

**Citation for published version:**

Chukwunonye O. Emenalo, Francesca Gagliardi, and Geoffrey M. Hodgson, 'Historical institutional determinants of financial system development in Africa', *Journal of Institutional Economics*, Vol. 14 (Special Issue 2): 345-372, April 2018.

**DOI:**

<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1744137417000042>

**Document Version:**

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# Historical institutional determinants of financial system development in Africa

*Forthcoming in Journal of Institutional Economics*

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**Abstract.** The literature on the determinants of cross-country variation in financial system development identifies historical institutional factors, mostly rooted in colonial effects, as key causes. Using a sample of 39 African former European colonies for 2006-2011, this paper investigates the extent to which the historical institutional determinants of cross-country variation in financial system development identified by legal origins, disease endowment, religion-based and ethnic fractionalization theories explain current differences in financial system development across Africa. While most existing research focused only on one financial system development dimension, namely financial system depth, this article considers also financial system access. The results do not support any of the above theories when measures of financial system depth are used, while three of them (legal origins, disease endowment, and ethnic fractionalization theories) are validated when using access measures. This suggests that in the African context financial system depth and access do not have common historical institutional determinants, pointing to the need for greater fine tuning of prevalent theories and empirical measures.

**JEL codes:** G20, K20, O16, O55, P48

**Keywords:** Financial system development, legal origins theory, religion-based theory, ethnic fractionalization theory, disease endowment theory, Africa.

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## 1. Introduction

Over the past 20 years, there has been renewed interest into the causes and consequences of financial system development. By financial system development this paper refers to how well a financial system fulfils its function of channelling financial resources from surplus units to those that need them for productive activities.<sup>§</sup> In essence, if financial system A channels more financial resources to economic agents than financial system B, then financial system A is more developed than B. Research suggests that the main function through which financial systems affect economic development is the channelling of savings to their best use, thereby improving resource allocation and productivity (Beck et al., 2011). In examining financial system development in African countries, the specific focus of the present study is on investigating how well financial systems in Africa channel pooled savings to entrepreneurs and firms in need of money for their business operations and growth. Consequently, financial system development measures that capture the volume of credit provided to the private sector (depth of financial system) and the number of economic agents with access to finance (access to financial system) are used in the empirical analysis conducted in this paper.

Financial system development has been found to be positively associated with economic development (Levine 2005), although some studies have a more nuanced and mixed view (Andersen et al. 2012; Gries et al. 2009; Murinde 2012) and more recent studies show an inverted-

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<sup>§</sup> The financial system of a country is the system of banks, nonbank financial companies, and financial markets in that country. This definition does not include systems of regulation and supervision. Keeping these distinct from financial systems is analytically useful to enable studying the effects of systems of regulation and supervision on financial system development.

U relationship between financial system development and economic development (Arcand et al. 2015; Beck 2013; Samargandi et al. 2015). Beck et al. (2014) show that it is the intermediation activities of the financial system, as measured by private credit by deposit money banks divided by Gross Domestic Product (GDP), that matter for economic development in the long run and not the overall size as measured by gross value added of the financial sector as a percentage of GDP. Arcand et al. (2015, p. 141) find that “there is a positive and robust correlation between financial depth [size of the financial system] and economic growth in countries with small and intermediate financial sectors, but ... there is a threshold (... around 80–120% of GDP) above which finance starts having a negative effect on economic growth”.

In Africa the average depth of the financial system (measured as private credit by deposit money banks over GDP) is 20.56%, with South Africa being the only country with financial depth above 80% (specifically 145.67%). These figures put African countries behind other developing regions and suggest that financial system development in Africa is a problem that policy should address. In line with these points, Beck et al. (2011, p. 10) note that “while financial development measured according to the ratio of private credit to GDP stood, on average, at 21 percent across Africa over the period 1980–2007, it was 32 percent in East Asia. During the same period, the East Asian economies grew 2.3 percent per year on average, while the African economies grew 0.7 percent on average”. Furthermore Beck et al. (2011, p. 12-13) note that “the financial systems of Africa are significantly less sophisticated than systems elsewhere, and most are far from becoming overheated as several financial systems in Europe and North America did before the crisis. This does not mean that there is no fragility... Nonetheless, most of the fragility in recent years has not arisen because of too much finance, but because of misallocated finance generated by governance challenges. In a nutshell, Africa’s financial systems stand to gain significantly from deepening and

broadening. If there is a decreasing marginal benefit from financial deepening or even a threshold where more financial deepening may have a negative effect, Africa's financial systems are far from reaching it".

Even if financial system development does not have a direct impact on economic development, recent research has shown how financial system development is positively associated with firm growth and performance (e.g. Ayyagari et al. 2008a; Beck et al. 2005; Demirguc-Kunt et al. 2006), and with poverty alleviation (Beck et al. 2007; Hamori and Hashiguchi 2012). Consequently financial system development has some desirable economic impact, and seeking to improve it by understanding its determinants, while at the same time managing its potential detrimental effects, seems like a worthy academic endeavour.

Since the seminal work of La Porta, Lopez-de-Silanes, Shleifer, and Vishny (e.g. La Porta et al. 1997; La Porta et al. 1998), a related line of research, seeking to investigate the determinants of financial system development, identified historical institutional factors mostly rooted in colonial effects as key causes (Beck and Levine 2005). These act as exogenous determinants of financial system development because they are neither current policy outcomes nor the result of current events and are not affected by current policy decisions of the countries under investigation.

This paper seeks to contribute to this growing line of inquiry by empirically investigating four theories that identify historical institutional determinants of cross-country variation in financial system development: legal origins theory, disease endowment theory, religion-based theory and ethnic fractionalization theory. The analysis is carried out on a sample of 39 African former European colonies for the period 2006-2011. One of the distinguishing features of the paper is that it uses two dimensions of financial system development: financial system depth, a size measure of financial systems, and financial system access, capturing access to finance by firms.

Most previous research used financial system depth only but, given that financial systems are multidimensional, measures of size alone do not suffice (Cihak et al. 2013; World Bank 2012). A second contribution of the work is that all the above theories are tested across African countries using the latest financial system depth data, as well as updated and more current measures of historical institutional factors. Previous research by Honohan and Beck (2007) briefly discussed three of these theories but did not present regression results for Africa. On the other hand, Fowowe (2014) tested the legal origins theory for the African context but used measures of financial system depth only.

The empirical analysis does not find support for any of the theories of historical institutional determinants of cross-country variation in financial system development when size measure of financial systems alone are taken into account. By contrast, three theories (legal origins, disease endowment, and ethnic fractionalization theories) are supported when access measures of financial systems are used. These findings suggest the need for greater fine tuning of the prevailing theories of historical institutional determinants of financial system development to understand why they affect financial system depth and breadth differently. Moreover, the results point to the need to take into account more relevant dimensions of financial system development in order to better understand its causes.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 offers a brief literature review of the theories of exogenous determinants of financial system development. Section 3 outlines the methodology, detailing the sample selection criteria, the variables included in the econometric model and the estimation method used. Section 4 reports the empirical results. Finally, Section 5 discusses the findings and their implications, and concludes.

## **2. Literature review**

Four theories that identify historical institutional factors acting as determinants of cross-country variation in financial system development have been proposed in the literature (e.g., Ayyagari et al. 2008b; Beck et al. 2003; La Porta et al. 2008b; Stulz and Williamson 2003): legal origins theory, disease endowment theory, religion-based theory and ethnic fractionalization theory. These theories specify exogenous explanatory variables that are linked to the effects of colonization and can explain cross-country variation in financial system development in former colonies. Arguably, they shed light on the origins of the institutions that may matter for financial system development and inform the worldviews that guide the design of institutions and sustain their durability over time.

### *2.1 The legal origins theory*

La Porta et al. (2008b, p. 286) define legal origin as “a style of social control of economic life (and maybe other aspects of life as well)”. The legal origins theory identifies the English common law legal origin, a strategy of social control seeking to support private market outcomes, and the French civil law legal origin, which instead seeks to replace private market outcomes with state-desired allocations. Beside affecting the development of laws and regulations, the organization of the legal system and the formation of human capital of those in the legal system, these two organizing strategies make up citizens’ beliefs and values regarding the “broad ideas of how the law and the state should work” (La Porta et al. 2008b, p. 307) and thus the best ways of organizing economic activities.

La Porta et al. (2008b) contend that legal origins were transplanted to other countries through conquest and colonization and, although over time there may be changes in the specific legal rules in the former colonies, the reformed rules will be consistent with the relevant legal

origin. Legal origins persist not only because they remain purely ideologies or cultures but also because they are embedded in laws, regulations, educational systems and human capital, and are transmitted from one generation to the next.

La Porta et al. (2008b) posit and show with a number of empirical findings that, compared to the French civil law legal origin, the English common law legal origin is associated with greater protection of contracting rights and private property rights, and with a greater level of contract enforcement, leading to greater financial contracting and financial system development.\*\* Shareholders and creditors have better protection in common law countries and this has positive consequences for financial system development.

Notwithstanding its theoretical insights and supporting empirical evidence, the legal origins theory has been criticized in terms of: *i*) its conceptual arguments on the exogeneity of legal origin and the channels through which it affects legal rules and regulations, financial system development and other economic outcomes (Armour et al. 2009a; Armour et al. 2009b); *ii*) its explanatory and forecasting power (Pistor 2009); *iii*) its empirical methods (Armour et al. 2009a; Armour et al. 2009b; Armour et al. 2009c; Pistor 2009; Siems and Deakin 2010; Spamann 2010); *iv*) its validity for policy reforms (Armour et al. 2009c; Pistor 2009). Moreover, Fowowe (2014) finds that legal origins do not explain cross-country variation in financial system depth in a sample of 39 African countries for 1996-2005.

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\*\* Common law countries have better FSD than French civil law countries because their regulation strategies are focused on sustaining rather than replacing markets, thus encouraging greater financial contracting (La Porta et al. 2008b).



## 2.2 *The disease endowment theory*

The disease endowment theory, as proposed by Acemoglu et al. (2001), also considers the impact of colonizers on the institutions developed in their colonies. It argues that the mortality rate facing would-be colonizers is the key exogenous variable explaining cross-country variation in current institutions and, consequently, current economic outcomes. In this framework “*it is not the identity of the colonizer or legal origin that matters*, but whether European colonialists could safely settle in a particular location: where they could not settle, they created worse institutions” (Acemoglu et al. 2001, p. 1373, emphasis added). In essence, where colonizers did not settle, they set up extractive institutions that did not protect private property rights and did not countervail the expropriation of resources by governments. On the other hand, where colonizers settled, institutions that protected private property rights and checked government power were set up. These colonial time institutions persisted after independence and guided the formation of current institutions that determine current economic outcomes in former colonies.<sup>††</sup>

Using a global sample of former European colonies, Beck et al. (2003) find empirical support for a robust relationship between initial disease endowments and financial system development: former colonies that did not have environments favourable to the settlement of

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<sup>††</sup> Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson (2002) focus on the effects of the policies that Europeans pursued during colonization on the future economic prosperity of colonies, as proxied by urbanization patterns and population density. The core argument here is that Europeans tended to introduce institutions encouraging investment in poor regions; this promoted their economic development, while at the same time depressing rich regions. In their view “This reversal weighs against a view that links economic development with geographic factors” (ibid, p. 1231). Testing the validity of this proposition in the African context is beyond the scope of the present paper, but is nonetheless an issue that future research should address.

European colonizers have less developed financial systems. Applying the disease endowment theory to the African case, the prevalence and stability of malaria in tropical areas appear to have been unfavourable to early European settlers, possibly leading to the formation of extractive institutions (Acemoglu et al. 2001). Consequently, African countries in geographic areas prone to malaria should be expected to have inherited institutions that are detrimental to economic outcomes such as financial system development.

### *2.3 The religion-based theory*

Religion has been argued to affect economic activities and economic outcomes (McCleary and Barro 2006).<sup>‡‡</sup> In these religion-based arguments, religion is a source of values, beliefs, worldviews, moral norms and legal rules expected to guide human behaviour and attitudes in different activities, including economic ones (McCleary and Barro 2006; Stulz and Williamson 2003). As Beck et al. (2003, p. 151) put it, “many scholars argue that religion shapes national views regarding property rights, competition, and the role of the state”.

Arrunada (2010) evaluates Catholicism and Protestantism to identify their relative contribution to behaviours and attitudes that affect economic activities. He tests a work ethic hypothesis, arguing that Protestants work more than Catholics, and a social ethic hypothesis, which contends that Protestants exert more mutual social control, support legal institutions and institutional enforcement more strongly, and hold more homogeneous values than Catholics.<sup>§§</sup> Arrunada (2010) finds empirical support for the social ethic hypothesis only and states that “with

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<sup>‡‡</sup> Max Weber’s seminal work proposed the Protestant ethic arguments and its effects on the emergence of capitalism in Western Europe (Weber 2005 [1930]).

<sup>§§</sup> The social ethic hypothesis has three dimensions: social control, rule of law and homogeneous values.

its relatively more homogeneous standards, Protestantism seems better adapted [than Catholicism] for impersonal trading between anonymous parties, such as those in commerce, finance and industry” (ibid, p. 908).

Stulz and Williamson (2003) find strong effects of religion on debt markets, banking development and the quality of creditor rights protection, with countries where Catholicism is the dominant religion having weaker creditor rights protection and weaker enforcement of rights than countries where the dominant religion is Protestantism. Consequently, based on the foregoing arguments and results of Arrunada (2010), and Stulz and Williamson (2003), countries dominated by Protestantism should have higher levels of financial system development than those dominated by Catholicism.

La Porta et al. (1999) argue that countries where Catholicism and Islam are the dominant religions have more government intervention, as evidenced by worse protection of property rights and regulation, than countries where Protestantism is the prevailing religion. They contend that Catholicism and Islam are used for political purposes in a way that undermines the development of markets and that this negative impact is stronger in countries where Islam is the dominant religion. Hence, based on this reasoning, on average, countries with a majority adhering to Islam or Catholicism should have lower financial system development than countries with a majority adhering to Protestantism.\*\*\*

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\*\*\* La Porta et al. (1999)’s grouping of Catholicism with Islam seems simplistic in the light of literature showing that Catholicism and Protestantism align towards separation between the spiritual and temporal power more than Islam does (Fox 2006; Philpott 2007).

#### *2.4 The ethnic fractionalization theory*

The ethnic fractionalization theory posits that ethnic fractionalization makes a country more socially polarized, with negative consequences for private contracting and hence for financial system development. Social polarization makes it difficult to adopt growth-enhancing policies, to reach consensus on social and public goods, to choose infrastructures that promote economic growth (Easterly and Levine 1997; Easterly et al. 2006) and to develop institutions that provide a level playing field for economic activities among the members of a society.

In the context of weak, ineffective or corrupt state legal systems, ethnic divisions may promote more intra-ethnic transactions based on kinship ties and reputation (Carr and Landa 1983; Greif 1992; Greif 1993; Landa 1981) rather than inter-ethnic transactions based on effective legal institutions and enforcement systems. The predominance of these intra-ethnic transactions may limit private markets, credit and financial contracting between economic agents (Cooter and Landa 1984; Greif et al. 1994), with negative consequences for financial system development.

La Porta et al. (1999) show that more ethnically diverse countries have lower quality institutions, lower quality policies, lower quality infrastructure and lower quality public goods. Beck et al. (2003, p. 151) note that “when this view [ethnic fractionalization theory] is applied to the financial sector, the implication is clear: greater ethnic diversity implies the adoption of policies and institutions that are focused on maintaining power and control, rather than on creating an open and competitive financial system”.

In the context of African countries, present day ethnic fractionalization can be seen as exacerbated by colonization that led to the creation of artificial borders which enclosed disparate ethnic groups into each country. Easterly and Levine (1997, p. 1213) note that “the borders of African nations were determined through a tragicomic series of negotiations between European

powers in the nineteenth century that split up ethnic groups and exacerbated pre-existing high levels of ethnic and linguistic diversity”. Based on this observation and the preceding arguments, the empirical work carried out in this paper tests whether ethnic fractionalization has an adverse impact on financial system development in African countries.

### **3 Empirical question and methodology**

This work empirically investigates the above discussed theories that identify historical institutional determinants of cross-country variation in financial system development: legal origins theory, disease endowment theory, religion-based theory and ethnic fractionalization theory. The analysis focuses on the African continent, which offers a fascinating context for analysis. African countries form a group of recently independent former colonies, mainly British and French, and hence are an ideal context to test the legal origins theory. The colonial experience of African former European colonies can justify the argument that legal origin is exogenous to these countries (La Porta et al. 2008b). Secondly, the conduciveness of Africa to malaria (e.g., Kiszewski et al. 2004; Sachs and Chambers 2009) makes it a good context to examine the disease endowment theory as Africa may have significantly affected colonizers’ settlement strategies due to its fatal disease environment. Thirdly, some religious beliefs in present day African countries can be mainly attributed to the influence of European colonizers. Christianity, as well as Islam, can be viewed as exogenous sources of worldviews in the African countries where these religions are practiced. Lastly, given that African countries are the most ethnically fractionalized (Alesina et al, 2003), ethnic fractionalization may manifest its greatest economic effects in these countries.

A further set of issues that make Africa a suitable context to carry out the study proposed in this paper is related to the fact that its countries share some distinguishing features in terms of scale (i.e. low GDP, low GDP per capita and sparse population), informality (i.e. the existence of

large informal sectors), governance problems in the private and public sectors, and shocks (i.e. conflicts, famine, economic and politico-societal meltdowns) (Honohan and Beck, 2007). These features make it reasonable to treat African countries as relatively homogeneous along the above mentioned social, economic, political and institutional dimensions (as compared to countries in other continents) and yet sufficiently heterogeneous in the key dimensions of interest in this paper to enable cross-country comparison.

To maintain the exogenous nature of the postulated key explanatory variables of the theories of institutional determinants of cross-country variation in financial system development, the empirical analysis focuses only on African countries that were former European colonies. Besides excluding countries that were never colonized by Europeans, countries for which data were missing have also been excluded. Given these two sample selection criteria, the sample employed in the empirical analysis consists of 39 countries.<sup>†††</sup>

The period of study is from 2006 to 2011. These years were chosen because, at the time of writing the paper, measures of financial system breadth for African countries were available up to 2011 starting from 2006.<sup>‡‡‡</sup> For the financial system depth measures data for all the six years included in the sample period are available for 36 of the 39 sample countries, while the remaining three countries have three, four and five years of data respectively. As far as data on the chosen financial system access measures are concerned, for nine countries these data are available for two years in the 2006-2011 period, and for 30 countries only one year of data is available. Given these issues, the data were averaged over the period from 2006 to 2011 for the 39 sample countries and this generated a cross-section of 39 observations.

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<sup>†††</sup> See Appendix 1 for the full list of countries included in the sample.

<sup>‡‡‡</sup> In some cases these measures became available only in 2011.

The following sub-sections present the measures of financial system development and the historical institutional variables, and discuss the other variables included in the empirical specification, as well as the econometric strategy adopted. All the variables, including their definition, source and the previous works that have used them, are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Variables: definition, measurement, sources and usage

<b>Financial system depth and access variables</b>		
<b>Variable</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Source and, where available, published works that used the variable</b>
Private credit by deposit banks on GDP (DMB)	Private credit by deposit money banks/GDP (ratio in %). This variable measures the ratio of claims on the private sector by deposit money banks to GDP. It does not distinguish deposit money banks based on their ownership types and does not include securitized loans (Beck et al. 2010, p. 81). Data are from 2006 to 2011.	Source: Beck et al. (2013)
Private credit by deposit banks and other financial companies on GDP (DMBOFI)	Private credit by deposit money banks and other financial companies/GDP (ratio in %). This variable measures the ratio of claims on the private sector by deposit money banks and other financial companies to GDP (Beck et al. 2010, p. 81). Data are from 2006 to 2011	Source: Beck et al. (2013)  Published works: Beck et al. (2013); Djankov et al. (2007)
Firms with a bank loan or line of credit (FWLOC)	Percentage of firms in a country with a bank loan or a line of credit. This measures the “percentage of firms in the formal sector with a line of credit or a loan from a formal financial institution, such as a bank, credit union, microfinance institution, or cooperative” (World Bank, 2013). Data are from 2006 to 2011.	Source: World Bank (2013)
Firms with finance constraints (FWAFMC)	Percentage of firms in a country that identify access to finance as a major constraint to business operations. This measures the “percentage of firms identifying access/cost of finance as a "major" or "very severe" obstacle” (World Bank, 2013). Data are from 2006 to 2011.	Source: World Bank (2013)
<b>Historical institutional variables</b>		
French legal origin (FLO)	“A dummy variable that identifies the legal origin of the company law or commercial code of each country. The five origins are English, French, German, Nordic, and Socialist” (Djankov et al. 2007, p. 304). The dummy variable takes the value of 1 for countries categorized as part of the French legal origin family and 0 otherwise.	Source: La Porta et al. (2008a) Published works: Djankov et al. (2007), La Porta et al. (2008b)
Malaria stability index (MSI)	The malaria stability index “combines climatic factors and biological properties of the regionally dominant malaria vector into an index of the stability of malaria transmission” and “is measured on a highly disaggregated subnational level and then averaged for the entire country” (Carstensen and Gundlach 2006, p. 335). Details of the construction of the index are given in Carstensen and Gundlach (2006) and Kiszewski et al. (2004).	Source: McCord (2012)  Published works: Carstensen and Gundlach (2006), Gennaioli et al. (2014), Sachs (2003)
Catholicism (CAT)	A dummy variable that takes the value of 1 if Protestants are the dominant religious group in a country and zero otherwise.	Source: authors’ coding based on the percentage of religious groups in different countries as given in La Porta et al. (1999).
Islam (ISLAM)	A dummy variable that takes the value of 1 if Muslims are the dominant religious group in the country and zero otherwise.	Source: authors’ coding based on the percentage of religious groups in different countries as given in La Porta et al. 1999

Table 1 continued



<b>Variable</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Source and, where available, published works that used the variable</b>
Other religions (OTHR)	A dummy variable that takes the value of 1 if the dominant religious group in the country is from a religion other than Protestantism, Catholicism, and Islam, and zero otherwise.	Source: authors' coding based on the percentage of religious groups in different countries given in La Porta et al. 1999
Ethnic fractionalization index (EF)	"This variable indicates the probability that two randomly selected individuals in a country are not from the same ethnic group" (Ayyagari et al. 2008b, p. 1869). Higher values of the variable imply higher ethnic fractionalization in a given country.	Source: Alesina et al. (2003) Published works: Ayyagari et al. (2008b)
<b>Control variables</b>		
GDP per capita (GCAP)	Natural logarithm of the annual GDP per capita based on purchasing power parity (PPP). PPP GDP is gross domestic product converted to international dollars using purchasing power parity rates. An international dollar has the same purchasing power over GDP as the U.S. dollar has in the United States. GDP at purchaser's prices is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products. Data are in constant 2011 international dollars (World Bank 2014a, series NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.KD definition). Data available from 2006 to 2011.	Source: World Bank (2014a) Published works: Armour et al. (2009c); La Porta et al. (2008b)
Inflation (INFL)	Inflation as measured by the annual growth rate of the GDP implicit deflator. The GDP implicit deflator is the ratio of GDP in current local currency to GDP in constant local currency (World Bank, 2014a, series NY.GDP.DEFL.KD.ZG definition). The values are in % and available for the years 2006-2011.	Source: World Bank (2014a) Published work: Djankov et al. (2007)
WG political stability (PS)	WG political stability captures "perceptions of the likelihood that the government will be destabilized or overthrown by unconstitutional or violent means, including politically-motivated violence and terrorism" (Kaufmann et al. 2010, p. 4). Its values range from approximately -2.5 to 2.5, with higher values signifying more political stability. Data from 2006 to 2011.	Source: World Bank (2014b)
Population density (PD)	Population density is midyear population divided by land area in square kilometres (World Bank 2014a, series EN.POP.DNST definition). Data from 2006 to 2011.	Source: World Bank (2014a)
WG control of corruption (CC)	The WG control of corruption indicator measures 'perceptions of the extent to which public power is exercised for private gain, including both petty and grand forms of corruption, as well as "capture" of the state by elites and private interests' (Kaufmann, Kraay, and Mastruzzi, 2010, p. 4). Its values range from approximately -2.5 to 2.5, with higher values signifying higher institutional quality. Data from 2006 to 2011.	Source: World Bank (2014b) Published works: La Porta et al. (2008)
Trade openness	Trade openness is "the sum of exports and imports of goods and services measured as a share of gross domestic product" (World Bank 2014a, series NE.TRD.GNFS.ZS definition). Data from 2006 to 2011.	Source: World Bank (2014a)

The taxonomy has been drawn from the literature discussed in Section 2 and the variables presented in Sections 3.1-3.3. Country level averages for the variables included in this table are reported in Table 2.

### *3.1 Measuring financial system development*

Research suggests that the main function through which financial systems affect economic development is the channelling of a society's savings to their best use, thereby improving resource allocation and productivity (Beck et al. 2011). Hence, the present study uses financial system development measures that try to capture the intermediation role of financial systems, especially proxies related to the volume and spread of credit intermediated through the banking system. This is an appropriate choice given that in Africa the financial system is dominated by the banking sector and only a few countries have organized equity markets (Beck et al. 2011).

Direct empirical measures of financial system development are not yet available. For this reason researchers have been using size measures of financial systems as proxies of financial system development, especially measures of financial system depth (Beck et al. 2010). In line with the literature, depth measures (volume of credit provided to the private sector) are used as proxies of financial system development also in this study. A novel contribution of the paper is that it uses also measures of financial system access, capturing access to finance by firms (Cihak et al. 2013; World Bank 2012). This is done in order to account for two key dimensions of a financial system and, consequently, attempt to get a better understanding of financial system development in relation to its firm financing function.

Two financial system depth variables are included in the econometric model. These are the ratio of private credit by deposit money banks over GDP (hereafter DMB) and the ratio of private credit by deposit money banks and other financial companies over GDP (hereafter DMBOFI). DMB measures the volume of credit from banks to the private sector (Beck et al. 2010), while DMBOFI measures the volume of credit to the private sector from banks and sources other than financial markets (e.g., Beck et al. 2003; Beck et al. 2006; Beck et al. 2010; Djankov et al. 2007).

Higher levels of DMB and DMBOFI are associated with larger volumes of credit intermediated to the private sector and hence higher financial system development. As far as financial system access is concerned, this is measured using two variables that are collected through the Enterprise Surveys of the World Bank and are available through the Global Financial Development Database (GFDD). The first one is the percentage of firms in a country with a bank loan or a line of credit (hereafter FWLOC).<sup>10</sup> Higher levels of FWLOC mean higher levels of access to finance by firms and hence higher financial system development. The second proxy of financial system access is the percentage of firms in a country that identify access to finance as a major constraint to business operations (hereafter FWAFCM).<sup>11</sup> Higher levels of FWAFCM imply less access to finance by firms and hence lower financial system development.

### *3.2 Measuring historical institutional variables*

A country's legal origin is measured with a dummy variable labelled 'French legal origin' which takes the value of 1 for countries categorized as French civil law and zero otherwise, based on the data provided by La Porta et al. (1999) and La Porta et al. (2008a). The base (and omitted) group for this dummy variable is the 'English legal origin' group, which includes countries categorized as English/British common law. Of the 39 African former European colonies that make up the full sample, 25 are classified as French legal origin, while 14 are classified as English legal origin.

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<sup>10</sup> As defined in the GFDD, this variable measures the "percentage of firms in the formal sector with a line of credit or a loan from a formal financial institution, such as a bank, credit union, microfinance institution, or cooperative" (World Bank 2013).

<sup>11</sup> Studies have shown that lack of access to finance hinders firm growth, particularly for SMEs (e.g., Beck et al. 2005; Beck and Demirguc-Kunt 2006).

To test the hypothesis related to the disease endowment theory, measures of the disease endowment of African former European colonies are required. The settler mortality rates of Acemoglu et al. (2001) are not available for all the African countries included in the full sample. Moreover, the data on settler mortality rates used in Acemoglu et al. (2001) have been recently questioned for their accuracy by Albouy (2012). Hence a challenge lies in identifying variables that can help proxy for potential death risks from dangerous diseases for European colonizers. This paper uses the “malaria stability index”.<sup>12</sup> Developed by Kiszewski et al. (2004), this exogenous variable has been used in the economic development literature (e.g. Carstensen and Gundlach 2006; Gennaioli et al. 2014; Sachs 2003), but does not seem to have been used much in the financial development literature. Based on the hypothesis related to the disease endowment theory, the malaria stability index is expected to be negatively associated with FSD because there is a higher malaria burden at higher values of the index.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> The malaria stability index was constructed from biological and climatic variables in a way that makes it an exogenous measure of malaria endemic geographic areas. Kiszewski et al. (2004, p. 486) state that this index was developed “based on the most powerful intrinsic properties of anopheline mosquito vectors of malaria that interact with climate to determine vectorial capacity. Because this index [malaria stability index] examines potential transmission stability, it includes regions where malaria is not currently transmitted, but where it had been transmitted in the past or where it might be transmitted in the future”.

<sup>13</sup> It is important to note that the malaria stability index does not measure current malaria fatalities or infections, but only proxies for geographical areas and climates in Africa that have always posed a lethal threat to human beings by being conducive to malaria infection and transmission. Hence the malaria stability index seems to be an appropriate proxy for the malaria disease endowment that the European colonizers encountered during colonization, which may have affected their colonization strategies.

To measure the effect of religion, following Stulz and Williamson (2003), four dummy variables are defined to proxy the religious affiliation of the majority of the population in each country, based on the data on religious affiliation developed by La Porta et al. (1999). These are: ‘Catholicism’, ‘Islam’, ‘Other Religions’ and ‘Protestantism’, the latter being the base and, hence, and omitted group. ‘Catholicism’ is a dummy variable that takes the value of 1 if the religious affiliation of the majority of the population in a country is Catholicism and zero otherwise. ‘Islam’ is a dummy variable that takes the value of 1 if the religious affiliation of the majority of the population in a country is Islam and zero otherwise. The ‘Other Religions’ dummy variable takes the value of 1 if the religious affiliation of the majority of the population in a country is neither Catholicism nor Islam nor Protestantism and zero otherwise. The ‘Protestantism’ categorizes African former European colonies that have Protestantism as the religious affiliation of the majority of the population in a country. In the sample, there are 9 countries in the ‘Catholicism’ group, 12 in the ‘Islam’ group, 3 in the ‘Protestantism’ group and 15 in the ‘Other Religions’ group.

Finally, the updated ethnic fractionalization index (EF) compiled by Alesina et al. (2003) is employed to measure the effect of ethnic fractionalization on FSD. Alesina et al. (2003) argue that their updated ethnic fractionalization index is based on a broader measure of ethnicity, which goes beyond language to include racial characteristics, such as skin colour and racial origin, and is constructed to cover a broader cross-section of countries.

### *3.3 The econometric specification*

As mentioned in Section 3.1, the dependent variables used in the empirical models are proxies of financial system development, namely measures of both financial system depth and access.

Historical institutional variables are instead the main explanatory variables (see Section 3.2). The vector of other regressors includes the following variables. GDP per capita is used to control for demand-side factors as it has been shown that countries with higher incomes may more easily drive demand for financial system services, with positive consequences for financial system development (Djankov et al. 2007; La Porta et al. 2008b). A variable measuring inflation is included to control for macroeconomic stability given that inflation is argued to affect financial system development (e.g. Djankov et al. 2007; Honohan and Beck 2007). Furthermore, to control for political stability a World Governance Indicator called the ‘political stability and absence of violence/terrorism’ indicator (hereafter WG political stability) is included in the econometric model. WG political stability captures “perceptions of the likelihood that the government will be destabilized or overthrown by unconstitutional or violent means, including politically-motivated violence and terrorism” (Kaufmann et al. 2010, p. 4). The WG political stability has been designed to range between approximately -2.5 and 2.5, with higher values indicating higher levels of political stability in a country.<sup>14</sup>

Population density is argued to affect financial system development in Africa (Beck et al. 2011) and is also included in the estimated models. We control for overall institutional quality by including the corruption indicator of the Worldwide Governance Indicators (hereafter WG control of corruption). The WG control of corruption measures the level of corruption in a country, which is one of the three main areas of governance identified by Kaufmann et al. (2010, p. 4) that have to do with ‘the respect of citizens and the state for the institutions that govern economic and social interactions among them’. The WG control of corruption has been designed to range between

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<sup>14</sup> For details on the construction of the WG political stability index see Kaufmann et al. (2010).

approximately -2.5 and 2.5, with higher values indicating better institutional quality<sup>15</sup>. Finally, we control of trade openness using the sum of exports and imports as a percentage of GDP.<sup>16</sup>

The econometric specification is estimated using the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) method. This is because, given the relatively time-invariant nature of the historical institutional variables used which leaves little, if any, within-country variation in the sample, the econometric strategy exploits between-country variation in the explanatory variables. To this end, the data are averaged over the six-year period 2006-2011 to obtain a cross-section of 39 African former European colonies. Given this new data structure, the OLS method is best suited to estimate the effects of historical institutional variables on FSD.<sup>17</sup> The relatively exogenous nature of the historical institutional variables should reduce reverse causality concerns between the financial system development variables and the historical institutional variables. Moreover, the use of control variables should reduce omitted variable bias concerns in the models. The main summary

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<sup>15</sup> For details on the construction of the WG control of corruption index see Kaufmann et al. (2010)

<sup>16</sup> We owe the suggestion of including WG control of corruption and trade openness in the empirical models to an anonymous referee. The same referee has also pointed out that the level of remittances has been found to be an important variables by other studies. However, in the context of the present paper this variable (whether measured in levels or in natural logarithm) was not statistically correlated with any of the dependent variables employed. Therefore, remittances have not been included in the empirical models to save degrees of freedom, given the limited number of observations at hand.

<sup>17</sup> OLS are an appropriate modelling choice because the averaged data is in cross-sectional form and the key explanatory variables can be considered as relatively exogenous determinants of the dependent variables (Alesina et al. 2003; La Porta et al. 1999, Wooldridge 2009). Previous studies in this line of literature have also used OLS even when, as is the case in the present paper, the dependent variable is expressed in percentage or proportional form (e.g. Beck et al. 2003; Djankov et al. 2007).

statistics for the variables presented in this section are provided in Table 2, while Table 3 reports the correlation matrix.

**Table 2:** Summary statistics

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Observations</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. dev.</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Private credit by deposit banks on GDP (DMB)*	39	20.65	18.76	3.32	77.80
Private credit by deposit banks and other financial companies on GDP (DMBOFI)*	39	22.66	26.23	3.32	145.67
Firms with a bank loan or line of credit (FWLOC)*	39	22.61	12.11	2.80	47.40
Firms with finance constraints (FWAFMC)*	39	46.15	14.66	15.50	75.00
French legal origin (FLO)	39	0.64	0.49	0.00	1.00
Catholicism (CAT)	39	0.23	0.43	0.00	1.00
Islam (Islam)	39	0.31	0.47	0.00	1.00
Other religions (OTHR)	39	0.38	0.49	0.00	1.00
Malaria stability index (MSI) <sup>+</sup>	39	11.20	8.57	0.00	31.55
Ethnic fractionalization index (EF) <sup>+</sup>	39	0.67	0.22	0.06	0.93
GDP per capita (GCAP) <sup>~</sup>	39	7.87	0.96	6.41	9.73
Inflation (INFL)*	39	8.44	5.76	0.09	27.21
WG Political Stability (PS) <sup>+</sup>	39	-0.45	0.84	-2.16	0.98
Population density (PD) <sup>#</sup>	39	78.48	111.37	2.59	625.92
WG control of corruption (CC) <sup>+</sup>	39	-0.56	0.57	-1.36	0.96
Trade openness (TO)*	39	78.18	28.45	34.29	164.93

Note: For the description of the variables and their sources see Table 1. \* In percentage term; <sup>+</sup> in units; <sup>~</sup> in natural logarithm of GDP per capita at purchasing power parity in constant 2011 international dollars; <sup>#</sup> in number of people per square km of land area. All other variables are dummies.



**Table 3:** Pairwise correlation matrix

	DMB	DMBOFI	FWLOC	FWAFMC	FLO	MSI	CAT	ISLAM	OTHR	EF	GCAP	INFL	PS	PD	CC	TO
DMB	1.00															
DMBOFI	0.92*	1.00														
FWLOC	0.44*	0.36*	1.00													
FWAFMC	-0.42*	-0.46*	-0.09	1.00												
FLO	-0.05	-0.13	-0.02	0.45*	1.00											
MSI	-0.39*	-0.39*	-0.24	0.64*	0.22	1.00										
CAT	-0.19	-0.17	-0.01	-0.03	0.16	-0.24	1.00									
ISLAM	0.01	-0.04	-0.21	0.01	0.15	0.16	-0.37*	1.00								
OTHR	0.14	0.19	0.11	0.10	-0.18	0.09	-0.43*	-0.53*	1.00							
EF	-0.36*	-0.24	-0.39*	0.32*	0.04	0.49*	0.01	-0.10	0.05	1.00						
GCAP	0.58*	0.52*	0.12	-0.53*	-0.08	-0.40*	0.03	0.02	0.03	-0.39*	1.00					
INFL	-0.21	-0.16	-0.39*	0.07	-0.33*	0.03	0.09	-0.01	0.00	0.04	0.03	1.00				
PS	0.39*	0.32*	0.41*	-0.39*	-0.26	-0.20	-0.07	-0.30*	0.32*	-0.26	0.37*	-0.25	1.00			
PD	0.43*	0.29*	0.38*	0.08	-0.02	-0.12	0.05	-0.13	0.12	-0.24	0.07	0.03	0.10	1.00		
CC	0.62*	0.54*	0.58*	-0.43*	-0.32*	-0.34*	-0.19	-0.16	0.25	-0.50*	0.47*	-0.12	0.74*	0.22	1.00	
TO	0.16	0.07	0.01	-0.35*	-0.09	-0.37*	0.26	-0.14	-0.05	-0.40*	0.42*	0.03	0.31*	0.05	0.29*	1.00

\*Significant at 10%. For the description of the variables and their main summary statistics see Table 1 and Table 2 respectively.

## 4 Results

Estimation results are presented in Tables from 4 to 7. All estimations have been carried out using heteroskedasticity robust standard errors. Looking at Table 4, when DMB is used as dependent variable to proxy one dimension of financial system depth and the four theories of institutional determinants of financial system development are tested individually in MOD1 to MOD4, only the malaria stability index (MSI) and the ethnic fractionalization index (EF) are statistically significant. As expected, both these variables seem to have a negative effect on DMB. However, when both MSI and EF are jointly included in the model along with the battery of chosen control variables (see section 3.3), they lose statistical significance. Hence, overall considered, the results reported in Table 4 indicate that the legal origin theory, the disease endowment theory, the religion-based theory and the ethnic fractionalization theory do not explain variation in financial system depth in the African context.

Moving now to the results obtained with DMBOFI as dependent variable proxying for financial system depth, Table 5 reveals a similar qualitative picture to the one just discussed. In essence, the malaria stability index and ethnic fractionalization index are statistically significant when entered alone (MOD2 and MOD4 respectively), but when they are put together in the same model with the control variables they are no longer statistically significant (MOD5). Consequently, none of the historical institutional variables seems to explain variation in financial system depth in the African context.

**Table 4:** The impact of historical institutional variables on financial system depth

Dependent variable: Private credit by deposit banks on GDP (DMB)					
	MOD1	MOD2	MOD3	MOD4	MOD5
French legal origin	-1.75 <i>6.20</i>				
Malaria stability index		-0.84** <i>0.34</i>			-0.31 <i>(0.25)</i>
Catholicism			-7.21 <i>12.15</i>		
Islam			-0.51 <i>12.13</i>		
Other religions			2.53 <i>12.45</i>		
Ethnic fractionalization index				-31.19** <i>13.68</i>	10.69 <i>(12.19)</i>
GDP per capita					8.52*** <i>(2.88)</i>
Inflation					-0.71*** <i>(0.26)</i>
WG Political Stability					-4.28 <i>(3.29)</i>
Population density					0.06*** <i>(0.01)</i>
WG Control of Corruption					16.82** <i>(7.15)</i>
Trade Openness					-0.08 <i>(0.07)</i>
Number of countries	39	39	39	39	39
R-squared	0.00	0.15	0.04	0.13	0.67
F Statistic	0.0800	6.321	0.596	5.198	32.07
P-value of F Statistic	0.779	0.0164	0.622	0.0285	0.000

For the description of the variables see Table 1. Robust standard errors in italics. All regressions include the constant term. The omitted legal origin is the English legal origin. The omitted religion is Protestantism. \*\*\*, \*\*, \* indicate significance at the 1%, 5% and 10% levels respectively.

**Table 5:** The impact of historical institutional variables on financial system depth

Dependent variable: Private credit by deposit banks and other financial companies on GDP (DMBOFI)					
	MOD1	MOD2	MOD3	MOD4	MOD5
French legal origin	-6.88 <i>10.23</i>				
Malaria stability index		-1.13** <i>0.52</i>			-0.66 <i>(0.51)</i>
Catholicism			-7.40 <i>12.04</i>		
Islam			-0.66 <i>12.04</i>		
Other religions			7.04 <i>14.55</i>		
Ethnic fractionalization index				-28.73* <i>14.92</i>	27.23 <i>(26.09)</i>
GDP per capita					11.80** <i>(5.22)</i>
Inflation					-0.76** <i>(0.28)</i>
WG Political Stability					-6.88 <i>(5.30)</i>
Population density					0.05** <i>(0.02)</i>
WG Control of Corruption					24.39* <i>(13.54)</i>
Trade Openness					-0.18 <i>(0.13)</i>
Number of countries	39	39	39	39	39
R-squared	0.02	0.14	0.05	0.06	0.54
F Statistic	0.452	4.613	0.696	3.705	17.34
P-value of F Statistic	0.506	0.0384	0.561	0.0620	0.000

For the description of the variables see Table 1. Robust standard errors in italics. All regressions include the constant term. The omitted legal origin is the English legal origin. The omitted religion is Protestantism. \*\*\*, \*\*, \* indicate significance at the 1%, 5% and 10% levels respectively.

Turning now to evaluate whether the historical institutional variables explain variation in measures of access to financial systems, when FWLOC is used as a proxy of FSB (Table 6), only Islam and the ethnic fractionalization index are statistically significant and appear to have a detrimental effect on financial system development when taken individually (MOD3 and MOD4 respectively), but when they are considered along with the vector of control variables only ethnic fractionalization

index remains statistically significant (MOD5). Hence the ethnic fractionalization theory receives empirical support with this measure of financial system access.

**Table 6:** The impact of historical institutional variables on financial system access

Depended variable: Firms with a bank loan or line of credit (FWLOC)					
	MOD1	MOD2	MOD3	MOD4	MOD5
French legal origin	-0.58 <i>3.74</i>				
Malaria stability index		-0.33 <i>0.20</i>			
Catholicism			-7.64 <i>6.50</i>		0.64 (6.49)
Islam			-11.20** <i>5.35</i>		-6.09 (6.31)
Other religions			-5.75 <i>5.44</i>		-3.50 (6.25)
Ethnic fractionalization index				-22.22** <i>9.30</i>	-11.86* (6.97)
GDP per capita					-1.42 (1.63)
Inflation					-0.70*** (0.23)
WG Political Stability					-1.38 (2.62)
Population density					0.02*** (0.01)
WG Control of corruption					12.28*** (3.49)
Trade Openness					-0.09 (0.05)
Number of countries	39	39	39	39	39
R-squared	0.00	0.06	0.07	0.16	0.61
F Statistic	0.0242	2.742	1.526	5.714	29.24
P-value of F Statistic	0.877	0.106	0.225	0.0220	0.000

For the description of the variables see Table 1. Robust standard errors in italics. All regressions include the constant term. The omitted legal origin is the English legal origin. The omitted religion is Protestantism. \*\*\*, \*\*, \* indicate significance at the 1%, 5% and 10% levels respectively.

As far as the results obtained for the model of historical institutional determinants of financial system development are concerned, when this is proxied by the second chosen measure

of financial system access, namely FWAFMC<sup>18</sup>, MOD1 to MOD4 in Table 7 show that the coefficients of French legal origin, malaria stability index and ethnic fractionalization index are statistically significant and have a positive effect on FWAFMC, hence leading to lower levels of financial system development in African countries. When these statistically significant variables, and the set of control variables, are included in the same model (MOD5 in Table 7), only the coefficients of French legal origin and malaria stability index remain statistically significant and with the expected sign.

Consequently the legal origins theory and the disease endowment theory are supported in this measure of financial system access, while the other theories do not receive empirical support.

A potential issue in the regression results is the possible endogeneity of the income and inflation controls. Although these two variables are standard controls in related studies (e.g. Brown et al. 2009; Djankov et al, 2007; Djankov et al, 2008, among others), as a way of checking the extent to which their inclusion alters the results, all regressions have been re-run by removing these two control variables from the empirical models. The estimates thus obtained (not reported but available upon request) show that the qualitative picture of the results remains unchanged.

**Table 7:** The impact of historical institutional variables on financial system access

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Dependent variable: Firms with finance constraints (FWAFMC)

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<sup>18</sup> As discussed in Section 3.1, higher levels of FWAFMC imply lower levels of financial system development.

	MOD1	MOD2	MOD3	MOD4	MOD5
French legal origin	13.56*** <i>4.56</i>				11.37*** <i>(3.07)</i>
Malaria stability index		1.10*** <i>0.19</i>			0.76*** <i>(0.23)</i>
Catholicism			6.87 <i>9.62</i>		
Islam			8.00 <i>9.23</i>		
Other religions			9.45 <i>10.05</i>		
Ethnic fractionalization index				21.95*** <i>7.11</i>	-0.94 <i>(9.14)</i>
GDP per capita					-5.00** <i>(1.83)</i>
Inflation					0.44 <i>(0.32)</i>
WG Political Stability					-1.65 <i>(3.57)</i>
Population density					0.02** <i>(0.01)</i>
WG Control of corruption					1.45 <i>(5.16)</i>
Trade Openness					-0.01 <i>(0.06)</i>
Number of countries	39	39	39	39	39
R-squared	0.20	0.42	0.03	0.10	0.67
F Statistic	8.827	32.13	0.314	9.519	9.085
P-value of F Statistic	0.00519	0.000	0.815	0.00384	0.000

For the description of the variables see Table 1. Robust standard errors in italics. All regressions include the constant term. The omitted legal origin is the English legal origin. The omitted religion is Protestantism. \*\*\*, \*\*, \* indicate significance at the 1%, 5% and 10% levels respectively.

## 5 Discussion and conclusion

This paper empirically investigated the historical institutional determinants of cross-country variation in financial system development in Africa. The analysis, based on a sample of 39 African former European colonies, produced the following results. Firstly, using measures of financial system depth as proxies of financial system development, none of the four theories proposed in the literature on the topic (namely, legal origins theory, disease endowment theory, religion-based

theory and ethnic fractionalization theory) received empirical support. Secondly, empirical support is found for the ethnic fractionalization theory when financial system access is proxied with firms having a bank loan or line of credit. Finally, the legal origins theory and the disease endowment theory are supported in the data when firms with finance constraints proxy for financial system access.

The above findings suggest that although historical institutional factors may not matter for financial system depth within the African context, they seem to matter for financial system access. A possible explanation for this finding is that financial system depth measures may be primarily driven by a few, large and highly connected firms that do not depend necessarily on well-developed current institutional factors with strong historical links to obtain credit for their operations. Financial system access measures, instead, are primarily about access to finance by many more firms, especially SMEs, that are riskier and hence lenders may consider better developed current institutional factors with stronger historical dependence in their credit decisions. Consequently, historical institutional factors appear to have stronger effects on this dimension of financial system development than on depth measures. This suggests that to gain a better understanding of the determinants of financial system development, researchers should take into account access to finance measures of financial system development (i.e. financial system access) in addition to size measures (i.e. financial system depth).

The finding that legal origin is not a determinant of financial system depth is mostly in agreement with the results of Beck et al. (2003) and Fowowe (2014). This paper extends these earlier works by showing that legal origins explain cross-country variation in one of the financial system access measures within the African context, thus suggesting that this theory still has some



value as a historical institutional explanation of cross-country variation in financial system development within the African context.

The above results have policy implications. Policy makers need to be aware of the fact that in Africa current poor financial system breadth may have links with detrimental institutional structures inherited from colonial times. Hence, the design of policies aimed at improving financial system development in African countries needs to take into account that path dependence and institutional complementarity effects are likely to impact on the outcome of such reforms.

This study is not without limitations. For one, the results are based on observed relationships that are partial correlations, consequently limiting strong causal interpretations. Future research in this area of inquiry would benefit from using case studies and historical narratives which may help increase the causal interpretation of the links between dependent and key explanatory variables.

An avenue for future research is to identify the current legal rules and regulations that may act as institutional channels through which legal origins, malaria burden, religion and ethnic fractionalization matter for financial system development within the African context. Identifying these current institutional channels can enable a better understanding of the processes through which the historical institutional factors exert their long-term effects and this may bring about a significant contribution in terms of policy design. Future work could also verify the results obtained in this study for other geographical areas, such as Latin America and the Caribbean, Central, East and South East Asia.

Overall considered, the evidence gathered in this paper points to the need for more fine grained theories and empirical measures that can provide robust explanations of cross-country variation in financial system development in Africa.

**Appendix 1: Sample countries with legal origins categorization**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Legal origin</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Legal origin</b>
Algeria	FLO	Lesotho	ELO
Angola	FLO	Madagascar	FLO
Benin	FLO	Malawi	ELO
Botswana	ELO	Mali	FLO
Burkina Faso	FLO	Mauritania	FLO
Burundi	FLO	Mauritius	FLO
Cameroon	FLO	Morocco	FLO
Cape Verde	FLO	Mozambique	FLO
Central African Republic	FLO	Namibia	ELO
Chad	FLO	Niger	FLO
Congo, Democratic Republic	FLO	Nigeria	ELO
Congo, Republic	FLO	Senegal	FLO
Cote d'Ivoire	FLO	Sierra Leone	ELO
Egypt, Arab Republic	FLO	South Africa	ELO
Gabon	FLO	Swaziland	ELO
Gambia	ELO	Tanzania	ELO
Ghana	ELO	Togo	FLO
Guinea	FLO	Uganda	ELO
Guinea-Bissau	FLO	Zambia	ELO
Kenya	ELO		

FLO = French legal origin categorization; ELO = English legal origin categorization

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