



**An ERSA Research Workshop  
28-30 May  
Cape Town**

**Climate, geography and African economic history**



In association with the Economic History Society of Southern Africa

## **Climate, geography and African economic history**

Africa's 'bad' geographic and environmental features have long been posited as an explanation for Africa's underdevelopment. Ruggedness, few navigable rivers, poor soil quality, and a high disease burden are still held as reasons for the lack of early population density, production and trade. And while the emphasis may have shifted to institutional explanations for Africa's poor performance, the rise of certain institutions are often measured through the use of geographic or environmental instruments, like distance to foreign markets or the disease burden.

This workshop aims to bring together scholars that investigate the long-term consequences of climate, geography and the environment in sub-Saharan Africa, and its implications for economic development. What role did climate change play in Africa's past? How were settlement patterns influenced by environmental collapse? How did African societies overcome geographic constraints?

Date: 28-30 May

Place: Monkey Valley, Cape Town

Number of participants: The number of participants will be limited to 25 delegates.

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

Domestic Flights: To Cape Town International Airport.

Requirements: Participants are required to submit an abstract of the paper they want to present. An abridged CV must also be attached to their application. The abstract must be at least 300 words and set out the research field as well as main research questions. Full papers are expected a week before the workshop.

Abstracts must be submitted by Friday, 14 March 2014. The ERSA Economic History Working Group will select participants and inform them by Friday, 21 March. Send all abstracts to: [johanf@sun.ac.za](mailto:johanf@sun.ac.za).