220 Wealth and Poverty of Nations; IS101 Introduction to International Studies; IS 888 MA Project Supervision; IS490/499 Honours Seminar and Honours Essay; IS 408/418/428 Directed Reading; EC300 Comparative Economic Systems; EC353 Economic Problems of Developing Countries; UG Year 3 International Economic History Since 1870; UG Year 1 International Economic Growth from 1850 EH220 Comparative Economic Development: Late Industrialisation in Russia, India and Japan

Other:

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

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*

Media Coverage: [The Guardian](#), [African Arguments](#), [Marginal Revolution](#), [BBC 4](#), [Econtalk](#), [Washington Post](#), [Bloomberg Businessweek](#), [Foreign Policy](#), Chris Blattman, Foreign Affairs, Bill Gates Notes, Radio France International, Jeune Afrique, Nature, The Lancet, Planet Money, Dagens Næringsliv, Vancouver Sun, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, CNN and more.