

African Econometric Society

The African Econometric Society



www.africametrics.org

INDEX

1 HISTORY OF THE AES

A brief account of the Society's history

2 GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Description of the structure of the Society and its Constitution

3 CONFERENCES

Provides detail about all 13 AES conferences, including numbers of papers and delegates as well as keynote speakers.

4 OFFICE BEARERS

The Society's office bearers and past Presidents

Summary and background

The African Econometric Society (AES) is an international scholarly society for the advancement of economic theory in its relation to statistics and mathematics especially, but not limited to, African themes.

The AES has more than 800 members, of which the majority are based in Africa but with a substantial minority in Europe, America and Asia.

Membership is presently open to all who express an interest in the objectives of the society and there is no membership fee. The major costs of the Society's activities have to date been paid by funds raised through conference fees and sponsorships.

The Society's website – www.africametrics.org – is a major channel for communicating with existing and prospective members.

To date chief activity of the AES has been the annual conference, the 16th of which was recently hosted by the Kenya School of Monetary Studies (KSMS) in Nairobi, Kenya.

Though the conference started with a modest number of papers it has, for a number of years now, been a substantial conference with at least 3 parallel tracks over two and half days. Entry to the conference has also become more competitive with a rejection rate of around 30% of the submissions in recent years.

The role played by the keynote speakers at the AES conference is a distinguishing feature of the AES conferences. We have been fortunate to host a number of leading econometricians as keynote speakers

over the last 16 years. And the keynote speakers have consistently added to the quality of the conference by active participation in the papers presented by the AES members, in addition to their keynote addresses. As a result the quality of research by AES members has risen noticeably over the past couple of years and many papers at the AES conference are now able to compete for positions at other international econometrics conferences.

The annual conference will remain the major activity of the Society for the foreseeable future, but a number of new initiatives will also be launched over the short to medium term, including: a working paper series with a peer review mechanism to assist authors in preparing their conference papers for submission to international scholarly journals. These working papers will be posted on the Society's website and linked to the large scholarly search engines to facilitate dissemination.

A second new initiative is to arrange workshops on particular technical topics at or before the annual conference.

This document describes the history, character and activities of the AES with the purpose of applying for affiliation as a chapter of the Econometric Society. Affiliation will raise the prominence of and enthusiasm for econometric research in Africa. It will also provide formal links to leading scholars at the other chapters with beneficial spill over effects on the quality of research by AES members.

1. History of the AES

Early years (1996 - 1999)

The African Econometric Society (AES) had its origins with the vision of the late Prof. Geert de Wet (University of Pretoria) to improve econometric modelling in Africa. He was a leading South African economist and, amongst other scholarly achievements, the designer of the first macro-econometric model for South Africa (during the early seventies). He remained a leading figure in South African economics until his untimely death in 1997. Prof. de Wet's active participation in Project LINK introduced him to Professors Stephen Hall and Peter Pauly and the close association between these three led to the first annual conference in Pretoria during June 1996.

Second and third conferences followed in 1997 and 1998 with the University of Pretoria as host. While Professors Hall and Pauly made tremendous contributions with workshops at these early conferences, the numbers of papers by local economists also increased. By 1998 the Local Organising Committee of the annual conference (chaired by Prof. Jan van Heerden) informed the Econometric Society of the local initiative and communicated our vision to ensure the sustainability and expansion of the annual conference, to recruit more members, especially from African scholars, and to kindle interest in and help improve the quality of econometric research in Africa. The eventual goal of joining the Econometric Society as a chapter was formulated at the same time. To that end a core group of the early participants launched the African Econometric Society at the 4th annual conference during July 1999.

A growing society (2000 onwards)

The first annual conference as the newly founded AES was hosted by the School of Economics at the University of the Witwatersrand during July 2000. The Keynote speakers on this occasion, Professors David Hendry and Marc Nerlove (following Professors Anne Case and Angus Deaton in 1999) set the trend of high profile keynote speakers that has become a distinguishing feature of the AES conferences. They have been followed by Professors Hashem Pesaran (twice), Pravin Trivedi, Peter Phillips, Adrian Pagan, John Muellbauer, Sam Bowles, Duncan Thomas, Chris Udry, Arnold Zellner, Kaddour Hadri, Soren Johansen, Katerina Juselius, Marcel Fafchamps, Steven Bond, Badi Baltagi, Richard Blundell, Jan Kiviet, Yaw Nyarko, Karim Abadir, Yacine Ait-Sahalia, Mahmoud El-Gamal, Karl-Goran Maler, John Moore, Franco Peracchi, Jushan Bal, Nour Meddahi and Abhijit Banarjee. Professors Stephen Hall and Peter Pauly have each presented a number of keynote addresses during the early years of the conference.

The annual conference grew steadily during the following couple of years with the conference hosted by the Universities of Pretoria and Witwatersrand, but it was the 7th annual conference in the world famous Kruger National Park (hosted by the University of Pretoria) which marked the change to an altogether larger conference. It was followed by successively larger conferences in Stellenbosch and Cape Town in South Africa's Western Cape Province during 2003 and 2004. The success of these conferences provided the platform for the Society to organise the annual conference outside of South Africa for the first time during 2005. The successful 10th annual conference in Nairobi, (Kenya) was followed by another successful conference in Dakar (Senegal) during 2006. In 2007 the conference returned to Cape Town for the 12th annual conference and was followed by the highly successful 13th annual conference hosted by the University of Pretoria. In 2009 the conference was again held outside of South Africa, this time hosted by the Centre for Econometric and Allied Research (CEAR), University of Ibadan, Nigeria and the Nigerian Economic Society, the venue being the Sheraton hotel in the capital, Abuja. This was followed by the 15th annual conference hosted by the American University in Cairo, Egypt, and the 16th annual conference hosted by the Kenya School for Monetary Studies in Kenya, Nairobi. In the course of 16 years this conference has grown into an important event on the calendar of economists in Africa (and beyond). The 2012 conference will take place at the Imperial Royale hotel in Kampala Uganda, organised by the AES jointly with the African Development Bank, Makerere University, Economic Policy Research Centre in Uganda, the Bank of Uganda and the AERC. The conference will take place from 25-27 July 2012.

The Society has been served by a succession of outstanding Presidents since the election of Professor Johannes Fedderke as the first President in 2001. Professor Kadour Hadri of Queens University, Belfast, United Kingdom, is currently the President.

2. Governing Documents

Governing structure of the society

The highest authority of the Society resides in its Members, who constitute the sole electorate for the election of Officers and members of the Council.

To be eligible to vote, members must maintain their active membership in the Society. Inactive members are not eligible to vote but are maintained on the list of members.

Members of the Council are elected for a three-year term, and retiring members of the Council are automatically re-nominated to run for election for one additional three-year term. Council shall consist of the officers of the Society, plus 5 members elected by members of the Society.

The Officers of the Society consist of the President, the Past President, the President Elect, the Secretary and the Treasurer. All are elected annually by mail ballot of the active members. The President is elected bi-annually from candidates proposed by the Officers' nominating committee. Also on the annual ballot are single candidates for Secretary and Treasurer.

Most decisions in the operation and governance of the Society are made by the Executive Committee, which operates as a sub-committee of the Council. The Executive Committee consists of the Officers plus local organisers of the annual conference chosen by the Executive Committee.

The Council meets at the annual conference and otherwise is consulted by mail ballot. The Executive Committee normally meets twice a year, with possible use of mail ballots or e-mail correspondence between meetings.

Procedures for Nomination and Election of Officers and Council

Candidates for Society elections are chosen by a nominating committee elected by Council.

The nominating committee for Officers up to four in number consists of former Presidents, one of whom is chairperson, along with the Past President and President. The nominating committee for Council consists of three current members of the Council, none of whom are up for re-election, along with the Officers. The Past President serves as chairperson.

The nominating committee for Council selects sufficient candidates to promote a Council membership of up to ten in number. Council members who have served two consecutive three-year terms are not eligible to appear on the Council ballot again until three years off the Council have elapsed. The nominating committee rank-orders a preliminary list of candidates, and the highest ranked fill the appropriate number of

slots on the ballot. The final list of candidates is rank-ordered in a mail ballot of members.

The nominating committee is formed by the President in February each year. Biographical information on candidates for Council is mailed to all members in with a deadline for return of ballots. Results are mailed to all active members by June 30.

Society Business Office

The Society maintains a business office, which will be located at the University hosting the conference. The office coordinates the nomination and election process, counts ballots, manages the central Society financial accounts, and prepares the 'announcements'.

Meetings

Currently the African Econometric Society holds an annual conference at a venue and time decided by the Council.

The Constitution of the African Econometric Society

Scope of the Society

The African Econometric Society is an international society for the advancement of economic theory in its relation to statistics and mathematics. The Society shall operate as a completely disinterested scientific organisation without political, social, financial or nationalistic bias. Its main object shall be to promote studies that aim at a unification of the theoretical-quantitative and empirical-quantitative approach to economic problems and that are penetrated by constructive and rigorous thinking similar to that which has come to dominate in the natural sciences. Any activity which promises ultimately to further such unification of theoretical and factual studies in economics shall be within the sphere of interest of the Society.

Members

Membership shall be open to anyone seriously interested in the objectives of the Society. The Council shall establish such classes of membership and requirements for each, as it considers appropriate for the achievement of Society objectives.

Governing Documents

(Continued)

Officers

The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, the Past President, the President Elect, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The latter two offices may be combined. The Nominating Committee for Officers is made up of the Past President, the President and any other members elected by Council. This committee shall submit to the members the names of one candidate for President, one candidate for Secretary, and one candidate for Treasurer, but members may vote for names not on this list. The term of the President is two years and no President may serve more than one term consecutively. The President shall act as Chair of the Council. The Treasurer shall present annual financial statements to the Council.

The Council

Candidates for the Council shall be nominated by the Societies' nominating committee. The President, the retiring President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the Council. The ratio of other Council members to the membership and the designation of the geographic areas to be represented shall be determined by the Council. The Council shall be elected by the members. The nominating committee shall submit to the members a list of candidates to fill the vacancies on the Council in each area, but members may vote for names not on the list. All members are eligible to vote for candidates in all areas. The term of the Council members shall be three years, and no member shall serve more than two consecutive terms, except that members elected to a Standing Committee of the Council shall have their term on the Council extended if it would otherwise expire before their term on the Standing Committee. However, such an extension shall not exceed two years.

Details of the Executive

The Society will be served by an Executive Council consisting of a President, President Elect, Treasurer and a Secretary and will have the power of co-operation particularly in respect of the African members to assist in its activities.

Advisory Council

The Society appoints 6 honorary members of international standing in relevant disciplines in order to provide an advisory service to the society in the conduct of its activities. Such

honorary members contribute to the deliberation of Council and are encouraged to communicate on any matter pertaining to the society via the Council of the Society.

Regional Chapters

The Society wishes to promote activities through regional chapters. There may be up to 10 in number, not all of which need necessarily be in operation at any given time.

Activities

Any activities which fall within the sphere of interest of the Society may be authorised by the Council, such as local scientific meetings, international meetings under the auspices of the Council, and the issuance of publications reporting the activities of the society or containing other matters of econometric interest. In each area, the President shall designate one or more Council members to be responsible for organising Econometric Society meetings in that area, and for other administrative purposes.

Financial Organisation

The dues for regular members shall be fixed by the Council. Such dues shall be moderate in amount. Bequests and gifts may be received.

Amendment of the Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution must be approved by the Council, and before becoming effective, they must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of those voting in a mail vote taken among all members.

3. Conferences

16th Annual Conference

Kenya (Nairobi)

13-15 July 2011

The Kenya School of Economics, Kenya, hosted the 16th annual conference on the campus of the University during July 2011. 144 regular papers and 4 keynote addresses were presented.

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Jushan Bai
 Prof. Nour Meddahi
 Prof. Abhijit Banarjee
 Prof. Kaddour Hadri

15th Annual Conference

Cairo (Egypt)

7-9 July 2010

The American University in Cairo, Egypt, hosted the 15th annual conference on the campus of the University during July 2010. 121 regular papers and 6 keynote addresses were presented. The conference was attended by 246 delegates.

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Karim Abadir
 Prof. Mahmoud El-Gamal
 Prof. Kaddour Hadri
 Prof. Karl-Goran Maler
 Prof John Moore
 Prof Franco Peracchi

14th Annual Conference

Abuja (Nigeria)

8 - 10 July 2009

The Centre for Econometric and Allied Research (CEAR), University of Ibadan, and the Nigerian Economic Society hosted the 14th annual conference at the Sheraton hotel in the capital of Nigeria, Abuja, during July 2009. 55 regular papers and 3 keynote addresses were presented. The conference was attended by 95 delegates.

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Richard Blundell
 Prof. Jan Kiviet
 Prof. Yaw Nyarko

13th Annual Conference

Pretoria (South Africa)

9 - 11 July 2008

The Department of Economics at the University of Pretoria hosted the 13th annual conference in Pretoria during July 2008. 74 regular papers and 3 keynote addresses were presented and 5 prizes awarded to young econometricians for outstanding work. The conference was attended by 110 delegates.

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Hashem Pesaran
 Prof. Badi Baltagi
 Prof. Stephen Hall

Conferences (Continued)

12th Annual Conference

Cape Town (South Africa)

4 - 6 July 2007

The School of Economics at the University of Cape Town hosted the 12th annual conference in Cape Town during July 2007. 93 Delegates attended the conference where 90 papers and 4 keynote addresses were presented. 6 best paper prizes were awarded.

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Søren Johansen
 Prof. Marcel Fafchamps
 Prof. Katarina Juselius
 Prof. Steven Bond

11th Annual Conference

Dakar (Senegal)

5 - 7 July 2006

The 11th annual conference was hosted by UNI-DEP in Dakar (Senegal) during July 2006. 55 papers and 2 keynote addresses were presented at this conference attended by 70 delegates.

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Stephen Hall
 Prof. Kaddour Hadri

10th Annual Conference

Nairobi (Kenya)

6 - 8 July 2005

The AERC hosted the Society's 10th annual conference in Nairobi (Kenya) during July 2005. This was the conference of the Society not to be hosted in South Africa and fulfilled the long standing goal of the Society to host the conference in more regions on the Continent. The conference was attended by 71 delegates of whom 50 presented papers. Two keynote addresses were also presented.

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Stephen Hall
 Prof. Arnold Zellner

9th Annual Conference

Cape Town (South Africa)

30 June - 2 July 2004

The School of Economics at the University of Cape Town hosted the 9th annual and one of the largest AES conferences yet in 2004 attracting 120 delegates of whom 85 presented papers. 4 Keynote addresses were also delivered. 3 prizes were awarded for excellent papers.

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Sam Bowles

Conferences (Continued)

8th Annual Conference

Stellenbosch (South Africa)

1 - 4 July 2003

During July 2003 the Department of Economics at the University of Stellenbosch hosted the 8th annual AES conference. 90 papers were presented by the 120 delegates and 4 keynote addresses delivered by invited speakers.

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Adrian Pagan
 Prof. John Meulbauer
 Prof. Peter Pauly
 Prof. Stephen Hall

7th Annual Conference

Kruger National Park (South Africa)

3 - 5 July 2002

The Department of Economics at the University of Pretoria hosted the 7th annual conference of the AES in the Kruger National Park during July 2002. 80 delegates attended the conference where 50 papers and 4 keynote addresses were presented.

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Peter Philips
 Prof. Peter Pauly
 Prof. Stephen Hall

6th Annual Conference

Pretoria (South Africa)

4 - 6 July 2001

The Department of Economics at the University of Pretoria hosted the 6th annual conference in Pretoria during July 2001. 40 papers were presented by the 50 delegates and 4 keynote addresses delivered by invited speakers.

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Hashem Pesaran
 Prof. Pravin Triverdi
 Prof. Peter Pauly
 Prof. Stephen Hall

5th Annual Conference

Johannesburg (South Africa)

5 - 7 July 2000

The 5th annual conference of the AES was hosted by the School of Economics at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg during July 2000. 26 papers and 4 keynote addresses were presented at this conference which was attended by 49 delegates.

Keynote speakers:

Prof. David Hendry
 Prof. Marc Nerlove
 Prof. Peter Pauly
 Prof. Stephen Hall

Conferences (Continued)

4th Annual Conference

Johannesburg (South Africa)

7 - 9 July 1999

The University of the Witwatersrand and Economic Research Southern Africa (ERSA) hosted the 4th annual AES conference during July 1999. 43 delegates attended the conference and 4 keynote addresses delivered by invited speakers.

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Angus Deaton

Prof. Anne Case

Prof. Peter Pauly

Prof. Stephen Hall

3rd Annual Conference

Pretoria (South Africa)

12 -14 June 1998

The Department of Economics at the University of Pretoria hosted the 3rd annual conference in Pretoria during June. 52 delegates attended the conference, 18 papers were presented and 2 keynote addresses were presented. the conference also included a one day workshop on “Dynamic Modelling and non-stationary issues”.

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Peter Pauly

Prof. Stephen Hall

2nd Annual Conference

Pretoria (South Africa)

14 -17 July 1997

During July 1997 the Department of Economics at the University of Pretoria hosted the 2nd annual conference. 10 papers were presented by the 39 delegates at this conference and two keynote addresses were presented. The first and final days of the conference were devoted to the lectures on “Modelling principles, multivariate cointegration, identification, expectations simulation and evaluation”.

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Peter Pauly

Prof. Stephen Hall

1st Annual Conference

Pretoria (South Africa)

12 - 14 June 1996

The series of annual conference started in June 1996 when the Department of Economics at the University of Pretoria hosted a conference for 47 delegates and 2 invited speakers. The first day a workshop on “Dynamic modelling, specification and diagnostics” by Prof. Peter Pauly and Prof. Steve Hall followed with a workshop on “Non-stationary time series and cointegration” on the second day. On the final day of the conference 6 papers were presented.

Invited speakers:

Prof. Peter Pauly

Prof. Stephen Hall

4. Office bearers

Ex officio Council members

Prof. Kadour Hadri (President), Queens University (Belfast, United Kingdom)
Prof. Akin Iwayemi (Past President), University of Ibadan (Nigeria)
Prof. Yaw Nyarko (President Elect), University of New York (USA)
Prof. Steve Koch (Treasurer), University of Pretoria (South Africa)
Dr. Moses Kiptui (Secretary), Kenya School of Monetary Studies (Kenya)

Elected Council members

Prof. Sam Olofin (2009), University of Ibadan (Nigeria)
Prof. Ahmed Kamaly (2010), American University of Cairo (Egypt)

Past Presidents

Prof. Akin Iwayemi (2007-2009), University of Ibadan (Nigeria)
Prof. Murray Leibbrandt (2005-2007), University of Cape Town (South Africa)
Prof. Jan van Heerden (2003-2005), University of Pretoria (South Africa)
Prof. Johann Fedderke (2001-2003), University of Witwatersrand (South Africa)

The first president was elected in 2001.