

Economic History of Development in the Colonial and Postcolonial Eras

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Master APE & Master PPD

Year 2025

The seminar discusses ongoing research efforts and new frontiers in the economic history of developing countries and the role of long-term factors in development, with also a stance on inequality and political economy. Methodological questions and statistical / econometric issues are given an important room.

Evaluation:

Assiduity is required for no less than 12 sessions over 16, in order to be allowed to validate.

1. Two very short 1-page referee reports (1/2 of the grade)

On the papers listed in page 2 below.

To be handed **in printed version** at the beginning of the corresponding session (Fridays).

6 bullet points: 2/3 for strengths of the paper, 3/4 for weaknesses: Scope, theoretical structure, quality of economic arguments, data, econometric analysis.

Papers will be discussed in class, and participation to the discussion will bring a bonus to the grade.

2. One very short 1-page research project (1/2 of the grade)

In one page maximum, ask an interesting question regarding long-term issues in economic development, the political economy of colonialism and/or its legacy in present times with a bit of motivation from the literature, and the sketch of an empirical strategy. Imagine you have to sell your research project to an academic fund, for a pilot study aiming at demonstrating its feasibility and its fruitfulness (in terms of data collection, theoretical and empirical analysis).

A printed copy should be handed to the secretariat of the master before April 22nd.

Road Map:

1. Economy History of Development
2. Institutions and divergence of the Americas
3. Precolonial conditions
4. Colonialism in the Old World.
5. Colonial and postcolonial states capacity: taxation
6. Colonial and postcolonial states capacity: infrastructure, education and health
7. Dualism and inequality
8. Big questions in economic history of development

Papers for Discussion and Evaluation

1. Kerby, Edwards, Alexander Moradi and Hanjo Odendaal, "African time travellers: What can we learn from 500 years of written accounts?" *Economic History Review*, 2024.
2. Caum-Julio, Jordi. "Institutions, local agency and allegiance: healthcare provision in colonial India", WP U. of Manchester, 2024.
3. Artunç, Cihan and Mohamed Saleh, "The Power of Connections: Colonialism, Nationalism, and Corporate Performance in Egypt, 1890-1950", LSE, 2024.
4. Bharti, Nitin and Li Yang, "The Making of China and India in the 21st Century: Long-Run Human Capital Accumulation from 1900 to 2020", World Inequality Lab, PSE, 2024.
5. Simson, Rebecca, "Colonial legacies and wealth inequality in Kenya", *Explorations in Economic History*, 94, 2024.
6. Müller-Crepon, Carl and Nils-Christian Bormann, "Co-Ethnics Co-Vote in Africa: Studying Electoral Cleavages in a Co-Voting Regression Model", LSE, 2024.

Economic History of Development in the Colonial and Postcolonial Eras

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5. Colonial and Postcolonial States Capacity: Taxation

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6. Colonial and Postcolonial States Capacity: provision of services

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