

Morten Jerven

International Environment and Development Studies, Norwegian University of Life Sciences
&

Economic History, Lund University

Webpage: www.mortenjerven.com; Email: morten.jerven@nmbu.no

Twitter : [@mjerven](https://twitter.com/mjerven)

Education:

London School of Economics, PhD Economic History, January 2005-2009

London School of Economics, MSc Economic History, 2003-2004

Corvinus University of Budapest, BSc International Economics, 2003

Employment:

Norwegian University of Life Sciences

Professor, 2016-

Associate Professor, 2015-2016.

Lund University

Adjunct Professor, 2017-

Simon Fraser University

Associate Professor, 2013-15.

Assistant Professor, 2009-2013.

Professional Affiliations:

Visiting Professor, Aix en Provence, 2015.

Visiting Professor, University of Bordeaux, 2014-2015.

Visiting Scholar, School of Advanced Studies, Johns Hopkins University, 2014.

Fellow, Institute of Advanced Studies, Nantes, 2014-2015.

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-.

Advisory Board Member, The Maddison Project, 2012-.

Editorial Board, African Affairs, 2014-.

Advisor, Independent Evaluation Office, IMF, Washington, DC, 2014-2015.

Expert, United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions, 2014-2015.

List of 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, 2014.

[*Africa: Why Economists Got it Wrong*](#), London; New York : Zed Books, 2015.

Edited Volumes

[*Measuring African Development: Past and Present*](#), Routledge, 2015.

[*Statistical Tragedy in Africa?*](#) (with Deborah Johnston), Routledge, 2015.

Book chapters

‘Economic Growth’ in [*Oxford Handbook of Modern African History*](#) edited by John Parker and Richard Reid, Oxford University Press, 2013.

‘The Emergence of Capitalism in Africa’ in [*Cambridge History of Capitalism*](#) edited by Larry Neal Cambridge University Press, 2014.

‘[Measuring Economic Progress in the African Context](#)’ in *Handbook of Africa and Economics* edited by Celestin Monga and Justin Lin, Oxford University Press, 2014.

‘[Patterns of Manufacturing Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa: From Colonization to the Present](#)’ (with Gareth Austin, G. and Ewout Frankema) in: O’Rourke, K. and J.G. Williamson, eds., *The Spread of Modern Manufacturing to the Periphery, 1870 to the Present*, Oxford University Press: Oxford, 2016.

Editor of Special Journal Issues

Statistical Tragedy in Africa? Evaluating the Data Base for African Economic Development, *Journal of Development Studies* (with Deborah Johnston), 51:2, pp. 111-115

Measuring African Development: Past and Present, *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, 35, 1, pp 1-8, 2014.

Peer-reviewed original articles

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. [An Unlevel Playing Field: National Income Estimates and Reciprocal Comparison in Global Economic History](#), *Journal of Global History*, 7: 1, pp. 107 – 128, 2012.
13. [Revising GDP Estimates in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons from Ghana](#) (with Magnus Ebo Duncan). *African Statistical Journal*. 15, pp 12-24, 2012.
14. [Comparability of GDP Estimates in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Effect of Revisions in Sources and Methods Since Structural Adjustment](#), *Review of Income and Wealth*, 51, S1, pp. S16–S36, 2013.
15. [For Richer, For Poorer: GDP Revisions and Africa's Statistical Tragedy](#), *African Affairs*, 112:446. pp 138-147, 2013.
16. [Reading economics: the role of mainstream economics in international development studies today](#), *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, 34, 3, pp. 431-440, 2013.
17. [The Political Economy of Agricultural Statistics and Input Subsidies: Evidence from India, Nigeria and Malawi](#), *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 14, 1, pp. 129–145, 2014.
18. [Writing History Backwards or Sideways: Towards a Consensus on African Population, 1850-present](#) (with Ewout Frankema), *Economic History Review*, Volume 67, Issue 4, pages 907–931, November 2014
19. [Measuring African Development: Past and Present](#), *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, 35, 1, pp 1-8, 2014.
20. [A West African Experiment: Constructing a GDP Series for Colonial Ghana, 1891-1950](#), *Economic History Review*, Volume 67, Issue 4, pages 964–992, November 2014
21. [On the Accuracy of Trade and GDP Statistics in Africa: Errors of Commission and Omission](#), *Journal of African Trade*, Vol 1, Issue 1, pp, 45–52, 2014.
22. [Statistical Tragedy in Africa? Evaluating the Data Base for African Economic Development](#), *Journal of Development Studies*, (with Deborah Johnston), 51:2, pp. 111-115, 2015
23. [GDP Revisions and Updating Statistical Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa: Reports from the Statistical Offices in Nigeria, Liberia, and Zimbabwe](#) (with Magnus Ebo Duncan, Yemi Kale and Moffat Nyoni), *Journal of Development Studies*, forthcoming. 51:2, pp. 194-207, 2015
24. [Evidence based policy or policy based evidence? Supply and demand for data in a donor-dominant world](#), *Humanity*, 2015.
25. Global standards and local measures: A comment on “Indicators and the Problem of Translation: Measuring Child Rights in Tanzania”, *Current Anthropology*, 56:2, 221-222, 2015.
26. [Does It Pay To Be Poor? Testing for systematically underreported GNI estimates](#) - (with Andrew Kerner & Alison Beatty), *Review of International Organizations*, 2016.
27. [Africa By Numbers: Reviewing the Database Approach to Studying African Economies](#), *African Affairs*, forthcoming 2016.
28. [The Failure of Economists to Explain Growth in African Economies](#), *Development Policy Review*, Volume 34, Issue 6 November 2016, Pages 889–893
29. [Trapped between tragedies and miracles: Misunderstanding African economic growth](#), *Development Policy Review*, Volume 34, Issue 6 November 2016, Pages 911–915

Reviewer and Referee:

Journal of African History, Journal of Economic History, African Affairs, Journal of West African History, Economic History Review, Explorations in Economic History, Economic History of Developing Regions, European Economic History Review, Business History Review, American Political Science Review, Canadian Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Political Economy, Development and Change, British Journal of Political Science, Current Anthropology, Journal of Institutional Economics, Journal of West African History, Journal of Human Development and Capabilities, Review of International Organizations, Public Choice, Business History, South African Historical Journal, South African Journal of Economics, Journal of Economic Policy Reform, Journal of Rural and Community Development, Journal of European Public Policy, H-Net, Undercurrent, Economic and Social Research Council, Israel Science Foundation, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, James Currey, Zed Books, Oxford University Press and Cambridge University Press.

Selected 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: Skaugs Research Fund, Professor Wilhelm Keilhaus Grant, Erasmus Mundus, Norway Bank Fund for Economic Research, Economic History Association Exploratory Grant, Radwan Travel and Discovery Fund, Conradi Grant, Hambro Grant.

Awards:

'Talent', Norwegian University Life Sciences, 2016.
2013 Foreign Affairs Magazine Best Book of the Year
International Economic History Association Dissertation Prize. Nominated in the 20th Century category at the World Economic History Congress, Stellenbosch, 8-13 July 2012.
Best Grade Point Average, Budapest University of Economic Sciences (2000, 2002, 2003).

Selected Invited Talks and Presentations:

Keynote speaker:

Conference on Measurement and Data in the Governance of Illicit Activities, 17-18, November 2014, New York University.

Nordic Africa Days, Uppsala, Sweden, Uppsala, 26-27 September 2014,
The Annual African Studies Lecture: African Studies Centre, Leiden, Netherlands, 7 November 2013.

Statistical Tragedy in Africa? Event at Center of Global Development, 6 April, 2015.

Invited Speaker (Selected):

US State Department, Washington DC, 14 February 2014.

African Symposia for Statistical Development, Gaborone, Botswana, 17-21 February, 2014.

United Nations Development Program, Data and Accountability, New York, 27 January 2014.

Roundtable on Statistics, Annual Meetings of the World Bank and the IMF, 11-13 October.

Data Seminar Speaker at Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, 3 October 2013.

Opening Statement, UN Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, 18 September 2013.

Annual DFID Economist Conference, London, 19 September, 2013.

Invited book talks: 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 2013 *and more*.

Other selected invited talks: “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 *and more*.

Other:

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

Field Work: 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*,

Regular columnist at Dagens Næringsliv and Bistandaktuell.

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