Curriculum Vitae

Jutta Bolt

Professor of Global Economic History

Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Groningen
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Academic Appointments

2020 – present	Professor of Global Economic History, University of Groningen
2017 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Economic History, Lund University
2018 – 2020	Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Groningen
2014 – 2017	Assistant Professor; Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Groningen
2011 – 2014	Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Groningen
2009 – 2010	Researcher, Centre for Research on Local Government Economics (COELO), University of Groningen

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Research Focus

Long-term comparative economic development patterns, with a special focus on Africa. Current research projects include understanding long-term health inequalities in Sub-Saharan Africa (Wallenberg Academy fellowship: Swedish Research Council); understanding the historical origins of present-day income inequality in Africa (AFLIT project); the historical development of local and central government capacity in Africa; historical national accounts and the Maddison Project.

Other Positions

2023 – present	Board Member, De Koninklijke Vereniging voor de Staathuishoudkunde (Royal Economics Society, NL)
2022 – present	Member, Institutional Review Board (IRB), Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Groningen
2018 – present	Board Member, Unger van Brero Fonds
2018 – present	Board Member, Nederlands Economisch Historisch Archief (NEHA)
2016 – present	Research Affiliate, Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR)
2014 – 2019	Co-Executive Editor, *The Low Countries Journal of Social and Economic History* (Executive Editor since 2017)
2014 – 2018	Co-Director, Research Program *Drivers and Carriers of Globalisation*, N.W. Posthumus Institute
2014 – present	Research Fellow, FEBRI (previously SOM) Research School, University of Groningen
2011 – present	Research Fellow, N.W. Posthumus Institute for Social and Economic History

2011 – present	Academic Coordinator, Maddison Project
2004 – present	Fellow, Groningen Growth and Development Centre (GGDC)

Research Grants, Awards & Prizes

2024 Swedish Research Council (Co-applicant): *Birthing Inequity: Legacies of Colonial Maternal Health and Child Welfare Services in Africa* (VR 2024-01213, SEK 2,115,668)

2022 Swedish Research Council (PI): *Unhealthy Development: The Origins of Health Inequalities in Sub-Saharan Africa, 1900–1960* (VR 2022-0241, €420,000)

2021 Wallenberg Academy Fellowship: *Diseases on the Move: Understanding Long-Term Disease Patterns in Africa, 1850–1960* (KAW 2021.0165, €875,000)

2018 Swedish Research Council (Co-applicant): *African Elites: Wealth Accumulation and Persistence* (2018-01516, €250,000)

2016 Wallenberg Academy Fellowship: *The African Population Boom in Historical Perspective* (KAW 2016.0184, €1,300,000, personal grant)

2016 Marianne and Marcus Wallenberg Foundation (Co-applicant): *Growing More Unequal? Long-Term Trends in Inequality in Africa* (MMW 2015.0028, €500,000)

2015 Wallander Foundation (Co-applicant): *Longitudinal Inequality Trends in Africa* (P2015-0076:1, 2015–2018, PhD funding for Prince Aboagye Young)

2015 Swedish Research Council (Co-applicant): *Development or Exploitation? Large-Scale Farming in Kenya, Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe* (421-2014-1509, €250,000)

Education

2010 PhD, Economics, University of Groningen (11 March 2010)
Supervisors: Prof. B.W. Lensink, Prof. H.H. van Ark
Committee: Prof. J.L. van Zanden, Prof. O. Morrissey, Prof. C.L.M. Hermes

2014 University Teaching Qualification (BKO), University of Groningen

2018 Doctoral Supervision Certificate, Lund University

Publications

Articles

Bolt, J. and Cilliers, J. (2025). The Expansion of Colonial State Healthcare in Twentieth Century British Africa. Medical History, Published online 2025:1-47. doi:10.1017/mdh.2024.45

Bolt, J. and van Zanden, J.L. (2025). Maddison-style Estimates of the Evolution of the World Economy: A New 2023 Update. Journal of Economic Surveys, 39, 631-671

Chiseni, M.C. and Bolt, J. (2024). The Origins of Formal Educational and Gender Inequality in Zambia, 1924–1990. Revista de Historia Industrial – Industrial History Review, 33(92), 49-92

Hillbom, E., Bolt, J., de Haas, M., and Tadei, F. (2024). Income Inequality and Export-Oriented Commercialization in Colonial Africa: Evidence from Six Countries. Economic History Review, 77(3), 975-1004. doi:10.1111/ehr.13304

Aboagye, P.Y. and Bolt, J. (2021). Long-Term Trends in Income Inequality: Winners and Losers of Economic Change in Ghana, 1891–1960. Explorations in Economic History, 101405. doi:10.1016/j.eeh.2021.101405

Van Zanden, J.L. and Bolt, J. (2021). Two Concerns about the Interpretation of the Estimates of Historical National Accounts before 1850. Journal of Global History, 16(2), 294-300. doi:10.1017/S174002282000039X

Bolt, J. and Gardner, L. (2020). How Africans Shaped British Colonial Institutions: Evidence from Local Taxation. Journal of Economic History, 80(4), 1189-1223. doi:10.1017/S0022050720000455

Bolt, J. and Hillbom, E. (2016). Long-Term Trends in Economic Inequality: Lessons from Colonial Botswana 1921–1974. Economic History Review, 69(4), 1255-1284. doi:10.1111/ehr.12326

Bolt, J. and Hillbom, E. (2015). Potential for Diversification? The Role of the Formal Sector in Bechuanaland Protectorate's Economy, 1900–65. Economic History of Developing Regions, 30(2), 95-124. doi:10.1080/20780389.2015.1066671

Bolt, J. and Green, E. (2015). Was the Wage Burden Too Heavy? Settler Farming, Profitability, and Wage Shares of Settler Agriculture in Nyasaland, c. 1900–1960. Journal of African History, 56(2), 217-238

Bezemer, D., Bolt, J. and Lensink, R. (2014). Slavery, Statehood, and Economic Development in Sub-Saharan Africa. World Development, 57, 148-163

Bolt, J. and van Zanden, J.L. (2014). The Maddison Project: Collaborative Research on Historical National Accounts. Economic History Review, 67(3), 627-651

Bolt, J. and Bezemer, D.J. (2009). Understanding Long-Run African Growth: Colonial Institutions or Colonial Education? Journal of Development Studies, 45(1), 24-54

Books and Book Chapters

Bolt, J. and van Zanden, J.L. (2021). The Long View on Economic Growth: New Estimates of GDP. In M. Mira, A. Rijpma and J.L. van Zanden (eds.), How Was Life? A Long-Term Perspective on Global Well-Being and Development (2nd ed., pp. 29-52). Paris: OECD

Hillbom, E. and Bolt, J. (2018). Botswana – A Modern Economic History: An African Diamond in the Rough. London: Palgrave Macmillan

Bolt, J., Timmer, M.P. and van Zanden, J.L. (2014). GDP per Capita. In J. Baten, M.P. Timmer, J.L. van Zanden and A. Rijpma (eds.), How Was Life? A Long-Term Perspective on Global Well-Being and Development. Paris: OECD

Bolt, J. (2013/2021). The Partitioning of Africa. In E.H.P. Frankema and E. Hillbom (eds.), Handbook of African Economic History. African Economic History Network (open source: http://www.aehnetwork.org/textbook/

Book Reviews

Bolt, J. (2021). *Review of Hopkins, A. G., An Economic History of West Africa* (London: Routledge, 2020. Pp. v+399. 17 maps. 6 figs. ISBN 978036700243, Hbk. £120). *Economic History Review*, 74, 859–860. https://doi.org/10.1111/ehr.13098

Bolt, J. (2018). *Review of Wanga-Odhiambo, Godriver, The Political Economy of Sugar Production in Colonial Kenya: The Asian Initiative in Central Nyanza* (Lanham, MD and London: Lexington Books, 2016. Pp. xx+285. 3 figs. 25 tabs. ISBN 9781498511636, Hbk. £70). *Economic History Review*, 71, 358–359. https://doi.org/10.1111/ehr.12684

Bolt, J. (2015). *Review of Jerven, M., Economic Growth and Measurement Reconsidered in Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia, 1965–1995*. *Economic History Review*, 68(2), 764–766. http://www.jstor.org/stable/43910394

Ongoing Projects

Councils and Indirect Rule in British Africa (with Leigh Gardner, Jennifer Kohler, Jack Paine, and James Robinson) *R&R American Political Science Review*

Colonialism and the Mapping of the African State: Historical Origins and Persistence of Local Administrative Boundaries (with Leigh Gardner, Catherine Boone, Jennifer Kohler)

Geographies of Healing: The Long-Term Impact of Colonial-Era Healthcare Facilities in British Africa (with Jeanne Cilliers)

Breaking New Ground: The Expansion of Formal Education in Cameroon, 1850–1958 (with Nicolai Baumert, Michaela Kesina)

The Price of Copper: Long-Term Inequality in Colonial Zambia (with Ellen Hillbom)

International Activities

Organization of International Conferences and Workshops

2025 African Economic History Network Meeting (Maseru, October 2025)
2024 Groningen Growth and Development Centre Conference (Groningen, May 2024)
2022 Fourteenth European Historical Economics Society Conference (Groningen, June 2022)
2017 Groningen Growth and Development Centre 25th Anniversary Conference (Groningen, June 2017)

The Maddison Lecture in Economic History and Development

Organizer since 2012. Invited lecturers:

- 2012: Robert C. Allen (Oxford), Dale Jorgenson (Harvard), Oded Galor (Brown)
- 2013: James Robinson (Harvard), Jan Luiten van Zanden (Utrecht), Nick Crafts (Warwick)
- 2014: Dani Rodrik (Princeton), Charles I. Jones (Stanford)
- 2015: Jeffrey Williamson (Harvard/Wisconsin)
- 2016: Daron Acemoglu (MIT)
- 2018: Thomas Piketty (Paris School of Economics)
- 2019: Branko Milanovic (World Bank/CUNY)
- 2020: Nina Pavcnik (Dartmouth College)
- 2022: William Easterly (NYU)
- 2024: Douglas Gollin (Tufts University)

Teaching and Supervision

Current Teaching

2025 – BSc *Growth, Institutions and Business*, University of Groningen

2022 – MSc *World Economy in Historical Perspective*, University of Groningen

2016 – Master thesis supervision

PhD Supervision

- Ye Ma (with H. de Jong), University of Groningen, graduated Dec 2020
- Maria Fibaek (with E. Green), Lund University, graduated Dec 2020
- Prince Aboagye Young (with E. Hillbom), Lund University, graduated Apr 2020
- Jan C. Greyling (with N. Vinck), Stellenbosch University, graduated Apr 2019
- Nicolai Baumert (promotor), Lund University, graduated Sep 2022
- Chanda Chiseni (promotor), Lund University, graduated Aug 2022
- Arlinde Vrooman (first promotor, with H. de Jong), University of Groningen, 2018–2022
- Oliver Brufal de Melgarejo (promotor), University of Groningen, expected graduation 2027
- Barbora Onderisinova (promotor), University of Groningen, expected graduation 2028

Dissertation Committees

- 2025: Calumn Hamilton (grading and defense committee)
- 2025: Diego Castañeda Garza, *Economic History of Mexico* (grading committee)
- 2024: Frederick Amon-Armah (defense committee)
- 2021: Bert S. Kramer, *Financial History and Political Institutions* (defense committee)

- 2021: Emelie Rohne Till, *Agriculture for Development in the 21st Century: Evidence from Ethiopia* (grading and defense committee)
- 2019: Stefani Galli, *A Black Utopia? Social Stratification in Nineteenth-Century Colonial Sierra Leone* (grading and defense committee)
- 2018: Daniel Gallardo Albarran, *Health, Well-Being and Inequality over the Long Term* (grading and defense committee)
- 2016: Rok Spruk, *Institutions, Growth and Long-Run Development Paths* (grading committee)
- 2015: Felix Meier zu Selhausen, *Women's Empowerment in Uganda: Colonial Roots and Contemporary Efforts, 1894–2012* (grading and defense committee)
- Katalin Buzasi, *The Language Situation in Sub-Saharan Africa: Historical Roots, Measurement and Development Impacts* (grading and defense committee)

Refereeing

Journals: *Economic History Review*; *Economic History of Developing Regions*; *African Economic History*; *Journal of Development Economics*; *Journal of Development Studies*; *World Development*; *Africa Today*; *Cliometrica*; *European Review of Economic History*; *Tijdschrift voor Sociale en Economische Geschiedenis*; *African Affairs*; *European Journal of Political Economy*