



# Arms Beads & Cloth

AFRICAN CONSUMERS  
AND THE 19TH-CENTURY  
GLOBAL ECONOMY

## AFRICAN CONSUMERS AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY: A NEW HISTORY

An online Seminar Series from February to June 2025 with world-renowned experts in the field of African studies and global history

The research team of "Arms, Beads and Cloth: African Consumers and the 19th-Century Global Economy" announces the launch of a seminar series that investigates the centrality of African societies and their material practices to global processes of production, exchange and consumption.

The seminar is sponsored by the Italian Ministry of University and Research, in the framework of the European Union – Next Generation EU, PRIN Call 2022 funding programme (ref. no.: 2022YE9NBH).



<https://armsbeadsandcloth.unipv.it/>



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**7 February 2025 at 4pm CET**

*Patrick Otim, Bates College*

The History of Firearms among the Acholi of Uganda, 1850-2000

**21 February 2025 at 4pm CET**

*Pierre Nicolò Sofia, University of Padua*

From East Africa to Venice. How African consumers shaped Venetian glass bead production and trade in the 18th century

**7 March 2025 at 4pm CET**

*Felix Brahm, Universität Münster*

Merchandise of Power: European arms in pre- colonial and colonial Tanzania (1850 to 1919)

**11 April 2025 at 4pm CET**

*Jeremy Prestholdt, University of California*

Clothing empires: Indian Ocean Africa, Japanese cotton textiles, and colonial capitalism

**30 April 2025 at 4pm CET**

*Giorgio Riello, European University Institute, Florence*

Africa and the Eighteenth- century Diamond- shape Trade

**9 May 2025 at 4pm CET**

*Jan-Bart Gewald, Leiden University*

Arms and the Men: Firearms and Labour in the Context of the Diamond Fields of South Africa 1865 – 1900

**23 May 2025 at 4pm CET**

*Kate Frederick, Utrecht University*

(Post-)colonial threads: colonial- era demand patterns and the dynamics of early industrialization in East Africa

**6 June 2025 at 4pm CET**

*Anne Ruderman, London School of Economics and Political Science*

Venetian Beads for the Atlantic Slave Trade

**27 June 2025 at 2pm CET**

*Kazuo Kobayashi, Waseda University*

An umbrella model: Indian cotton textiles in the early modern Atlantic trade



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