

FINAL PROGRAMME

**15th Annual Meeting of the African Economic
History Network**

Crossroads in African Economic History

13-14 October

University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria



A Special Welcome from the 2022 Local Host Committee

On behalf of the Local Host Committee for this year's African Economic History Network Meeting, we want to wish you a warm welcome to Gran Canaria. Our local committee includes Faculty Members from the Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. Together, we have greatly enjoyed the chance to create an exciting scientific programme covering key topics and questions about the economic past of the African continent.

The Canary Islands have been a crossroads between Africa and the rest of the world from the Early Modern Age up to the present. People, goods and ideas from Europe, Africa and America passed through these islands for centuries. This conference thus continues this long tradition by taking the advantage of the Canaries' unique location to be a crossover now for academic discussion.

The programme contains two keynotes and over twenty parallel sessions devoted to the most recent studies on African Economic History from different perspectives. In addition to that, the programme also includes a number of cultural activities such as cocktail events and live music in Casa Africa as well as a guided tour through the historical centre with a guided visit of the Museo Canario and a Keynote on the economic past of the ancient Canary societies. Lastly, the Jay-Jay Okocha soccer trophy will form a key activity of this academic event!

We hope that you will enjoy this conference as well as your time in sunny Gran Canaria!

Daniel Castillo, Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

Dácil Juif, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Leo Dolan, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

[Welcome to GRAN CANARIA!](#)

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Geografía e Historia



Crossroads in African Economic History

13-14 October 2022

15th ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC
HISTORY NETWORK

UNIVERSITY OF
LAS PALMAS DE
GRAN CANARIA



More information

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EL MUSEO CANARIO



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Keynotes

Thursday 13th October, Humanities Hall, 9.15-10.00

Prof. Antony G. Hopkins

Emeritus Smuts Professor of Commonwealth History, University of Cambridge

'Fate and Fortune in a Colonial Port City: African Merchants in Lagos, 1850-1920'

Abstract

This talk advertises a neglected subject: the role of entrepreneurs in Africa's long-run development. It analyses the careers of 100 African merchants in the port-city of Lagos between 1851 and 1921 and a revised opinion about their fortunes. They did not decline, nor did sole-ownership constrain their activities. They made the first attempts to diversify the economy and ensured that limited companies could be registered locally. All firms, indigenous and foreign, struggled during the inter-war period. Lagos merchants adapted by becoming financiers and rentiers. In doing so, they made a vital contribution to the large and diverse economy that characterized Nigeria after 1945.



Friday 14th October, Nelson Mandela Auditorium, Casa África, 17.45-19.00

Prof. Belinda Archibong

Assistant Professor of Economics, Barnard College, Columbia University

'Interrogating Inequality'



Abstract

There is a growing literature on the long-term effects of historical institutions on current economic outcomes in Africa, with work highlighting the significance of colonial infrastructure like roads, railroads, and missionary schools for current development outcomes. However, who built the railroads? In addition, what was the role of domestic forced African labour in not just constructing this colonial infrastructure but shaping current legal institutions in Africa? We provide evidence from new research on prison labour in colonial Africa to answer these questions with a focus on the ways institutions of justice were used to serve economic and other extrajudicial interests, with lasting deleterious effects.

12th October – Hotel Fataga

16.00-18.30 YSI Pre-Workshop

North-South Relations and Pandemic Politics: Geopolitics or Scientific Responses to COVID-19? (Upon Invitation due to capacity restrictions)

Organizers and Chairs: Petronella Munhenzva, Oxford University and Geraldine Sibanda, University of the Free State.

Covid-19, Global Health Interventions and African Epistemologies.
Kundai Manamere (University of the Free State)

“The invisible victims”. Farm workers and Covid 19, the case of Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe.
Joyline Kufandirori, (University of the Free State)

“Democracy Under lockdown” Authoritarian Responses to Covid 19 on the African Continent. The Case of Zimbabwe 2019-2022.
Allen Marara (University of Zimbabwe)

Gatekeepers of International Finance, the State and the COVID-19 Pandemic in Zimbabwe and South Africa.
Geraldine Sibanda (University of the Free State)

18.30-20.00 Meeting of the AEHN Board

13th October – Campus de El Obelisco

8.30-18.00 Registration (IATEX desk)

9.00-9.15 Opening and Welcome, Humanities Hall

Words of Greeting

Rector Magnifico, Prof. Lluís Serra Majem, Chancellor of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

Ilustrísima Sra. Dr. Nasara Cabrera Abu, Government of the Canary Islands

Excmo. Sr. Carmelo Ramírez Marrero, Cabildo de Gran Canaria

9.15-10.30 Opening Keynote, Humanities Hall, “Fate and Fortune in a Colonial Port City: African Merchants in Lagos, 1850-1920” by Antony G. Hopkins (University of Cambridge)

10.30-11.00 Coffee break (Cafeteria)

11.00-12.30 Parallel Sessions (A1-3) (Rooms B21, B22, B23)

Session A1. Doing Business in Africa. A Historical Approach (Room B21)

Chair: Antony G. Hopkins, University of Cambridge

Histories of Capitalism in Africa, 1650s-1940s.

Gareth Austin (University of Cambridge).

Concessions in the Congos: A Dutch Firm at the Crossroads of Imperialism in West Central Africa (1879-1914). Gijs Dreijer (Leiden University).

Fishing policies within the Global Approach: The Presence of the Soviet Union in Western Africa (1960s-early 1980s).

Irina Yánishev Nésterova (Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria).

The Bata Company in Africa.

Milan Balaban (Tomas Bata University in Zlín).

Session A2. Wealth and Income distribution (I) (Room B23)

Chair: Dácil Juif (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid).

Historical Real Wage as Seen from East Africa.

Sascha Klocke (Lund University).

The (Im)possibility of Growth for African Colonies: A Series of GDP & Real Wages for the Congo During 1885-1960.

Vincent Delabastita (Radboud University) and Robin Philips (Utrecht University).

Is Africa Growing Out of Poverty? A Historical Comparative Case Study of Structural Change in Côte d'Ivoire.

Mark Melles (Lund University).

Session A3. Family and Gender in African Economic History (Room B22)

Chair: Belinda Archibong, Columbia University

Reported Preferences for Sons and Daughters.

Johannes Norling (Mount Holyoke College).

The Weaker Link: Matriliney, Cross-Cutting Ties, and Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Jennifer Kohler (London School of Economics).

Women of the Cape Colony.

Leoné Walters (Stellenbosch University).

12.30-13.30 Lunch (Cafeteria)

13.30-15.00 Parallel Sessions (B1-3) (Rooms B21, B22, B23)

Session B1. Slavery and Economic Development (Room B21)

Chair: Federico Tadei, Universidad de Barcelona

Profiting from Slavery and Emancipation: Compensation, Capital, and Collateral in Nineteenth Century Senegal.

Bronwen Everill (University of Cambridge) and Khadidiatou Diedhiou (University Cheikh Anta Diop).

Informal Financial Markets: Borrowing and Lending of the Indigenous Populations and Freed Slaves in the Cape Colony.

Kara Dimitruk (University of Western Cape), Kate Ekama (Stellenbosch University) and Christie Swanepoel (University of Western Cape).

The Role of Expanding Capitalist Relations in the History of Post-Slavery in East Africa.
Felicitas Becker (Ghent University) and Nives Kinunda (University of Dar es Salaam).

Session B2. Mining and Extractive Economies (Room B22)

Chair: Erik Green, Lund University

Monetary Compensation and Wellbeing of Copper Mine Labour in Chile and the Central African Copperbelt, 1920s to 1960s.

Dácil Juif (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid) and Sergio Garrido (University of Chile).

Fixing a Flawed Diamond: What We Can Learn from a Portuguese Colonial Diamond Mine's Delayed Evolution from Coercive Labour Policies to far more Inclusive Practices.

Leo Dolan (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid).

Africa's Mineral Revolution in a Long-Term Trade Perspective.

Ewout Frankema (Wageningen University) and Felix Meier zu Selhausen (Utrecht University).

Session B3. Transport, Infrastructures, and Urban Development. Session sponsored by PORMAR Chair (Room B23)

Chair: Casiano Manrique de Lara, Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

Feeding African Cities: Hinterland Suitability & Urban Growth in 20th Century Sub-Saharan Africa.

Tanik Joshupura (Wageningen University).

Africa in the World: Maritime Connectivity, Seaborne Trade, and Globalization.

Daniel Castillo Hidalgo (Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria) and César Ducruet (EconomiX Laboratory, CNRS).

Privatizing a Colonial Electricity Undertaking: A Commentary on F.W. Dove's 'What People Think of Our Electric Light'.

Damilola Adebayo (York University).



15.00-15.30 Coffee break (Cafeteria)

15.30-17.00 Parallel Sessions (C1-2) (Rooms B21, B23)

Session C1. North Africa: Economic Structure and Institutional Development (Room B23)

Chair: Jesús Martínez Milán, Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

The Esparto Trade: A History of the First Globalization and the Two Shores of the Mediterranean (South-Eastern Spain and North Africa).

Andrés Sánchez Picón and Mari C. Pérez Artés (Universidad de Almería).

Extractive Agriculture and Permanent Settlement: The Effects of Viticulture in Colonial Algeria.

Laura Maravall (Universidad de Alcalá), Sergi Basco (Universidad de Barcelona) and Jordi Dòmenech (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid).

The Crises in North Africa and the Transformation of the Economy in the Western Sahel.

Dagauh Komenan (Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria).

Session C2. Health and Sanitation Policies (I) (Room B21)

Chair: Kleoniki Alexoupoulou, University Nova of Lisbon

The Expansion of Colonial Healthcare in Twentieth Century British Africa.

Jutta Bolt (Lund University and University of Groningen) and Jeanne Cilliers (Lund University).

Uncovering the Role of Education in the Uptake of Preventive Measures Against Malaria in the African Population.

Elisabeth Kempter (University Tuebingen) and Neha B. Upadhayay (Paris XII University).

Development of Disease in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire and the Colonial Response: ca.1900-1955.

Arlinde Vrooman (University of Groningen).

17.00-18.30 – Plenary Session, Humanities Hall. The Economic History of Africa in Books

Chair: Gareth Austin, University of Cambridge

Our Long Walk to Economic Freedom.
Johan Fourie (Stellenbosch University).

Sovereignty Without Power: Liberia the Age of Empires, 1822-1980.
Leigh Gardner (London School of Economics)

Migration in Africa. Shifting Patterns of Mobility from the 19th to the 21st Century
Ewout Frankema (Wageningen University)

Monetary Transitions. Currencies, Colonialism and African Societies.
Karin Pallaver (University of Bologna)

Creating the Cape Colony: The political economy of settler colonization.
Erik Green (Lund University)

The History of African Development (AEHN Textbook Update).
Felix Meier zu Selhausen (Wageningen University)

19.00-20.30 Jay-Jay Okocha Trophy Soccer Match, Campo de fútbol de Tafira (astroturf).

(Players and fans will be transported by bus)

Match sponsored by the Servicio de Deportes de la ULPGC



14th October – Campus de El Obelisco

8.30-16.00 Registration (IATEX desk)

9.00-11.00 Parallel Sessions (D1-4) (B15, B21, B22, B23)

Session D1. The Economic Role of African Islands (Room B15)

Chair: Sergio Solbes Ferri, Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

Luso-Cape Verdean Entrepreneurship in the Canary Islands During the Transformation of the Island Economic Model at the End of the 16th century.

Javier L. Álvarez Santos (Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria).

From structural transformation to transformative change: Mauritius' labour-intensive industrialization revisited

Linn Ternsjö and Ellen Hillbom (Lund University).

The African Hub. The Role of the Canary Islands in Foreign Trade with Africa During World War II.

Daniel Pérez-Estévez (Museo Canario).

Session D2. Institutions and Taxation Policies (Room B21)

Chair: Ewout Frankema, Wageningen University

Labour Taxes in Sierra Leone Protectorate: Calculating the Cost of Reforms.

Laura Channing (Durham University).

Fiscal Capacities in Africa from Colonial Times to Present, Evidence from Former French Colonies 1900-2018.

Denis Cogneau (Paris School of Economics), Yanick Dupraz (Aix-Marseille University), Justine Knebelmann (MIT) and Sandrine Mesplé-Soms (Paris Dauphine, PSL).

On the Persistency of Persistence. Evidence from a Century of African Public Finance.

Thilo Albers (Humboldt University of Berlin), Morten Jerven (Lund University) and Marvin Suesse (Trinity College Dublin).

The Magna Carta in Kenya? Law, the Power to Tax, and the Institutional Legacies of British Colonialism.

Leigh Gardner (London School of Economics).

Session D3. Currencies and Financial Markets (Room B22)

Chair: Bernard Kusena, University of Zimbabwe

Banking on the Margins: Development and Growth of "Parallel" Money Transfer and Banking Systems Amongst Africans in Colonial Zimbabwe.

Tapiwa Madimu (Rhodes University).

Monetary Transformations in the Early Colonial Gulf of Guinea, 1880s to 1920s.

Enrique Martino (Universidad Complutense de Madrid).

Southern Rhodesia and Britain's Discriminatory Sterling Area: The Dollar Crisis and Postwar Colonial Tobacco Trade, 1947-1960.

Sibanengi Ncube (University of the Free State).

More Than a Monetary Crossroads: Assessing the Regional Dimension of the Circulation of the Maria Theresa Thaler in the Red Sea Region.

Alessandro De Cola (University of the Free State).

Session D4. Industrial Development and Business (Room B23)

Chair: Jörg Baten, University of Tübingen

Local Advantage in a Global context. Competition, Adaptation, and Resilience in Textile Manufacturing in the "Periphery", 1860-1960.

Katharine Frederick and Elise van Nederveen Meerkerk (Utrecht University).

What should be the business of government? A historical evaluation of African state owned enterprises

Hannan Marwah (Open Society Foundation).

"Kaffir Circus" British Investments in Colonial Southern Africa, 1880-1920,

Alfons Frasens (Leiden University).

11.00-11.30 Coffee break (Cafeteria)

11.30-13.30 Parallel Sessions (E1-4) (B15, B21, B22, B23)

Session E1. Wealth and Income Distribution (II) (Room B23)

Chair: Germán Santana Pérez, Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

The Equality of Capitalism? African Financiers in Cape Joint Stock Companies During the Nineteenth Century.

Lloyd Melusi Maphosa (University of Cape Town).

Is Africa Different? Revenue Strategies in Africa in the 20th Century Compared.

Abel Gwaindepi (Lund University).

The Legacy of the 'Scramble for Africa' on Modern Inequality.

Andrew Crawford (German Institute for Global Area Studies).

Import Substitution, Structural Adjustment and Restructuring of the Global economy: What Explains Premature De-Industrialization in Africa and Latin America?

Cristian Ducoing, Erik Green and Bertus M. Melles (Lund University).

Session E2. The Economic Impact of Commodity Trade (Room B21)

Chair: Gareth Austin, University of Cambridge

"Uncommercial Procedures": Coffee and Debt-Crisis in Depression-Era Kenya.

Paul Ocobock (University of Notre Dame).

Household Inequality and Cash Crop Production in mid-Twentieth Century Burkina Faso.

Thomas Zuber (Columbia University).

Crops, Price or Policies? Why Commodity Exports in British and French West Africa Diverged After the 1880s.

Michiel de Haas, Ewout Frankema (Wageningen University), Felix Meier Zu Selhausen (Utrecht University) and Federico Tadei (Universidad de Barcelona).

Session E3. Health and Sanitation Policies (II) (Room B22)

Chair: Johan Fourie, Stellenbosch University

The Fight Against Malaria: A New Index for Quantifying and Assessing Policy Implementation Actions to Reduce Malaria Burden in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Carlos Bethencourt and Gustavo Alberto Marrero Díaz (Universidad de La Laguna).

HIV/AIDS, Law and the Disparities in Healthcare Distribution: The South African and Zimbabwean Experience, c.1900-2021.

Bernard Kusena (University of Zimbabwe).

Economic Crisis and the Rise of Trade in Sex Tonics in post-Colonial Zimbabwe.

Ushehwedu Kufakurinani (King's College London).

Session E4. Education and Human Capital Accumulation (Room B15)

Chair: Leigh Gardner, London School of Economics

Crossroads Effects on Regional and Social Inequality of Numeracy in Sub-Saharan Africa 1930s-1990s.

Jörg Baten (University of Tübingen).

The Evolution of Educational Gender Gaps in Colonial Mozambique.

Pablo Fernández-Cebrián (Universidad de Barcelona).

Human Capital Formation in Ethiopia and Rwanda.

Mesfin Abraham Ali (Wageningen University).

The IMF, World Bank and Structural Adjustment of Housing in Ghana: Looking to History for Lessons to Improve Accountable Delivery of International Development in Africa.

Festival Godwin Boateng (Earth Institute, Columbia).

13.30-14.30 Lunch (Cafeteria)

14.30-16.30 Parallel Sessions (F1-4) (Rooms B15, B21, B22, B23)

Session F1. An Economic History of Southern Africa (Room B21)

Chair: Jutta Bolt, Lund University and University of Groningen

Great or Not? An Empirical Investigation into the Causes of the Great Trek.

Johan Fourie and Calumet Links (Stellenbosch University).

Khoesan Resilience: The Impacts of Drought in the Cape Colony.

Ben Chatterton and Erik Green (Lund University) and Calumet Links (Stellenbosch University).

When Protest Movements Fail: The Economic Causes and Consequences of Settler Rebellion in the Cape of Good Hope, 1770-1780.

Jonathan Schoots (Stellenbosch University), Johan Fourie (Stellenbosch University) and Katherine Eriksson (University of California Davis).

A Note on the Household Welfare of the Khoe in the Cape Colony.

Calumet Links (Stellenbosch University), Francisco J. Marco-García (Universidad de Zaragoza) and Christie Swanepoel (University of the Western Cape).

Session F2. Labour Organization in the Long Run (Room B15)

Chair: Juan Manuel Santana Pérez, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

The Italian Colonial Empire in Africa as a Crossroad for Labour Mobilization.

Donatella Strangio (Sapienza University of Rome).

Why Extractive Institutions? The Choice Between Free and Forced Labour in Colonial French Africa.

Federico Tadei (Universidad de Barcelona).

Labour Transformations in Southern Africa from Colonial to Postcolonial Times: Realities and Connotations.

Kleoniki Alexopoulou (NOVA University Lisbon) and Dácil Juif (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid).

Iron Ore in Mauritania: MIFERMA and the world of its workers (1952-1974)

E. Ann McDougall (University of Alberta)

Session F3. Economic Inequality and Institutions (Room B22)

Chair: Denis Cogneau, Paris School of Economics

Elite Persistence in Sierra Leone: What Can Names Tell Us?

Rebecca Simson (Wadham College, Oxford), Yannick Dupraz (CNRS, Aix-Marseille University) and Henry M. Kpaka (Independent).

Rural Capitalism and Income Inequality in Colonial Africa: Trends and Transitions.

Prince Young Aboagye, Ellen Hillbom and Sascha Klocke (Lund University).

Incarcerating the Agricultural Reserve Army: Unemployment, Incarceration & the Settler Project in Depression Era Kenya.

Jonathan Donald Jenner (University of Manitoba).

Session F4. New Sources on African Economic History (Room B23)

Chair: Lloyd Melusi Maphosa, University of Cape Town

African Time Travelers: What Can We Learn From 500 Years of Written Accounts?

Edward Kerby (Stellenbosch University), Alexander Moradi (Free State University of Bozen-Bolzano) and Hanjo Odendaal (Stellenbosch University).

Anthropometric History of Equatorial Guinea Based on Colonial Sources, 1938-1960.

José A. Ortega (University of Salamanca).

On the Way to a Quantitative Economic Historiography of Somalia.

Sarah Ferber and Joerg Baten (University of Tübingen).

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself: Christian Missions, Ethnic Fractionalization, and Development in Africa.

Alessandra Quintigliano and Jacob Weisdorf (Sapienza University of Rome).

**17.45-19.00 Closing Keynote. [Casa África](#). Nelson Mandela Auditorium.
“Interrogating Inequality” by Belinda Archibong (Columbia University)**

Excmo. Sr. Dr. José Segura Clavell, Director of Casa África.

19.00-19.15 Conclusion

19.15-21.00 Patio de Casa África. Farewell Cocktails and Live Music (*Thiounne Brothers*).

Cocktails funded by PORMAR and Vicerrectorado de Relaciones Internacionales de la ULPGC



15th October – Urban Trip

10.30-11.30. Guided Tour Triana-Vegueta

11.30-12.30. Guided Tour Museo Canario

12.30-13.30 [MUSEO CANARIO](#). Keynote: *The Original Inhabitants of the Canary Islands: Economy and Society*, Dr. Teresa Delgado Aguiar (Museo Canario) and Dr. Daniel Pérez Estévez (Director of the Museo Canario)

Organized by: El Museo Canario



CONFERENCE VENUE

Instituto Universitario de Análisis y Aplicaciones Textuales

Facultad de Geografía e Historia

Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

<https://goo.gl/maps/icV68j7GntrubyqL7>

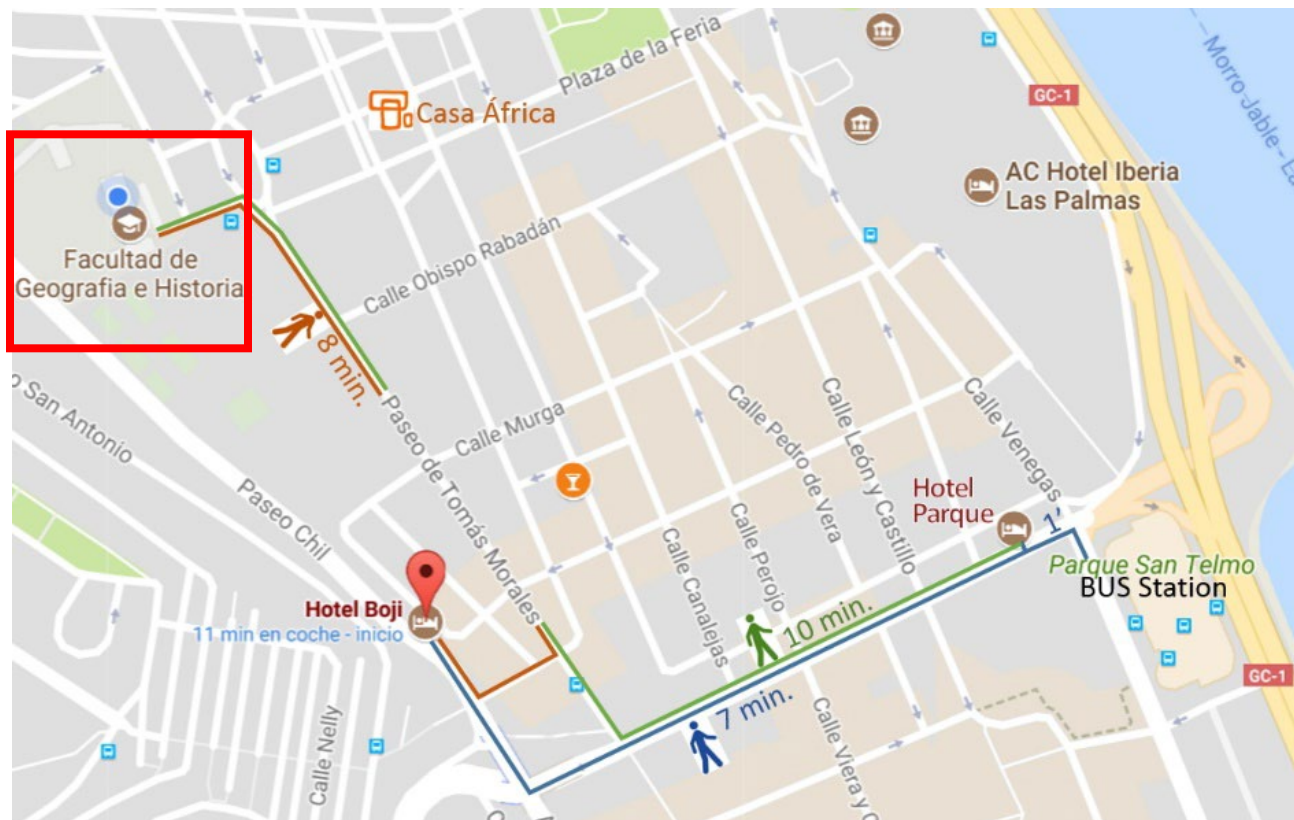
10 minutes by walk from San Telmo Bus Station

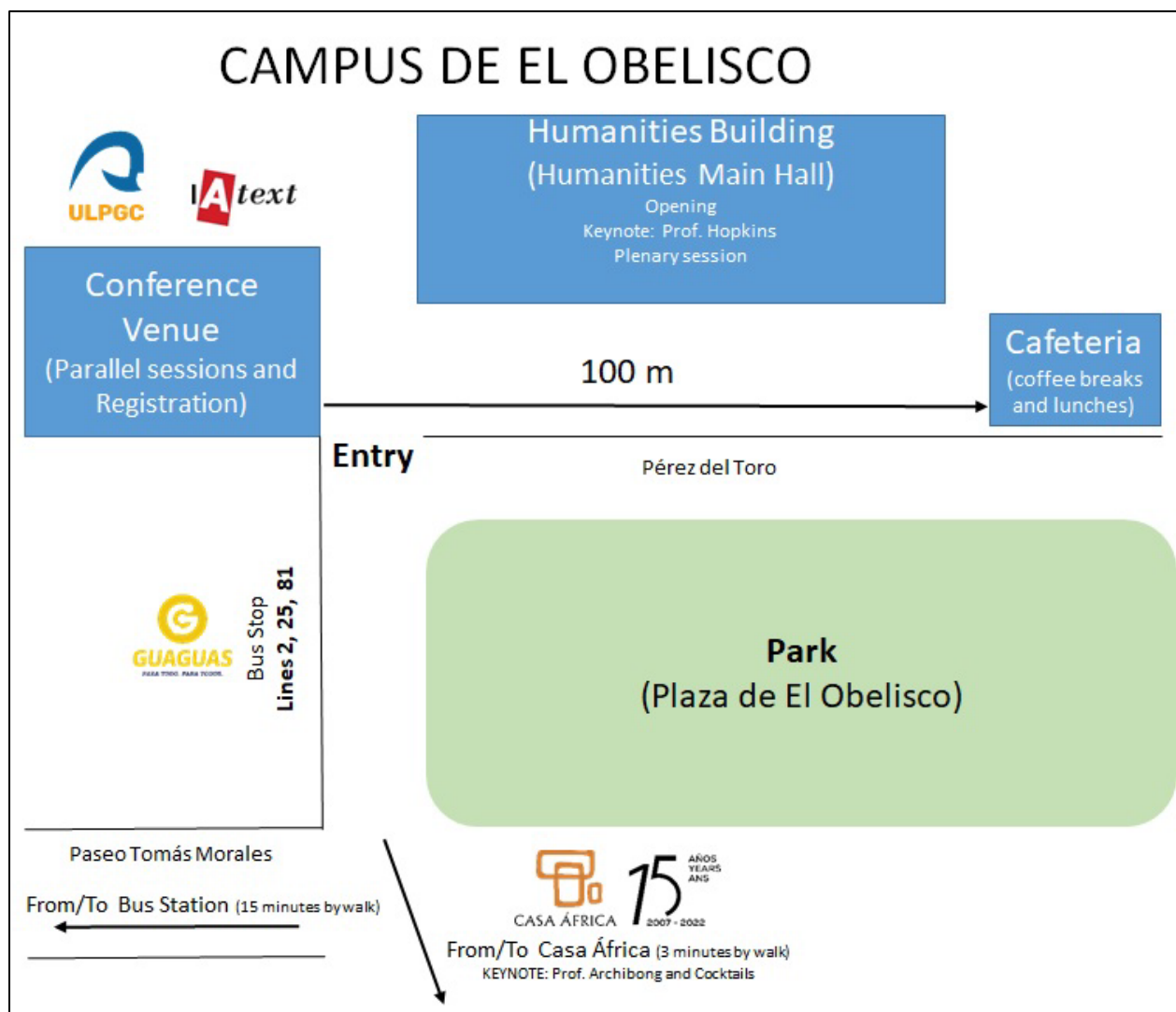
Bus Line 60 (Airport-San Telmo-Santa Catalina): 2,95 euros

- [TIMETABLE CLICK HERE](#)

Local Bus Lines ([Guaguas Municipales](#)) (Obelisco Bus Stop):

- [Line 2](#)
- [Line 25](#)
- [Line 81](#)





Free WIFI available for participants (Information for connection is provided onsite)

IMPORTANT

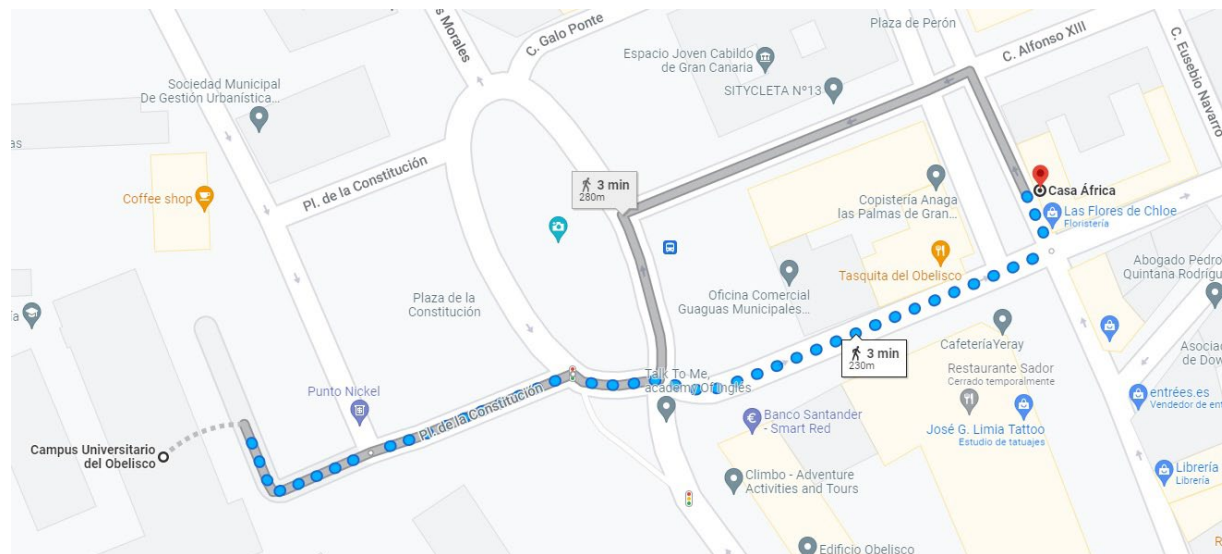
Only registered participants are entitled to attend coffee breaks and lunches. The same applies for the farewell cocktail. Please always keep your badge visible. Thank you!

CASA ÁFRICA

Keynote 2 and Cocktails (14th October)

Directions to the venue

<https://g.page/consorcio-casa-africa?share>

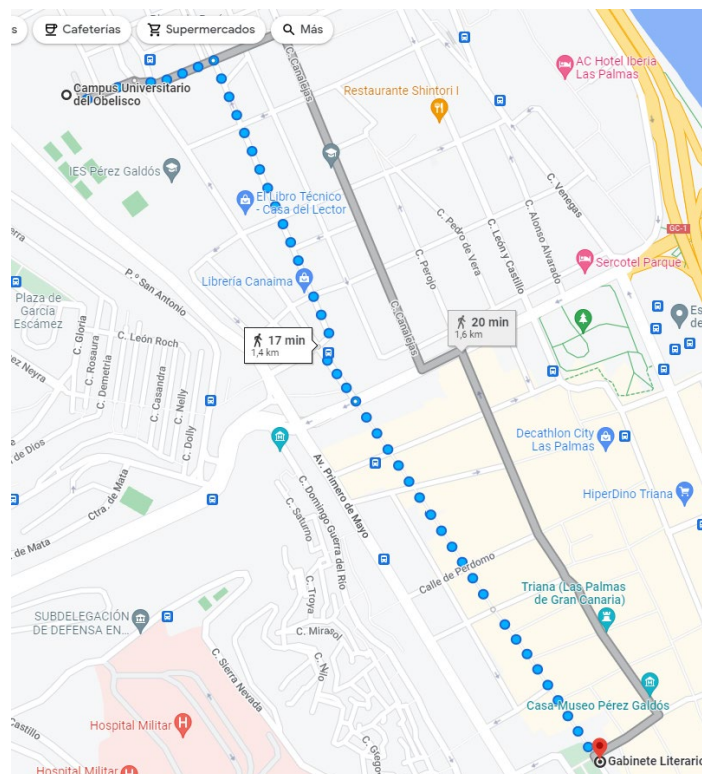


GUIDED TOUR (Triana-Vegueta)

15th October

Meeting Point: Gabinete Literario

<https://goo.gl/maps/XZTawNivVGBs1sk98>



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Currency: Euros

VAT: 7% (IGIC)

Language: Spanish

Emergency phone: 112

Weather in Gran Canaria (October, historical average): 20° - 26° (6% rain chance)

Airport: Gran Canaria/Las Palmas (*international airport*)

Distance from the airport to the Conference Venue: 22.3 km

University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (est. 1989)

Students: 22,707 (2022)

Academic Staff: 1,596 (includes Ph.D. and postdoc fellows)

Budget: 162.48M Euros (2022)

Population (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, city): 403,507

Population (Gran Canaria): 873,368

Human Development Index: 0.855 (2015) (Spain avg. 0.895) (2015)

GDP per head (Canary Islands, 2019): 17,448 euros (Spain avg., 29,027 euros)

Economic structure (2020):

Agriculture: 2.1%

Industry: 6.8%

Building: 7.2%

Services: 83.9%

Arrival of Tourists (Canary Islands): 13,147,000 (2019)

Expenditure of international tourists: 16,854 billion of euros (2019)

Average stay: 7.1 days

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