

Igor B. Martins

Researcher in Economic History, Lund University

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Malmö, Sweden

Academic Experience

2024–

Researcher

Lund University Sweden

2022–2023

Postdoctoral Research Associate

University of Cambridge United Kingdom

2020–2023

Postdoctoral Fellow

Lund University Sweden

2017–2018

Visiting Researcher

Stellenbosch University South Africa

Education

2016–2020

Ph.D., Economic History

Lund University Sweden

2014–2016

M.Sc., Economic History

Lund University Sweden

2008–2011

B.Sc., Economics

Fundação Getulio Vargas Brazil

Published works

- **Martins, I.** (forthcoming). Living Standards in Ghana, 1955–2005, in G. Austin, A. Britwum, L. Doumbia, A. Eckert, & N.Y. Spong (eds), *Labour and Work in Ghana Since Independence*, London: Bloomsbury Academic.
- **Martins, I., & Green, E.** (forthcoming). Från arbetskraft till kapital: Slaveriets ekonomiska logik i globalt perspektiv, *Statsvetenskaplig tidskrift*.
- **Martins, I.** (2026). Capital and Coercion: Slavery after the 1807 import ban in the Cape Colony, *European Review of Economic History*, heag012.
- **Martins, I., & Green, E.** (2025). Theoretical Foundations of the Economics of Slavery: Enslaved people as capital investments in the Atlantic world, *Journal of Global History*, vol. 21, no. 1, pp.22–40.
- **Martins, I.** (2025). Is the Business of Conquest the Conquest of Business?, *The Case Centre*, 225-0045-1.

- Cilliers, J., Mariotti, M., & **Martins, I.** (2024). Fertility Responses to Short-Term Economic Stress: Price volatility and wealth shocks in a pre-transitional settler colony, *Explorations in Economic History*, 101620.
- Smythe, A., **Martins, I.**, & Andersson, M. (2024). Inequality, Poverty, and Economic Shrinking: How can developing countries build greater resilience for more sustainable development patterns?, *International Journal of Development Issues*, vol. 23, no. 1, pp.40–81.
- **Martins, I.**, & Schwaag Serger, S. (2023). An Age of Disentangled Research?, *Issues in Science and Technology*, vol. 40, no. 1, pp.38–43.
- **Martins, I.**, & Schwaag Serger, S. (2023). *Shifting Patterns in International Research Cooperation*, Stockholm: STINT.
- Axelsson, T., & **Martins, I.** (2023). Resilience to Shrinking as a Catch-up Strategy: A comparison of Brazil and Indonesia, 1964–2019, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, vol. 59, no. 3, pp.491–516.
- **Martins, I.**, Cilliers, J., & Fourie, J. (2022). Legacies of Loss: The health outcomes of slaveholder compensation in the British Cape Colony, *Explorations in Economic History*, 101506.
- **Martins, I.** (2020). Collateral Effect: Slavery and wealth in the Cape Colony, PhD thesis, Department of Economic History, Lund University.
- Palacio, A., & **Martins, I.** (2019). What Caused Poverty Reduction in Brazil During the 2000s: Sectoral growth or public expenditures, *OASIS. Observatorio de Analisis de los Sistemas Internacionales*, vol. 32, pp.1–25.
- Palacio, A., & **Martins, I.** (2018). Poverty and Democracy: The Brazilian experience, in D. Rauhut & N. Hatti (eds), *Poverty, Politics and the Poverty of Politics*, New Delhi: B.R. Publishing Corporation, pp.193–210.

Works under review

- **Martins, I.** (2026). The Case for Artisanal Doctoral Supervision, *Studies in Higher Education*. Revise & Resubmit.
- **Martins, I.** (2026). Retrieval-Restricted Reasoning: Supporting Scholarly Synthesis with Language Models, *Historical Methods: A Journal of Quantitative and Interdisciplinary History*. Revise & Resubmit.
- **Martins, I.**, Grab, S., & Green, E. (2026). Asset ownership turns climate exposure into inequality, *Nature Communications*. Revise & Resubmit.
- Cilliers, J., & **Martins, I.** (2026). Malthus at the Cape: Wealth, status, and mortality in a pre-industrial settler society, *The Economic History Review*. Submitted.
- **Martins, I.** (2026). Slave Emancipation and Agricultural Output in the Cape Colony, *Cliometrica*. Submitted.
- Makuei, J., & **Martins, I.** (2026). Democracy and Rural Inequality in Kenya, 1997–2010, *African Affairs*. Submitted.

Work in progress

- **Martins, I.**, Schoots, J., & Green, E. Held by the Elite: Monopoly Rights and Dynastic Persistence at the Cape Colony, 1680–1794.
- Smythe, A., & **Martins, I.** Resilience and Growth Theory: A novel conceptualisation of convergence.
- Cilliers, J., & **Martins, I.** Forebearers: The forgotten women of the Cape Colony.
- **Martins, I.**, & Green, E. What Are Institutions Made Of? A social contract approach.
- **Martins, I.**, Aboagye, P., & Austin, G. The Ghanaian Divergence: Prices, incomes and living standards after independence.

External funding

2027–2029

Handelsbanken Research Foundations

Flying Blind: Tsetse Ecology, Colonial Response and Long-Run Health in Southeast Africa (P26-0357) Project researcher. Engaged at 30% for three years.
SEK 1,500,000 (≈ EUR 138,500 / USD 163,000)

2024–2027

Vetenskapsrådet

Causes and Consequences of Long-Term Inequality: Africa's Levels and Trends (2023-00809_VR) Project researcher. Engaged at 20% for two years.
SEK 6,737,000 (≈ EUR 623,623 / USD 735,688)

2022–2026

Handelsbanken Research Foundations

Resilience to Economic Shrinking: The Role of Autonomous Financial Systems (P21-0044) Project researcher. Engaged at approx. 30% for two years.
SEK 1,725,000 (≈ EUR 150,000 / USD 164,000)

2022–2025

Arts and Humanities Research Council (UK)

Where have all the Workers Gone? Labour and Work in Ghana, 1951–2010 (AH/W010852/1) Postdoctoral Research Associate. Engaged at 100% for one year.
SEK 3,332,000 (≈ EUR 308,438 / GBP 268,859)

2021–2026

Riksbankens Jubileumsfond

The establishment, growth and legacy of a settler colony: Quantitative panel studies of the political economy of the Cape Colony (M20-0041) Project researcher. Engaged at 40% for four years (2021–2024) and 20% for two years (2025–2026).
SEK 29,000,000 (≈ EUR 2,520,000 / USD 2,760,000)

2017–2018

Erasmus Mundus Action 2 Programme (INSPIRE)

Scholarship Stellenbosch University, South Africa
Supported research training on the economic history of the Cape Colony.
SEK 157,000

Teaching experience

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| 2025– | Development in a Historical Perspective - Economic, Social and Political Transformation
Lund University Course convener |
| 2023–2026 | Growth, Stagnation, and Inequality in Africa
Lund University Course convener |
| 2019– | Colonialism and Economic Change in Africa, Asia and Latin America
Lund University Lecturer |
| 2019–2026 | The Art of Writing and Reporting
Lund University Course convener |
| 2019–2026 | Field Work/Internship and Research Overview
Lund University Course convener |

Pedagogical qualifications

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| 2026– | Teaching portfolio
The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology Lund University, Sweden |
| 2025 | Course design in higher education
The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology Lund University, Sweden |
| 2024 | Doctoral supervision
The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology Lund University, Sweden |
| 2022 | Teaching and learning in higher education II
The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology Lund University, Sweden |
| 2021 | Teaching and learning in higher education I
The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology Lund University, Sweden |
| 2020 | How to teach with cases
Lund University School of Economics and Management Lund University, Sweden |
| 2019 | How to write cases
Lund University School of Economics and Management Lund University, Sweden |

Supervision

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| 2023–2026 | Doctoral
Benjamin Chatterton, PhD in Economic History Lund University
Co-supervisor
Expected completion November 2026 |
| 2021– | Master's
14 theses in Economic History Lund University |
| 2019– | Bachelor's
7 theses in Economic History Lund University |

Awards

2020

Teacher of the Year

Lund University School of Economics and Management

Media Outreach

- **Martins, I.** (2026). Assessing students' academic writing when AI can produce a first draft, *Times Higher Education*.
- **Martins, I.** (2026). Portuguese Sources and the Shape of an Angolan Social Table, *African Long-Term Inequality Trends (AFLIT)*.
- **Martins, I.** (2026). Capital and Coercion: Why Slavery Persisted after Britain Banned the Trade, *European Historical Economics Society*.
- **Martins, I.** (2026). Theoretical Foundations of the Economics of Slavery: Enslaved people as capital investments in the Atlantic world, *Frontiers in African Economic History Blog*.
- **Martins, I.** (2025). Devo, não nego, pago com o meu escravo - Como pessoas escravizadas viravam garantia de crédito, *The Conversation Brasil*.
- **Martins, I.** (2025). What Is Economic History?, *Tell Me About* [podcast].
- **Martins, I.** (2025). Students Learn Best When They're Not Handed a Map: 4 steps to structure discomfort in your case classroom, *Inspiring Minds*.
- **Martins, I.** (2025). The Pressure to Quantify Research Is Erasing Conceptual Depth, *LSE Impact Blog*.
- Kim, H., Schwaag Serger, S., Mobrand, E., & **Martins, I.** (2024). International Science Is Having a Messy Breakup, *Research Professional News*.
- **Martins, I.** (2023). Does a Negative Wealth Shock Affect Your Health? Evidence from an episode of 'Expropriation with Partial Compensation' in nineteenth-century South Africa, *Our Long Walk: Reflections on South Africa, from an Economic History Perspective*.
- **Martins, I.** (2023). Legacies of Loss: The health outcomes of slaveholder compensation in the British Cape Colony, *Frontiers in African Economic History Blog*.

Editorial and Review Experience

2026–

Peer-reviewer

Studies in Higher Education

2025

Peer-reviewer

International Journal of Development Issues

2025

Peer-reviewer

Asia-Pacific Economic History Review

2024

Peer-reviewer

Studies in Comparative International Development

2023

Peer-reviewer

Technological Forecasting and Social Change

Service

2025–2026

United Nations Development Programme

Consultant

Commissioned by the UNDP's Strategy, Policy and Capacities for Economic Management (SPACE) Unit of South Sudan as a consultant to the country's first Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report.

2023–

Swedish Economic History Association

Auditor

The SEHA promotes the spread of knowledge about economic and social history, as well as historical and geographical research. The association organises lectures and conferences.

2023–2025

World Economic History Congress 2025

Lund, Sweden

Conference Manager

Co-organised the 19th WEHC, a major international conference in economic history with over 1,200 participants. Contributed to programme coordination, hybrid participation logistics, volunteer management, statistical reporting, and post-conference analysis. Oversaw technical workflows, communication, and strategic structuring of the scientific and cultural programme.

2023–2024

The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT)

Consultant

STINT supports internationalisation in Swedish higher education by funding initiatives led by researchers, educators, and academic leaders.

2022–2023

Clare Hall Affiliated Postdoctoral Member

Clare Hall is a constituent college of the University of Cambridge established to serve as an Institute of Advanced Studies.

2021–2023

Swedish Economic History Association

Treasurer

2019–2020

Ekonomisk Doktorandrådet (EDR)

Lund University

President

EDR functions as a platform for communication, driving the matters of doctoral students at LUSEM and ensuring the representation of doctoral students at faculty levels.

2018–2020

The Economic History Society

University of Glasgow

Student Ambassador

EHS Student Ambassadors facilitate communication between the Economic History Society and students interested in economic and/or social history.

2018–2019

Ekonomisk Doktorandrådet (EDR)

Lund University

Vice-President

2017–

Laboratory for the Economics of Africa's Past

Stellenbosch University

Visiting Researcher

The Laboratory for the Economics of Africa's Past is dedicated to the quantitative study of African economic and social history.

Professional memberships

Economic History Association, Economic History Society, Social Science History Association, African Economic History Network, Swedish Economic History Association

Recent conferences, workshops and seminars

02/2026

Trelleborgs BiblioteketTrelleborg, Sweden **Speaker**

How did colonial institutions shape African democracy and development?

07/2025

World Economic History CongressLund, Sweden **Organiser & Panellist**

The geography of development in Portuguese Africa: Lessons from Angola

12/2024

African Studies AssociationChicago, USA **Panellist**

Market Integration and the Development of Capitalism in Ghana, 1987–2005

12/2023

UtbildningsdepartementetStockholm, Sweden **Panellist**

Shifting patterns in international research collaboration

09/2023

Seminarium om förändrade mönster för internationella forskningssamarbetenStockholm, Sweden **Panellist**

Shifting patterns in international research collaboration

09/2023

Swedish Economic History meetingLund, Sweden **Organizer & Panellist**

Resilience and Growth Theory: A novel conceptualisation of convergence

03/2023

African Economic History SeminarCambridge, United Kingdom **Panellist**

Raising capital to raise crops: Slave emancipation and agricultural output in the Cape Colony

Selected earlier conferences (2017–2022)

10/2022

African Economic History Network annual meetingTenerife, Spain **Panellist**

07/2022

World Economic History CongressParis, France **Panellist**

10/2021

Swedish Economic History meetingGothenburg, Sweden **Panellist**

10/2019

Swedish Economic History meetingUppsala, Sweden **Panellist**

01/2019	Allied Social Sciences Association Atlanta, USA Panellist
10/2018	African Economic History Network annual meeting Bologna, Italy Panellist
07/2018	World Economic History Congress Boston, USA Panellist
04/2018	European Social Science History Conference Belfast, UK Panellist
10/2017	African Economic History Network annual meeting Stellenbosch, South Africa Panellist

Administrative reference

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Academic references

Prof. Erik Green
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Teaching references

Dr. Tobias Axelsson
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tobias.axelsson@ekh.lu.se

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