

ACADEMIC NEWS

Culture and Development in Ethiopia: National Research Conference, June 15-16, 2016, University of Gondar. Organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism & College of Social Sciences and the Humanities, University of Gondar.

In June 15-16, 2016 the National Research on “Conference Culture and Development in Ethiopia” was held in Gondar University. The conference was organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the College of Social Sciences and the Humanities. The main objective of the conference was to investigate the contribution that culture, including the tangible and intangible heritage, can bring for the development of Ethiopia.

During the two-day conference a total of ten papers were presented. The papers covered different topics and academic disciplines, from media studies, to education, political science, folklore and social anthropology.

Three papers focused on the media and their role in promoting certain cultural values. Rukya Hussen (Wello University), with a paper on “The Role of Media in Promoting Indigenous Cultural Values: Critical Discourse Analysis”, analyzed the threat to local cultural values by the global dominating media. Ayyele Addis (Weldya University) presented a paper in Amharic on የመገናኛ ብዙኃን ሚና ለባህል አሴቶች ልማት እና የባህል ብዙሀን በኢትዮጵያ ብሮድካስቲንግ ኮርፖሬሽን የሬዲዮ ፤ የቴሌቪዥን እና የጋዜጣ ሽፈን (“The Role of Mass Media for the development of cultural values and of multiculturalism: The case of Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation and its coverage of radio, TV and press”). Bedesta Kasa (Ministry of Culture) spoke on የብዙሃን ባህላዊ አመለካከት መዳበር ለአገራዊ አንድነትና ለዘላቂ ልማት ያለው ፈይዳ (“The value of promoting multiculturalism for the national unity and the sustainable development”).

Within the fields of folklore and social anthropology five papers were presented. Two papers focused on indigenous medical systems: “Medicinal use of fauna in the indigenous medicine system of Metema woreda, North Gondar” by Mezgebu Belay (Addis Ababa University) and “Indigenous herbal medicinal knowledge and healing system among the Sinasha” by Abraham Genet (Gondar University). “Craft art industry in Gondar city: Weaving and pottery-making in retrospect and prospect” by Ebrahim Damtew (Gondar University) studied the position of weaving and pottery-making in Gondar. Additionally, there were two papers that focused on the role of indigenous institutions in local governance: Getu Ambaye’s (Gondar University) “The role of indigenous association for promoting local development: A case study of indigenous association among Agaws in Awi zone of Amhara Regional State” and Endalkachew Birhan’s (Madawalabu University) “The role of indigenous institution in local governance: The case of Gada system of Borana Oromo, the pastoralist community of Ethiopia”.

Within the field of education Teferi Teklu (Gondar University) presented the paper on በኢትዮጵያ የባሕል ሙያ ትምህርቶች ሥልጠና አስፈላጊነትና አፈጻጸም በተፈሪ ተኩሉ (“The need

and the actual application of cultural training and cultural education in Ethiopia”).

Finally, in his paper “Managing Socio-cultural and ethnic diversity: Implications for local interactions and development efforts”, Dawit Yosef (Gondar University) analyzed the ‘social engineering’ mechanisms applied in order to address Ethiopia’s socio-cultural diversity throughout history.

Andreu Martínez d’Alòs-Moner

*University of Gondar
Ethiopia*

The 26th Annual Research, Community Engagement and Technology Transfer Conference of Gondar University, June 24-25, 2016.

The 26th Annual Research, Community Engagement and Technology Transfer Conference of Gondar University was held on June 24-25, 2016 at the Science Amba campus.

On Friday, June 24, after the opening remarks by Dr. Desalegn Mengesha, President of the university, the conference opened with the plenary sessions, which included five speeches. The first was delivered by Dr Tefera Waluwa and he focused on “Space Science Development in Ethiopia”. The second plenary speech was presented by Feseha Yetagesu with the topic on “Science, technology and innovation in Ethiopia: Its status-quo and future opportunities”. Then followed a communication by Prof. Oveta Fulle on “Towards HIV/AIDS Elimination: Equipping Local Trusted Messengers to Address a Virus Pandemic”. The fourth plenary was given by Prof. Eiman Mahmoud on “Descriptive Analysis of Cervical Cancer Cases at Jimma University Hospital in Southwestern Ethiopia”. The fifth and last plenary communication came from Dr. Patricia Daley with a focus on “Knowledge Production and Publication”.

The same day afternoon different panel sessions started. Divided by the area of study, the following community service and technology transfer projects were presented during the two days of the conference:

Clinical psychology

“Prevalence and associated factors of anxiety and depression among chronic illness patients in Amhara Regional state referral hospital, Ethiopia”, by Gebeyehu B., Suleman S., Hone M., Geta W., Bizuneh T., Selamawit W., Niguse B., Yosef T., and Mengesha E.

Education

“Current practices and challenges of preschool education in Amhara Regional State: Implication for quality and intervention”, by Sisay Haile, Ebabush Yirdaw, Habtamu Genet, Meseret Getatchew, Yoseph Megebu, Yifter Melese, Derib Abiew, Mesafint Muchie, Zelalem Alemayehu, and Hana Shewamoltot.

“Re-thinking Ethiopian education system: Some experiences from the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in North and South Gondar zones”, by Adugna Abebe, Tebaber Chanie, Bekele Melese, Semalegn Kendie, Ajanaw Alemie, Girma Tayachew, Marshet Girmay, and Ebrahim Damtew

Human geography

“Analyzing vulnerability to drought using remote sensing indices”, by Memberu Teshome, Abel Markos, Aysheshem Terfe, Derje Amen, Belet Gelanew, Geberananeya Gebru, and Abebech Chekol.

“Do household gardens impact children’s heights and weights? An evaluation of the Kossoye Development Program’s School Vegetable Seed Distribution”, by Andrew J. Carlson, Amsalu Feleke, Hone Mandefro, and Solomon Admasu.

“Rural households’ preference for food security interventions in North West Ethiopia: A case study of Dabat woreda, North Gondar”, by Addisu Baye, Amlaku Alemu, Assefa Dinku, Brehanu Matebe, Kumela Gudeta, Mikias Amar, Muluken Adane, Tadesse Negash, and Tewodros Getnet.

Population studies/sociology

“Analyzing social change in North and South Gondar zones since 1974: Implications for policy”, by Adera Getaneh, Kassahun Tegegne, Dereje Workayehu, Gerum Taye, and Getasew Nigussie.

“Migration and development in Amhara region: A multi-dimensional analysis”, by Kassahun Tegegne, Adera Getaneh, Setegn Ali, Mulusew Birhanu, Mastewal Abawa, Getasew Nigussie, Dereje Workayehu, Tesfaye Tafere, and Gerum Taye.

“Socio-economic problems of metropolitan urban centres in Amhara region”, by Mikyas A., Meseret K., Seid J., Kelemu F., Geberananeya G., Endashaw A., Samuel S., Bizuayehu M., Nigussie A., and Mihret A.

Social anthropology

“The economic and socio-cultural sources, consequences and intervention mechanisms of revenge in Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia”, by Getu Ambaye, Abebe Alemu, Belay Shibeshe, Bitowed Admassu, Meseret Assefa, Mezegebu Belay, and Worku Tekleyes.

ሀግረሰባዊ የለቅሶ ስርዓት በአማራ ክልል የተመረጡ ዞኖች (“Traditional mourning forms in the selected zones of Amhara state”), by Samirawit Zewdu, Muluken Zemene, Ageññehu Tesfa, Melaku Alemnew, Melshe Mittiku, Abbeba Hussien, Dessalegn Bizuneh, Abeselom Nek’atibeb, Ebnet Abbebe, Werke Mene, and Habtamu Akanaw.

Tourism

“The practices, challenges and opportunities of the tourism industry in Amhara Regional State: The world heritage sites in focus”, by Derb A., Sisyay A., Satya K., Tewodros A., Tewodros L., Yared D., and Mollalign B.

In addition to these group projects, the following individual projects were presented:

“Confusions, tensions, challenges and prospects of Ethiopian nationalism: Tsegaye Gebre Medhin historical play in focus”, by Haimanot Wassie Aklau.

“Cultural and socio-economic values of moringa stenopetala among the Konso in southwestern Ethiopia”, by Tebaber Chanie.

The community service projects implemented during the 2015-2016 academic year by the College of Social Sciences and the Humanities are the following ones:

Nr.	Title	Principal investigator
1	Income generation and business support for women entrepreneurs and Women Entrepreneurs Association in Dembiya Woreda with particular emphasis of micro and small enterprises	Aysheshum Terefe
2	A University-community partnership project for positive youth development in Gondar town: Youth focused community-based project	Ajamaw Alemie
3	Identity, history and heritage management: Intervention on the identification, preservation and promotion of tangible and intangible heritages in North and South Gondar	Debash Yimam
4	Psychological counseling and training to address multi-dimensional needs of people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in three woredas of North Gondar Administrative Zone	Semalign Kindie
5	Developing the speaking skills, communication abilities and the respective methodological aspects required to teach English subject in English language for teachers working in general elementary schools (7 and 8 grades) in Gondar city	Yoseph Mezgebu
6	Training on integration of population variables into development planning for sectoral planners in North Gondar: The application of spectrum software of policy models	Bizunesh Muluneh
7	Addressing the needs of adolescence and youth through psychological counseling: Community counseling service (Phase II)	Riyah Mohammed
8	Improving sexual and reproductive health practices of young girls in Dembiya <i>woreda</i> through training of girls in the school and mainstreaming sexual and reproductive activities in the school	Belete Debebe
9	Entrepreneurship training for rural youth in Dera <i>woreda</i> , south Gondar	Mezgebu Belay

Since a few years now, the College of Social Sciences and Humanities has also been actively participating in the Science and Technology Transfer Programme of the University. The mission of this programme is to contribute to the sustainable socioeconomic development of the country by producing vibrant, compassionate and responsible citizens through societal needs tailored curricula; conducting problem-solving research; and strengthening community engagement and technology transfer. The projects undertaken within this programme by the College for the 2015-2016 academic year are:

Nr	Title	Principal investigator	Investigators
1	Heritage Triangle of Ethiopia, Gondar-Lalibela-Aksum: A web-based GIS tourist information system	Kurma Satyanarayana	Abel Markos, Andreu Martínez Rahwa Youssuf Belay Abera Gebrenaenya Gebru
2	Transferring asset-based community development as grassroots model for socioeconomic change of rural subsistent farming communities in Ethiopia	Semalegne Kendie	Senthil Kumar, Shambel Desale, Suleyman Shikur, Endeshaw Aynetu

*University of Gondar
Ethiopia*

Andreu Martínez d'Alòs-Moner