



**An ERSA Research Workshop  
25 and 26 May  
Stellenbosch**

**Co-hosted by the  
Economic History and Public Economics ERSA Groups**

**With additional funding by:**



**The fiscal history of sub-Saharan Africa**



In association with the Economic History Society of Southern Africa

## **The fiscal history of sub-Saharan Africa**

The public finances of African governments in the colonial and post-independence periods have been the subject of substantial new research in recent years. Within the broader field of African economic history, the fiscal history of the continent has yielded insights into the capacity and aims of state institutions over time, as well as the economic legacies of colonial rule. And yet considerable gaps remain in our understanding of taxation and public spending in African countries. The focus of recent work has been primarily on East and West Africa, and until recently almost exclusively on British colonies. It has also been limited to the finances of governments at the 'national' level, with little attention paid to local governments, and on taxes paid in cash and forced labour. This workshop will provide a venue to present ongoing research on the fiscal history of sub-Saharan Africa, focusing particularly on work which addresses these gaps. The aim will be to highlight the contributions of new findings to the field as a whole as well as to provide a forum for the discussion of common questions and difficulties.

Date: 25 to 26 May 2015

Place: Stellenbosch, South Africa

Number of participants: The number of participants will be limited to 20 delegates.

Funding: Travel expenses in South Africa will be covered and accommodation for the duration of the workshop will be provided by ERSA.

Domestic Flights: To Cape Town

Requirements: This is an open call for researchers interested in African fiscal history. Each attendee will be expected to present their current research. Sessions for full-length papers as well as shorter, work-in-progress papers will be available. Those interested in presenting a paper or work-in-progress should submit an abstract of no more than 200 words to Johan Fourie (johanf@sun.ac.za), Krige Siebrits (krigesiebrits@sun.ac.za), or Philippe Burger (burgerp@ufs.ac.za). Applications must be submitted by May 4 2015.