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Title: Social change and ethnic variation in seasonality of marriage in Sub Saharan
Africa

Historical scholars have long been aware of the existence of seasonal variation in vital events (Barrett, 1990). These studies are however concentrated in western societies (Cressy, 1985) and have restricted their analysis to seasonality of births and deaths and rarely on marriage. I argue that marriage in Africa may be rooted in local customs and economy (often agricultural based) which may affect the timing of marriage. The argument is that many of the agricultural systems in Africa not only vary by variation in climatic seasons, but also by cultural orientation. There is therefore likely to be ethnic variation in marriage consummation. Yet relatively few studies have examined seasonality of marriage in Sub Saharan Africa. In this paper I use data sets 20+ years apart to examine ethnic variation in seasonality of marriage in Africa and the effect of social change on the same.

Data and Method: I use data sets from two time periods 20+ years apart to examine the ethnic variation in seasonality of marriage in Sub Saharan Africa. I also plan to use regression decomposition analysis to achieve the objective of this study.