



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, ECONOMICS AND LAW

Curriculum Vitae Klas Rönnbäck

Department of Economy and Society
Economic History
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Academic degrees

2013 Docent /reader, Economic history, University of Gothenburg
2010 Ph.D., Economic history, University of Gothenburg
1999 Master, Economic history, University of Stockholm

Positions within academia:

2016 - Head of Ph.d.-program in Economic History, Economy and Society,
University of Gothenburg

Main research fields:

Economic development, Colonialism, Slavery, Capitalism

Main teaching fields:

Global economic history, Economic history of slavery

Academic experience

Research projects:

2019 - 2022 Reversal of fortune or persistence of wealth? Institutions and wealth
inequality in a Caribbean plantation economy, 1750s to 1917
2016 - 2020 Imperial Profits: The return on investments in Africa, 1869-1969

Head of research project:

2019 - 2022 Reversal of fortune or persistence of wealth? Institutions and wealth
inequality in a Caribbean plantation economy, 1750s to 1917
2019 - 2020 Cotton Cultivation, Colonialism and Coercion - a pilot study
2015 - 2019 Imperial profits - The globalization of financial markets and the return
on British investments in Africa during the colonial era
2015 - 2019 The white man's grave? Settler mortality rates in pre-colonial West
Africa
2010 - 2013 Tillväxt eller rent vatten: institutioner kring en knapp naturresurs, Göta
Älv

International research projects:

2016 - 2016 Copper Sheathing and the British Slave Trade, Professor Peter Solar, Vesalius College, Bryssel

Supervision of PhD students:

2014 - Dimitrios Theodoridis, (Head supervisor)
2014 - Stefania Galli, (Head supervisor)
2018 - 2019 Jens Boberg, University of Gothenburg (Head supervisor)
2013 - 2015 Lovisa Broström, (Head supervisor)
2013 - 2015 Malin Nilsson, (Co-supervisor)

Opponent and/or examiner of PhD and licentiate theses:

2018 Jens Andersson, State capacity and development in Francophone West Africa, Lunds universitet (Member of examining committee)
2018 Carolina Uppenbergs, Göteborgs Universitet (Member of examining committee)
2013 Andres Palacio Chaverra, Mind the gap, inequalities in infant and child mortality: the case of Colombia, 1967-2010, Lunds universitet (Member of examining committee)

Reviewer assignments:

Business History, Economic History Review, Heliyon, Business History, History Compass, Research Data Journal for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Journal of Transport History, Scandinavian Economic History Review, Journal of African History, European Review of Economic History, Heimen, Economic History Review, Economic History Review, Economic History Review, European Review of Economic History, Journal of African and Asian Studies, Economic History of Developing Regions, European Review of History, European Review of Economic History, Historisk tidskrift, European Review of Economic History, Norsk Historisk Tidskrift

Academic assignments:

2016 - 2017 Essays in Economic & Business History (guest editor of special issue) (Editor)
2017 Evaluator of applicants for a position as lecturer in economic history

Arranging conference, symposium, seminar or workshop:

2011 Svenska Ekonomisk-Historiska Mötet, 2011-08-25

Awards, distinctions or commissions of trust:

2010 Per Nyström-priset, Kungl. Vetenskaps- och Vitterhets-Samhället i Göteborg

Pedagogical training:

2014 HPE101-103
2014 HPE201

Pedagogical projects and development:

2014 Att ifrågasätta "vithetsprivilegiet": ett försök att tillämpa kritisk pedagogik i högskolepedagogisk praktik

International academic experience:

	Research and Ph.d.-education cooperation with University of Stellenbosch (International academic network)
2017 - 2017	Guest researcher, University of Stellenbosch
2009 - 2009	Guest ph.d.-student

Publications

Journal article (peer-reviewed)

Rönnbäck, Klas, Theodoridis, Dimitrios (2018) African agricultural productivity and the transatlantic slave trade: evidence from Senegambia in the nineteenth century. *Economic history review*,

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, p. 309-327.

Rönnbäck, Klas, Broberg, Oskar (2018) All that glitters is not gold: The return on British investments in South Africa, 1869-1969. *Journal for Studies in Economics and Econometrics*, 42:2, p. 61-79.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2017) The sink as a source: safeguarding the raw water source of Gothenburg, Sweden, 1860 to 1980. *Environment and History*, 23:1, p. 97-122.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2017) The challenge of studying inflation in pre-colonial Africa. *History in Africa - A Journal of Method*,

Öberg, Stefan, Rönnbäck, Klas (2017) Socioeconomic Differences in Mortality among European Settlers in Pre-Colonial Western Africa. *Essays in Economic & Business History*, 35:1, p. 315-339.

Rönnbäck, Klas, Granér, Staffan (2016) Historicizing the environmental Kuznets Curve: water pollution in Göta Älv, Sweden, 1895–2000. *Water History*, 8:2, p. 95-114.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2016) Transaction costs of early modern multinational enterprise: measuring the transatlantic information lag of the British Royal African Company and its successor, 1680–1818. *Business History*, 58:8, p. 1147-1163.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2016) Waged Slavery – Incentivizing Unfree Labour at Cape Coast Castle in the Eighteenth Century. *Slavery & Abolition*, 37:1, p. 73-93.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2015) Interest-group lobbying for free trade: an empirical case study of international trade policy formation. *Journal of International Trade and Economic Development*, 24:2, p. 281-293.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2015) The transatlantic slave trade and social stratification on the Gold Coast. *Economic History of Developing Regions*,

Solar, Peter, Rönnbäck, Klas (2015) Copper sheathing and the British slave trade. *Economic history review*, 68:3.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2014) 'The Men Seldom Suffer a Woman to Sit Down': The Historical Development of the Stereotype of the 'Lazy African'. *African Studies*, 73:2, p. 211-227.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2014) The Idle and the Industrious: European Ideas about the African Work Ethic in Pre-colonial West Africa. *History in Africa - A Journal of Method*, 41, p. 117

Rönnbäck, Klas (2014) SWEET BUSINESS. *Revista De Historia Economica*, 32:2, p. 223-245.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2014) Living standards on the pre-colonial Gold Coast: a quantitative estimate of African laborers' welfare ratios. *European Review of Economic History*, 18:2, p. 185-202.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2014) Power, Plenty and Pressure groups: A comparative study of British and Danish Colonialism in the West Indies and the Role of the State, 1768-1772. *Journal of Early American History*, 1:3, p. 215-240.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2014) Climate, conflicts and variations in prices on pre-colonial West African markets for staple crops. *Economic history review*, 67:4, p. 1065-1088.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2014) Slave ownership and fossil fuel usage – a commentary. *Climatic Change*, 122:1-2, p. 1-9.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2013) Enlightenment, Scientific Exploration and Abolitionism Anders Sparrman's and Carl Bernhard Wadström's colonial encounters in Senegal, 1787–1788 and the British abolitionist movement. *Slavery & Abolition*, 34:3, p. 425-445.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2012) The Speed of Ships and Shipping Productivity in the Age of Sail. *European Review of Economic History*, 16:4, p. 469-489.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2011) Consumers and slavery: diversified markets for plantation produce and the survival of slavery in the 19th century. *Fernand Braudel Center Review*, 33:1, p. 69-88.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2010) Balancing the Baltic trade: colonial commodities in the trade on the Baltic, 1773-1856. *Scandinavian Economic History Review*, 58:3, p. 188-202.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2010) New and old peripheries - Britain, the Baltic and the Americas in the Great Divergence. *Journal of Global History*, 5:3.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2010) The Sound Toll Chamber Commodity Records: estimating the reliability of a potential source to international trade history. *International Journal of Maritime History*, 22:1, p. 229-238.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2010) An early-modern consumer revolution in the Baltic?. *Scandinavian Journal of History*, 35:2, p. 177-197.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2009) Who stood to gain from colonialism? A case study of early modern European colonialism in the Caribbean. *Itinerario - International Journal on the History of European Expansion and Global Interaction*, 33:3.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2009) Integration of global commodity markets in the early-modern era. *European Review of Economic History*, 13:1, p. 95-120.

Journal article (other academic)

Öberg, Stefan, Fellman, Susanna, Rönnbäck, Klas (2017) The rhythm of life and work: Introduction to a special issue in honor of Professor Christer Lundh. *Essays in Economic and Business History*, 35:1, p. 1-13.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2015) Slavskeppet Brooks och myten om den rationella kapitalismens humanism. *Ord & Bild*, 2015:3, p. 62-71.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2012) An end and a new beginning: disintegration of inter-continental commodity markets during the Revolutionary Era, 1770s to 1820s. *Jahrbuch für Überseegeschichte*, 11.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2008) En amputerad historia. *Ord & Bild*, :4.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2008) Sveriges koloniala spöke. *Ord & Bild*, :2, p. 48-53.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2007) "Alltid något att visa upp för nationens ögon" - Franska tomten och den svenska jakten på kolonier. *Ord & Bild*, :3-4, p. 63-69.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2007) Kolonialismens söta smak - Svensk och dansk handel med kolonialvaror under tidigmodern tid. *Hans Albin Larsson (red.): Aktuellt om historia. Forskningsfronten flyttar fram. Närings- och handelshistoria*, 2007:2, p. 41-54.

Book

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

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

Book chapter

Rönnbäck, Klas (2018) The Speed of Early Modern Shipping in the Baltic – a Tentative Exploration using STRO. In *Werner Scheltjens and Jan Willem Veluwenkamp (eds.), Shipping and Trade through the Danish Sound, 1600-1800: Studies in Digital History*, Leiden : Brill.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2018) Scandinavia in the Atlantic World. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Latin American History*, Oxford University Press.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2013) Atlantic Early-Modern Migrations and Economic Globalization. In *Encyclopedia of Global Human Migration*, 5. Wiley-Blackwell.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2013) Triangelhandeln i Atlanten. In *Katarina Streiffert Eikeland & Madelaine Miller (red.), En maritim värld – från stenåldern till idag*, p. 228-236. Lindome : Bricoleur press.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2011) Who Stood to Gain from Colonialism? A Case Study of Early Modern European Colonialism in the Caribbean. In *Small is Beautiful? Interlopers and Smaller Trading Nations in the Pre-industrial Period*. Edited by Markus A. Denzel, Jan de Vries, and Philipp Robinson Rössner, Franz Steiner Verlag.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2010) Franska tomten och den svenska jakten på kolonier. In *Göteborg utforskat: Studier av en stad i förändring (Helena Holgersson, Catharina Thörn, Håkan Thörn & Mattias Wahlström, red.)*, p. 175-182. Göteborg : Glänta.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2010) Från Saint Domingue till Göteborg – kolonialvaror och konsumtion i 1700-talets Sverige. In *1700-talets Göteborg (red. Charlotta Dohlvik, Jenny Johansson & Christian Peralva)*, p. 34-47. Göteborg : Göteborgs stadsmuseum.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2010) The French block and the Swedish hunt for colonies. In *(re)searching Gothenburg: essays on a changing city (Helena Holgersson, Catharina Thörn, Håkan Thörn & Mattias Wahlström, eds.)*, p. 177-184. Göteborg : Glänta.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2009) Socker och slavplantager i svensk historia. In *Global historia från periferin. Norden 1600-1850. Red. Leos Müller, Göran Rydén & Holger Weiss*, Lund : Studentlitteratur.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2007) Flexibility and protectionism - Swedish trade in sugar during the early modern era. In *Christer Ahlberger & Pia Lundqvist (red.): Varans vägar och världar - Handel och konsumtion i Skandinavien ca 1600-1900*, p. 116-131. Göteborg : Historiska institutionen, Göteborg University.

Doctoral thesis

Rönnbäck, Klas (2009) *Commerce and Colonisation: Studies of Early Modern Merchant Capitalism in the Atlantic Economy*. Doct. thesis, Göteborg: University of Gothenburg.

Conference paper

Theodoridis, Dimitrios, Rönnbäck, Klas, Scheltjens, Werner (2018) Factor endowments, ghost acreages and international trade networks: a study of land embodied in Baltic trade, 1750-1850. *XVIII World Economic History Conference, Boston, USA*.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2018) The economic importance of the slave plantation complex to the British economy in the eighteenth century: a value-added approach. *XVIII World Economic History Conference, Boston, USA*.

Rönnbäck, Klas, Theodoridis, Dimitrios (2018) African agricultural productivity and the transatlantic slave trade: evidence from Senegambia in the nineteenth century. *XVIII World*

Economic History Conference, Boston, USA.

Galli, Stefania, Rönnbäck, Klas (2017) Land Inequality in an Egalitarian Utopia: the case of Sierra Leone in the early 19th century. *European Economic History Society Conference.*

Rönnbäck, Klas (2016) Pre-colonial West African Inflation, Again. *African Studies Association 2016 Conference.*

Rönnbäck, Klas, Broberg, Oskar (2016) Imperial profits – the return on British investments in Africa, 1869-1969. *VI Annual Meeting of the African Economic History Network.*

Rönnbäck, Klas, Galli, Stefania (2016) Colonial Institutions and Pre-Industrial Inequality: rural Sierra Leone in 1831, the most equal society of its time. *6th African Economic History Network Meeting.*

Rönnbäck, Klas, Galli, Stefania (2016) Colonial Institutions and Pre-Industrial Inequality: rural Sierra Leone in 1831, the most equal society of its time. *2nd European Society of Historical Demography Conference, 21-24 September 2016, Leuven.*

Rönnbäck, Klas, Theodoridis, Dimitrios (2016) African agricultural productivity and the transatlantic slave trade: evidence from Senegambia in the nineteenth century. *African Economic History Network, VI Annual Conference 21-22 Oct. 2016, Brighton, UK.*

Theodoridis, Dimitrios, Rönnbäck, Klas, Werner, Scheltjens (2016) Factor endowments and the Baltic trade – “Ghost acreage“ calculations based on STRO. *Transport statistics in pre- and early industrial economic history: The challenges and opportunities of Sound Toll Registers Online International Conference, 26-28 Oct. 2016, Leipzig.*

Rönnbäck, Klas (2015) The transatlantic slave trade and social stratification on the Gold Coast. *World Economic History Congress. 3-7 August 2015. Kyoto, Japan.*

Rönnbäck, Klas, Öberg, Stefan, Galli, Stefania (2015) Working in the ‘White Man’s Grave’ - Compensating Wage Differentials and Epidemiological Risk on the 18th century Gold Coast. *11th European Historical Economics Society Conference, 4-5 September 2015, Pisa.*

Rönnbäck, Klas, Galli, Stefania, Öberg, Stefan (2015) Working in the ‘White Man’s Grave’ - Compensating Wage Differentials and Epidemiological Risk on the 18th century Gold Coast. *10th New Frontiers in African Economic History Workshop, 30-31 October 2015, Wageningen 2015.*

Öberg, Stefan, Rönnbäck, Klas (2015) The White Man’s Grave revisited - settler mortality rates on the pre-colonial Gold Coast. *11th European Historical Economics Society Conference.*

Rönnbäck, Klas (2013) Climate, conflicts and variations in prices on pre-colonial West African markets for staple crops. *European Historical Economics Society Conference, London, 6th and 7th September 2013.*

Rönnbäck, Klas (2013) Profiting from the production of sugar. *ASOCIACIÓN DE HISTORIA ECONÓMICA DEL CARIBE (AHEC) II CONGRESO, June 26- 29, 2013.*

Rönnbäck, Klas (2013) Climate, conflicts and variations in prices on pre-colonial West African markets for staple crops. *Svenska Ekonomisk-Historiska Mötet 2013, Lund 4-5 Oktober 2013.*

Rönnbäck, Klas (2013) Climate, conflicts and variations in prices on pre-colonial West African markets for staple crops. *Crossroads in African Studies, Birmingham, 4-6 September 2013.*

- Rönnbäck, Klas (2012) Living standards on the pre-colonial Gold Coast. *The global and long-term development of real wages: methods, problems and possibilities, workshop, Amsterdam, november 2012.*
- Rönnbäck, Klas (2012) Living standards on the pre-colonial Gold Coast. *World Economic History Congress, Stellenbosch, july 2012.*
- Rönnbäck, Klas (2011) Konsumenter och slaveri. *Svenska Historikermötet 2011: Koloniala drömmar och merkantilistisk praktik. Svenskt 1700-tal i Medelhavet och på Atlanten.*
- Rönnbäck, Klas (2011) The Speed of Ocean Shipping and Shipping Productivity, c. 1625–1862. *European Historical Economics Society Conference, Dublin, 2011.*
- Rönnbäck, Klas, Granér, Staffan (2011) Economic Growth and Clean Water in the Göta River A Pilot Study of Collective Action and the Environmental Kuznets Curve 1895-2000. *Ekonomisk-historiska mötet 2011.*
- Rönnbäck, Klas, Granér, Staffan (2011) Economic Growth and Clean Water in the Göta River A Pilot Study of Collective Action and the Environmental Kuznets Curve 1895-2000. *The Adlerbert Research Foundation Jubilee Conference, Gothenburg, 2011.*
- Rönnbäck, Klas, Granér, Staffan (2011) Economic Growth and Clean Water in the Göta River - Collective Action and the Environmental Kuznets Curve, 1895-2000. *American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference.*
- Rönnbäck, Klas (2010) Who Stood to Gain from Colonialism? A Case Study of Early Modern European Colonialism in the Caribbean. *Social Science History Association, 35th Annual Meeting, Chicago, November 18-21 2010.*
- Rönnbäck, Klas (2010) Productivity change in early modern shipping – speed of shipping in the Baltic trade. *Soundtoll Registers Online. To the Test, Leeuwarden, 28-29 October, 2010.*
- Rönnbäck, Klas (2010) From Saint Domingue to the Baltic: diversified markets for plantation produce, and the semiperipheral exploitation of slaves. *From the Northern Seas to the Atlantic: Cities, ecology and exchange; 19 March 2010; IHR, London, Britain.*
- Rönnbäck, Klas (2010) Power, Plenty and Pressure groups: British and Danish colonialism in the West Indies and the role of the state, 1768-1772. *(Trans) colonial (trans) imperial and Atlantic trade in the 18th Century, March 11, 2010, EHESS, Paris, France.*
- Rönnbäck, Klas (2009) An early-modern consumer revolution in the Baltic?. *Consumption, power and culture in the early modern Atlantic world, June 4-5, 2009, Åbo Akademi, Finland.*
- Rönnbäck, Klas (2009) Who stood to gain from colonialism? A case study of early modern European colonialism in the Caribbean. *World Economic History Congree, Utrecht 2009.*
- Rönnbäck, Klas (2008) Counter-weight and complement: economic and cultural aspects of the Swedish imports of colonial commodities. *Svenska Historikermötet 2008.*
- Rönnbäck, Klas (2008) Profits from colonialism in the Americas – a semiperipheral perspective. *Graduate Student Research Conference on Latin America and the Caribbean, november 2008.*
- Rönnbäck, Klas (2008) Transforming consumption in the European periphery – colonial commodities in Scandinavia during the early modern era. *European Business History Association 12th annual conference.*
- Rönnbäck, Klas (2007) Free-riding on European colonialism - Swedish trade in colonial

sugar during the early modern era. *Seventh Conference of the European Historical Economics Society, Lund, juni 2007.*

Rönnbäck, Klas (2007) From extreme luxury to everyday commodity – sugar in Sweden, 17th to 20th centuries. *Ekonomisk-historiska mötet, Stockholm, oktober 2007.*

Report

Öberg, Stefan, Rönnbäck, Klas (2016) *Mortality among European settlers in pre-colonial West Africa: The “White Man’s Grave” revisited.* Göteborg: University of Gothenburg.

Granér, Staffan, Rönnbäck, Klas (2011) *Economic Growth and Clean Water in the Göta River A Pilot Study of Collective Action and the Environmental Kuznets Curve 1895-2000.* Göteborg: University of Gothenburg.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2007) *The price of sugar in Sweden : Data, source & methods.*

Rönnbäck, Klas (2007) *From extreme luxury to everyday commodity Sugar in Sweden, 17th to 20th centuries.*

Rönnbäck, Klas (2006) *Flexibility and protectionism. Swedish trade in sugar during the early modern era.*

Review

Rönnbäck, Klas (2015) Sean Stilwell, Slavery and slaving in African history. *Economic history review*, 68:3, p. 1091-1092.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2015) Kåre Lauring, Slaverne dansede og holdt sig lystige: en fortælling om den danske slavehandel. *Sjuttonhundredatal*, 2015, p. 276-277.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2015) Joachim Östlund, Saltets pris. *Historisk Tidskrift*, :3, p. 551-552.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2010) Christoper Ebert: Between empires. *Itinerario*,

Rönnbäck, Klas (2009) Erik Ringmar, Why Europe Was First. *Itinerario*, :1, p. 135-6.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2008) Clé Lesger, The Rise of the Amsterdam Market and Information Exchange. *Scandinavian Economic History Review*, 56:1.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2008) Dick Harrison, Slaveri – 1500 till 1800. *Historisk tidskrift*, :4, p. 723-726.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2007) Dick Harrison - Slaveri: från forntid till renässansen. *Historisk tidskrift*, 127:3, p. 570-571.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2007) James Rawley, The transatlantic slave trade. *Historisk tidskrift*, 127:1, p. 149-151.

Rönnbäck, Klas (2007) Ole Justesen (red.), Danish sources for the history of Ghana 1657–1754. *Historisk tidskrift*, 127:2, p. 376-377.