### Sunday 20 March

The events on the opening day of the conference are in honour of Adam Jones.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Opening of the conference</td>
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<td><strong>Words of welcome</strong></td>
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| 15.30–17.00 | **ROUNDTABLE I**  
New and old sources for African history  
organized by the journal History in Africa  
Convenor: Dmitri van den Bersselaar  
Panelists: Jan Jansen, Peter Mark, Silke Strickrodt, Michel Doortmont |
| 17.00  | Break                                                                                            |
| 17.30–19.00 | **3RD EXCITING LECTURE ON AFRICAN HISTORY**  
Wheat and chaff? Sources and methods in the ‘new’ economic history of Africa  
by Gareth Austin |
| 19.00  | Welcome drink                                                                                   |
| 20.00  | Informal dinner [registration required]                                                          |

### Monday 21 March

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| 09.00–10.30 | **ROUNDTABLE II**  
Pour une histoire des productions culturelles en Afrique : méthodologie et sources  
Convenor: Odile Goerg  
Panelists: Didier Nativel, Aline Pighin, Emmanuelle Spiesse |
| 10.30      | Coffee break and poster presentations                                                          |
| 11.00–12.30 | **ROUNDTABLE III**  
East / Central European knowledge production on and with Africa during the Socialist era  
Convenor: Jan Záhořík  
Panelists: Frank Hadler, Steffi Marung, Hanna Rubinkowska, Istvan Tarrosy, Viera Vilhanova |
| 12.30      | Lunch and poster presentations                                                                |
| 14.00–15.30 | **ROUNDTABLE IV**  
Transregional histories within and without Africa  
Convenor: Geert Castryck  
Panelists: Samuël Coghe, Camille Lefebvre, Achim von Oppen, Iain Walker |
| 15.30      | Coffee break and poster presentations                                                          |
| 16.00–17.30 | **ROUNDTABLE V**  
The affective turn and self-reflexivity in African historiography  
Convenor: Elena Vezzadini  
Panelists: Silvia Bruzzi, Leila Tayeb, Violaine Tisseau |
| 18.00–18.45 | **BUSINESS MEETING**  
AEGIS thematic group African history / histoire africaine |
| 20.00      | Conference dinner [registration required]                                                      |

### Tuesday 22 March

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| 09.00–10.30 | **ROUNDTABLE VI**  
Les “autorités morales” à l’épreuve et le politique en Afrique : historicités et usages de la “néo-tradition” en contextes colonial et post-colonial  
Convenor: Benoît Beucher  
Panelists: Jean-Marie Bouron, Vincent Hiribarren, Anna Pondopoulo, Adrienne Vanvyve |
| 10.30      | Coffee break and poster presentations                                                          |
Organizers

The conference is organized on behalf of the AEGIS thematic group African history / histoire africaine (AH-HA) by:

- Adam Jones (Universität Leipzig)
- Geert Castryck (Universität Leipzig / Universiteit Gent)
- Odile Goerg (CESSMA Paris)
- Baz Lecocq (Humboldt–Universität zu Berlin)
- Klaas van Walraven (African Studies Centre, Leiden)

The conference is hosted by the Institut für Afrikanistik at Leipzig University, with support from the Centre for Area Studies at Leipzig University and from AEGIS – African Studies in Europe.

Registration

Please register by 31 January 2016.

Contact

ahha2016leipzig@gmail.com

More Information

ahha2016leipzig.wordpress.com

Venue

Leipzig University
Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum (GWZ)
Lecture Hall 2.0.10 (ground floor)
Beethovenstr. 15
D–04107 Leipzig


Layout: thomasklemm.com, Leipzig

The 3rd biennial conference on African history was organised by the Institut für Afrikanistik at Leipzig University, with generous financial support from AEGIS, the Institut für Afrikanistik, and the Centre for Area Studies (Leipzig).

The three-day conference was attended by 80 participants based in 15 countries (Belgium, Brazil, Cameroun, France, Germany, Great Britain (incl. Scotland), Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, Tanzania, and the USA). The conference took its by now customary format of round tables attended by all participants (no parallel sessions) and open for discussion to all present, and one keynote lecture; the Exciting Lecture in African History.

New to the 3rd biennial conference was a section with poster presentations in the hall adjacent to the conference room. In total 13 posters were presented to the public. During the coffee breaks, authors of the posters gave further information on the projects presented. Although the organisation did not keep formal score, the posters seemed widely visited, sparking discussions about the topics presented. It should certainly be considered as an element for future CRG biennials.

In total eight round tables took place, two more than at the 2nd Biennial Conference in Durham. In line with our multi-lingual policy, two round tables were held in French, the other six in English. Although we remain committed to multilingualism within our organisation, English is simply the dominant language in our discipline. Although the rather well filled programme left slightly less time for informal discussion between sessions, a major goal of our biennial conference, we feel that the conference attained its goals: providing a multilingual space for free and informal discussion on the topics and developments within our profession.

The opening day of the conference was dedicated to Adam Jones, who celebrated in advance his retirement from Leipzig University’s Institut für Afrikanistik. Adam opened the conference with a brief but warm opening speech, ending with the ascribed last words of the executed Ghanaian politician and military leader Akwasi Afrifa: “I’m not dead yet…more bullets.”

The conference kick-off panel on “New and Old Sources for African History”, organised by the editorial team of the journal History in Africa, was dedicated to Adam’s career-long dedication to source-based history and to making source material in Germany and Africa available to the world. The panel discussed a reinterpretation of the Sunjata Epic; the problems of translation of source material regarding the abolition of the slave trade; the reinterpretation of iconography in an African social cultural context; the interaction between historical and archaeological research in the modern history of the West African coast; and the use and accessibility of corporate archives for African history.

The panel was followed by the Exciting Lecture in African History, delivered by Gareth Austin under the title “Wheat and chaff? Sources and Methods in the ‘New’ Economic History of Africa”. This lecture, too, was dedicated to Adam. The central question was what is really new in the ‘new’ economic history writing on Africa. Austin preferred to
call it a renaissance and proceeded to outline the advances made in the last decade with regard to our insight in African economic history and how these advances have been made. This advance is not an exclusively African phenomenon, but pertains to economic history writing more widely.

The day was closed with the formal presentation of the book *Sources and Methods for African History and Culture: Essays in Honour of Adam Jones* (Leipzig : Leipziger Universitätsverlag, 2016), edited by Geert Castryck, Silke Strickrodt and Katja Werthmann. The editors festively handed a first copy to Adam.

The second day of the conference was filled with four round tables, followed by the CRG African History Annual Business Meeting.

Round table II, “Pour une histoire des productions culturelles en Afrique: méthodologie et sources”, discussed non-textual source material, mostly artistic expressions in plastic arts and music, as sources for contemporary African history. The panel discussed, among other things, the role of museums and their current state in Africa, the place of interviews with artists in relation to their art, and the role of the ephemeral of experiences in the appreciation of these source types.

Round table III, “East/Central European Knowledge Production on and with Africa during the Socialist Era” discussed the historiography of African Studies and its function within the Cold War, as well as the current state of African Studies in East/Central Europe. It transpired that East/Central European African Studies during the Cold War were far less influenced by ideological positions than sometimes thought by West European scholars, and depended on African Studies research outcomes from “the West”, as fieldwork was very limited. Discussion further showed a rise in African Studies in Hungary with two new MA programs planned in Budapest and Pécs.

Round table IV, “Transregional Histories within or without Africa” discussed trans-regional history as both an approach and regions as units of analysis, with a special empirical focus on the Indian Ocean (trans)region. The round table addressed questions of regional definition and construction; the continuing importance of Braudel’s work for regional studies; and the constraints and possibilities for trans-regional research imposed by the localization of source material, research budgets and local and regional visions imposed by historical realities bounded by region and the still prevailing methodological nationalism.

Round table V, “The Affective Turn and Self-Reflexivity in African Historiography“, discussed the upcoming field of the history of emotions and its place in African history, where this topic is less developed than in European or Asian history. The round table discussed the differences in the historiography of emotions between the Anglophone and Francophone worlds (the influences of neurosciences and sociology in both); the problems related to source material and the „reading“ of emotions (the difference between the experienced and expressed emotion, the distinction between emotion and discourse, and the social context). It was argued in the presentations that emotion may not always be connected to power, social issues or text, as it may have an autonomous position.
The formal program of the second day ended with the CRG African History Annual Business meeting. Although it was made explicit that the meeting was open to all participants, few attended, which makes the basis for decisions taken by the CRG smaller than it should be. This problem was immediately discussed. The two other items on the agenda were the sponsoring of panels by the CRG at ECAS 7 and the organization of the 4th Biennial Conference in Pilsen in 2018. For more details, see the Notes of the meeting.

The informal program continued with drinks, where the participants could appreciate Adam Jones’ considerable skills in wine making (the present author especially appreciated his elderflower wine).

Day three of the conference opened with Round table VI, “Les Autorités morales à l’épreuve et le politique en Afrique”, which discussed the evolving position of “traditional” authorities, chiefs, religious authorities and others, in African societies today and their historical interpretation. It was argued that one should not exoticise the complex relationships between neo-traditional institutions and ‘modern’ post-colonial political authorities. Reference was made to comparable contexts in Europe, such as the Catholic Church and minor states such as Monaco or Liechtenstein, which could be seen as former ‘chieftaincies’ that have some sort of (international) legal personality. So what is specifically African in this context? It was also pointed out that there never was uniformity in moral authorities in African societies and that, as far as this now existed it was largely a result of colonial simplifications.

Round table VII, “Developmentalism in African History”, discussed the concept of developmentalism as opposed to development, as a way to preclude interpreting the claim of development at face value in historical research. The round table discussed the historical continuations over the colonial rule-independence divide created by university-based development studies; developmentalism as a strategy and ideology that legitimises (authoritarian and religiously founded) political claims and economic pursuits. It was argued that developmentalism develops the developers rather than those to supposed to benefit from it. In the ensuing debate it was asked to what extent developmentalism differs from electoral promises in the Western world. It was posited that historians should ask how developmentalism has allowed modes of governmentality different from others (such as imperialism).

The conference ended with Round table VIII, “Africans at Work: Revisiting African Labour History and the History of Work in Africa”. The speakers discussed the recently re-emerging attention to labour history in Africa, after an intellectual absence of over two decades, taking various social approaches to the topic. The Marxist legacy in labour history was critically engaged but not discarded. It was argued that earlier work on labour history, focussing on production and “classical” labour issues such as strikes, wages, proletarisation and the formation of a working class, needs to be complemented by such domains as ecological, gender, and family history (recently also experiencing a new wave of interest). The panel further discussed the connections between industrial and artisanal productions; the role of (oral) source material; rural-urban connections; and the importance of life histories and life cycles.

Full details of the convenors and participants can be found in the Conference Programme.