Protestant Mission Stations and Staff in Colonial Africa

This dataset is based on the 1925 World Missionary Atlas (WMA) by Harlan P. Beach and Charles H. Fahs, published by the Institute for Social and Religious Research (New York). The dataset features aggregated, cross-validated information from maps and indexes contained in the WMA. Overall, it provides information on 1,895 mission stations that were established before 1925. For the purpose of geo-referencing, the WMA maps were digitized and where necessary complemented with additional information on historical place names.[1]

Cite as:

- Becker, Bastian (2022), The Empire Within: Longitudinal Evidence on the Expansion of Christian Missions in Colonial Africa, *Journal of Historical Political Economy, 2(2)*. http://dx.doi.org/10.1561/115.00000032
- Becker, Bastian; Meier zu Selhausen, Felix (2025), Missionary Legacies of Gender Equality: Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa, *European Review of Economic History*. https://doi.org/10.1093/ereh/heaf007

Variable description

id: Unique ID for each mission station

startdate: Year of establishment

enddate: Year of closure

active: Dummy indicating operational status in 1924

origin: Location of sending societies' headquarter

colony: Location of station according to 1924 borders

men: Number of males among foreign staff in 1923

wives: Number of married females among foreign staff in 1923

single_women: Number of unmarried females (incl. widows) among foreign staff in 1923

doctors_men: Number of doctors among male foreign staff in 1923

doctors_women: Number of doctors among female foreign staff in 1923

longitude: Longitude

latitude: Latitude

[1] National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (https://geonames.nga.mil/namesgaz/).