

Klas Rönnbäck

Current employment

Professor in economic history, University of Gothenburg, since January 2019

Ph.d.-thesis

Rönnbäck, Klas (2009): *Commerce and Colonisation. Studies of Early Modern Merchant Capitalism in the Atlantic Economy*. Department of Economic History, University of Gothenburg. Supervisors: Carl-Johan Gadd and Staffan Granér.

Selected publications

(full list available here: <https://www.gu.se/en/about/find-staff/klasronnbäck>)

Monographs

Rönnbäck, Klas and Oskar Broberg (2019): *Capital and Colonialism: The Return on British Investments in Africa, 1869-1969*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2016): *Labour and Living Standards in Pre-Colonial West Africa: The Case of the Gold Coast*. London: Routledge.

Peer-reviewed original articles (last 10 years)

Dimitrios Theodoridis, Klas Rönnbäck & Galli, Stefani (forthcoming): "The failed promise of freedom - Emancipation and wealth inequality in the Caribbean", accepted for publication in *Economic History Review*.

Klas Rönnbäck, Galli, Stefani and Dimitrios Theodoridis (forthcoming): "Numeracy and the legacy of slavery: Age-heaping in the Danish West Indies before and after emancipation from slavery, 1780s–1880s" accepted for publication in *European Review of Economic History*.

Galli, Stefani, Dimitrios Theodoridis and Klas Rönnbäck (forthcoming): "Reconstructing a slave society: Building the DWI panel, 1760-1914", accepted for publication in *Historical Methods: A Journal of Quantitative and Interdisciplinary History*.

Rönnbäck, Klas and Kondwani Ngoma (forthcoming): "Regulatory Capture in the British Empire: The British South Africa Company and the Redefinition of Property Rights in Southern Africa", accepted for publication in *Business History*.

Rönnbäck, Klas (forthcoming): "Free or enslaved labour: a theoretical comparative model", accepted for publication in *Journal of Global Slavery*.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2023): "Revisiting the profitability of slavery: slave hiring rates and the return on investments in slaves in the antebellum U.S. South", *Journal of Global Slavery* 8(1) 83-118.

Galli, Stefania, Dimitrios Theodoridis and Klas Rönnbäck (2023): "Economic Inequality in Latin America and Africa, 1650 to 1950: Can a comparison of historical trajectories help to understand underdevelopment?", *Economic History of Developing Regions* 38(1): 41-64..

Rönnbäck, Klas and Oskar Broberg (2022): "From defensive to transformative business diplomacy. The British South Africa Company and the end of chartered company rule in Rhodesia, 1910–1925", *Business History Review* 96(4): 777-803.

Rönnbäck, Klas and Dimitrios Theodoridis (2022): "Cotton cultivation under colonial rule in India in the nineteenth century from a comparative perspective", *Economic History Review* 75(2): 374-395.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2021): "Were slaves cheap laborers? A comparative study of labor costs in the antebellum U.S. South", *Labor History* 62(5-6): 721-741.

Galli, Stefania & Klas Rönnbäck (2021): "Land distribution and Inequality in a Black Settler Colony: The Case of Sierra Leone, 1792–1831", *Economic History Review* 74(1): 115-137.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2020): "The Business of Barter on the Pre-Colonial Gold Coast", *Economic History of Developing Regions* 35(2): 123-142.

- Galli, Stefania, and Klas Rönnbäck (2020): "Colonialism and Rural Inequality in Sierra Leone: An Egalitarian Experiment", *European Review of Economic History* 24(3): 468-501.
- Rönnbäck, Klas, Stefan Öberg and Stefania Galli (2019): "Working in the 'White Man's Grave': Compensating Wage Differentials for Europeans Migrating to the Gold Coast in the Eighteenth Century", *Journal of Migration History* 5:438-465.
- Rönnbäck, Klas and Dimitrios Theodoridis (2019): "African Agricultural Productivity and the Transatlantic Slave Trade: Evidence from Senegambia in the Nineteenth Century", *Economic History Review* 72(1):209-232.
- Rönnbäck, Klas (2018): "On the economic importance of the slave plantation complex to the British economy during the eighteenth century: a value-added approach", *Journal of Global History* 13(3):309-327.
- Rönnbäck, Klas (2018): "The challenge of studying inflation in pre-colonial Africa", *History in Africa* 45:5-18.
- Öberg, Stefan and Klas Rönnbäck (2017): "Socioeconomic Differences in Mortality among European Settlers in Pre-Colonial West Africa", *Essays in Economic & Business History* 35(1):315-339.
- Rönnbäck, Klas (2016): "Waged Slavery: Incentivizing Unfree Labour at Cape Coast Castle in the Eighteenth Century", *Slavery & Abolition* 37(1):73-93.
- Rönnbäck, Klas (2015): "The Transatlantic Slave Trade and Social Stratification on the Gold Coast", *Economic History of Developing Regions* 30(2):157-181.

Peer-reviewed research review articles

- Rönnbäck, Klas (2023): "Sugar Plantation Slavery", *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History*: <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277734.013.908>.
- Rönnbäck, Klas (2020): "The Slave Trades out of Africa", in Ewout Frankema, Ellen Hillbom, Felix Meier zu Selhausen (eds), *The History of African Development*, downloadable textbook available at <https://www.aehnetwork.org/textbook/>.

Research funding

Three most recent major applications:

- Vetenskapsrådet (Swedish Science Foundation), 5 951 000 SEK, project grant 2023, co-applicant
- Vetenskapsrådet, 5 628 000 SEK (Swedish Science Foundation), project grant 2018, main applicant
- Jan Wallanders och Tom Hedelius stiftelse, 1 500 000 SEK, project grant 2018, main applicant

Total career research funding received (including both as main and co-applicant): 19 963 000 SEK (~1 500 000 GBP).

Ph.d.-students supervised

- Malin Nilsson, assistant supervisor, defended 2015
- Lovisa Broström, main supervisor, defended 2015
- Dimitrios Theodoridis, main supervisor, defended 2018
- Stefania Galli, main supervisor, defended 2019
- Kondwani Happy Ngoma, assistant supervisor, defended 2024.
- Bezawit Difabachew, main supervisor, ongoing project
- Leo Dolan (University Carlos 3, Madrid), assistant supervisor, ongoing project
- Bart van Holsteijn, main supervisor, ongoing project
- Giulia Martini, main supervisor, ongoing project

Peer-review assignment of publications (in alphabetical order)

Business History, Cogent Social Sciences, Cultural History, Economic History of Developing Regions, Economic History Review, Essays in Economic & Business History, European Review of Economic History, European Review of History, Explorations in Economic History, Extractive Industries and Society, Heimen (Norway), Heliyon, Historisk Tidskrift (Sweden), Historisk Tidskrift (Norway), History Compass, Journal of African History, Journal of Asian and African Studies, Journal of Economic History, Journal of Global History, Journal of Government and Economics, Journal of Transport History, Mineral Economics, Oxford Bibliographies, Oxford Research Encyclopedias, Research Data Journal for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Review of Radical Political Economics, Review of Radical Political Economics, Revista de Historia Económica – Journal of Iberian and Latin American Economic History, Revista de Historia Industrial – Industrial History Review, Scandinavian Economic History Review, The Low Countries Journal of Social and Economic History.