

# Lessons from history for development

What did we learn?!

# Changes to the way we think about history

- Several presenters made the point that settlers were a diverse group within colonies
- New ways of quantifying historical development in developing countries
- Southern Africa had relatively advanced agriculture at an early date

# Important lessons

- Like all historical sources, those from developing countries need to be treated with care (e.g. beware UK Blue Books)
- Remember that aggregate macro variables mask important information
- There is much serious quantitative work being done on developing regions...
- ... and there is I am sure much more to do

# Lessons for the future

- Look to structural change, competitive advantages
- Don't be afraid of agriculture
- Remember role of politics
- Watch out for changes in the role of the dollar

# Signs of hope

- Economic history gives plenty of reasons to be optimistic about the future
- The present gives even more reasons to be hopeful (e.g. China)
- Economic historians have an important role in adding to the development literature

# Some last things we learned ;-)

- Bible studies are a legitimate way to think about economic history
- Felt hats paid duty according to diameter
- Brazil is big
- Denmark is small
- Perhaps cream separators are the answer to everything
- Last but not least:
- 'Every man has his duka' (and don't you forget it)

# If you want to be FRESH...

- Check out the FRESH website
- [www.keynes.dk/fresh](http://www.keynes.dk/fresh)
- Go to the forthcoming meetings:
  - Madrid, March 10-11, 2011
  - Gothenburg, May 2011
  - Possibly Montevideo, December 2011
  - Milan, Münster, others also forthcoming
  - Please suggest other locations!

# Thanks to

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- EHSSA
- The executive committee of the International Economic History Association
- All the guys at Stellenbosch, and particularly Johan (who initiated all this) and Sophia
- We all look forward to coming back in 2012 😊