



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA
Faculty of Humanities

Lecture series: “Africa in world history”

Presented by Keith Hart, Visiting Professor in the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship, Co-director of the Human Economy Program at the University of Pretoria, and Centennial Professor of Economic Development at the London School of Economics

Dates: 4 February-1 March 2013 (every Monday, Wednesday, Friday)

Time: 11:00-12:00

Venue: Humanities Building 1-5, University of Pretoria, Hatfield Campus

No RSVP necessary

History is usually written by the winners. A century ago, people of European descent controlled 90% of the planet's land and they have dominated representations of world society before and since then. But we live at a time when all that is palpably changing, a situation manifested in the rise of the BRICS to challenge western hegemony. Africa too is rapidly increasing its share of world population and economic growth. World society is still in large part a racial order based on colour with black people assigned the bottom rung. The coming century offers the real prospect of a rapid end to this. After all, China was the poorest and most violent region in the world during the 1930s and look at it now.

What does world history look like from an African perspective? These lectures are not a survey, but each lecture will rather examine one or more outstanding books addressing various aspects of this topic, arranged roughly in a historical sequence. Every one of these books, a good portion of them written by Africans and members of the African diaspora, has inspired the lecturer. This is lecturing for belief, not lecturing for knowledge. The lectures are intended as a guide to reading and a stimulus to personal research.

See full course outline below.

Lecture series: "Africa in world history" - course outline

February 4

Introduction: Africa in the World

Cheikh Anta Diop *The African Origins of Civilisation* (1974)

Walter Rodney *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* (1972)

February 6

The Urban Revolution

V. Gordon Childe *What Happened in History* (1942)

Michael E Smith V Gordon Childe and the urban revolution (2009 pdf)

February 8

Africa and the Ancient Mediterranean

Martin Bernal *Black Athena: The Afro-asiatic roots of classical civilization* (1987)

February 11

Atlantic Slavery and the Haitian Revolution

C L R James *The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo revolution* (second edition 1963)

February 13

The African Diaspora

W E B Dubois *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903)

February 15

Colonial Empire and the World Economy

W Arthur Lewis *The Evolution of the International Economic Order* (1978)

February 18

Panafricanism

C L R James *The History of Pan-African Revolt* (third edition, 2012)

February 20

The Anti-colonial Revolution

Frantz Fanon *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961)

February 22

Independence and “Development”

V. Padayachee (ed) *The Political Economy of Africa* (2010), especially Chapters 1-4, 20, 22.

K Hart & V Padayachee “Development” in K Hart, J-L Laville & A Cattani eds *The Human Economy* (2010)

M Cowan & R Shenton *Doctrines of Development* (1996)

February 25

The State in Africa

Moeletse Mbeki *Architects of Poverty* (2009)

Jean-François Bayart *The State in Africa: The politics of the belly* (third edition, 2009)

February 27

South Africa: an Exception?

Charles Feinstein *An Economic History of South Africa* (2005, also online)

K. Hart & V. Padayachee <http://thememorybank.co.uk/2009/10/10/south-africa-needs-africa/>

March 1

Africa in the 21st century world crisis

Keith Hart Various essays at www.thememorybank.co.uk

Keith Hart is Visiting Professor in the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship and Co-director of the Human Economy Program at the University of Pretoria, and Centennial Professor of International Development, London School of Economics and Political Science

See www.web.up.ac.za/humaneconomy and www.thememorybank.co.uk/keith.