



## AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE

MACERATA 17 -20/09/2014

**TITLE: ECONOMIC MOBILITIES IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: TRADE NETWORKS, COMMODITY CIRCULATION AND SHIFTING INSTITUTIONS IN AFRICA (1800-2000)**

**CONVENORS:** **MARISA CANDOTTI, SOAS, LONDON** (M\_Candotti@soas.ac.uk)  
**KARIN PALLAVER, UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA** (karin.pallaver@unibo.it)

**ABSTRACT:** African economic history attracted major pioneering research from the late 1950s to mid-1980s. Though not voluminous, new research in the field has never stopped but, apart from the Atlantic slave trade, the general field of African economic history has been relatively neglected and has been criticized for ignoring long-term dynamics in the analysis of African economic past. A recent growing body of research looking at the origins of the “great divergence” between Africa and the other continents has, however, started to track African economic performance over time, studying instances of continuity and change at critical periods of transition. Yet, what remains in large part neglected is that important historical developments have been dictated both by delicate strategies internal to African economies and by dynamic *interactions between external and internal* factors, that resulted into a high degree of mobility of goods, people, networks and institutions.

The papers in this session will use the notion of mobility as a lens through which analyse the shifting trajectories of economic actors and institutions, as well as the circulation of commodities and the structure of trade networks, from the precolonial period to recent times. This panel proposes to think about how economic forces and institutions in various eras of African societies were characterized by movement within Africa and in the relation of Africa with the outer world.

We aim to have papers which speak to diverse precolonial and postcolonial settings and regions of Africa and we expect that the issues addressed will include (a) the correlation between commodity production for African and overseas markets and the creation of new trade networks; (b) the growth of new forms of “mobile” labour within African economies; (c) the mobility of African currencies and monetary institutions; (d) the interactions between African institutions and market activity; e) the interaction of internal and external mechanisms of change in African economic history.

### CONVENOR’S ACADEMIC PROFILE:

**Karin Pallaver** is Assistan Professor of African History at the University of Bologna. Her current research interests lie in the social and economic history of 19th-century and early colonial East Africa. Major themes linked to her research are pre-colonial African trade, pre-colonial and colonial currencies, 19th-century urbanism and German and British colonialism in East Africa. She is currently working on the monetary history of early colonial Kenya and Uganda. Her research is based on extensive archival research in Italy, Great Britain, Tanzania and Kenya.

**Marisa Candoti** is Senior teaching fellow at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. Her current research interests focus on the social and economic history of 19th-century and early colonial East Africa. Major themes linked to her research are pre-colonial African trade, pre-colonial and colonial currencies.



centro interdipartimentale  
di ricerca sull'

*Africa*



ASAI