1. What can “a-dollar-a-day” Diaspora Fund that Newly Elected Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed Established Accomplish in Ethiopia?

by Abebe Haregewoin, MD, PhD. E-mail: aharegewoin@gmail.com

Ethiopia has been in a euphoric state since the election of a new PM just a few months ago. Change is in the air with plenty of social and political changes mushrooming every day and transforming both the social and economic landscape of the nation. As part of his call to speed the transformation of his country, the PM has asked everyone to take a break from their daily dose of Starbucks coffee and donate a dollar a day into a diaspora fund that can accelerate the process of change in the nation, particularly in health and more particularly water health. Even though the number of participants from the Ethiopian diaspora in this fund is not clear, any amount will definitely help. Regarding water health, only 1 in 9 people in Africa have access to safe drinking water. In developing countries like Ethiopia, 80% of illnesses are related to water and sanitation conditions. Nearly 1 out of every 5 deaths of those under the age of 5 worldwide is due to a water-related disease. Half of the world's hospital beds are filled with people suffering from a water-related illness. Girls and women are responsible for fetching water and this is part of the reason that girls may not be allowed to go to school. The average container for water collection in Africa, the jerry can, weighs over 40 pounds when full. Over half of the developing world's primary schools don't have access to water and sanitation facilities. Without toilets, girls often drop out at puberty. What can a-dollar-a-day do?
2. University-Industry Linkage Determinants, Best Practices and Challenges: Theoretical and Empirical Literature Review (Lessons for Successful and Effective University-Industry Collaboration in Ethiopia), by Abraham Abebe, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. Email: a.abebe10@gmail.com

The academia industry interactions are rapidly moving towards the forefront of science and technology policy making, planning and management. The goal of supporting university-industry linkage is to promote the relevance and contribution of universities to socio-economic development of the society. However, neither universities nor public research institutes have any significant role as sources of information either in terms of suggesting new projects or helping to complete the existing one. Therefore, the purpose of this article review was to systematically review research on university-industry linkages to find out best practices, determinants and challenges for sustainable collaboration. Individual, organizational and institutional factors are identified as determinants for establishing multidisciplinary research centers with industry buy-in, student internship and job placement programs, Entrepreneur-in-Residence programs, and for establishing University-Industry Liaison Office and leadership commitment and support in formulating policies that encourage entrepreneurial activity that are keyed out as best practices for effective university-industry linkage. However, the centralized education system, poor leadership, huge number of students, low numbers of qualified faculty including doctorate degree holders, aging faculty, inadequate research infrastructure including well-furnished laboratories, teaching rather than research-focused mandates, the over emphasized role of the government and relatively young ages of most universities which when coupled with challenges in finance explain why the majority have remained teaching universities rather than research and technology outreach centers. Apart from this, organizing seminars and workshops on industry-related issues, conducting short courses for industry personnel and small-scale local entrepreneurs, providing consultancy services to enterprises, and supporting development-oriented technology transfer for local communities are the most common activities identified in university-industry relations. Furthermore, it was concluded that establishing a technology fund, supporting the establishment and management of science parks and technology incubators for the purposes of technology transfer, encouraging private sector active participation in curriculum development, integrating the private sector, the research community and government agencies, establishing organizations and formulating programs that connect research with business, and serving as an interface between idea creation and business generation are recommended suggestions to develop a collaborative culture, improve the innovation system, and facilitate greater university-industry collaboration.

3. Nigeria and the Rise of Secessionist Movements: Does Restructuring Really Matter? by Abubakar Yahaya, Nigeria. Email: abubakae.y@fud.edu.ng

Nigeria as a federation is grappling to contain the rise of secessionist movements and agitations for political restructuring that are threatening the peaceful co-existence of the country as one indivisible entity. The amalgamation of 1914 created a diverse state in which ethnic and religious sentiments became the hallmark of Nigeria’s body politics. The country has managed these agitations through constitutional means by creating political units (Regions, States and Local Government Areas) and fighting a Civil War (1967-1970) to preserve Nigeria’s unity. It is against this background that this paper seeks to examine the secessionist movements in the country and agitations for political restructuring. The paper adopts content analysis as its methodology and pluralist theory as the guiding theory. The paper argues that the clamor for secession and restructuring is a manifestation of leadership failure, feelings of marginalization and the quest for resource control. The paper concludes that the over centralization of powers has necessitated the calls for political restructuring. The paper recommends the restructuring of Nigeria’s federal system to make state and local governments fiscally viable to the yearnings and aspirations of their people
4. **The Tension between Corruption and Development: A Holistic Ethical Approach to Human Wellbeing, Moral Deviation and Greed**, by Adane Teklay, Mekelle University, Ethiopia. Email: yoniteklay@gmail.com

Corruption is an evil that permeates human wellbeing and development. Accordingly, the devastating impact of corruption on a poor and deprived society is invariably another challenge to our lives. Today, corruption in Ethiopia has become a pitiless problem to society. This paper is therefore intended to explore the nature, motives and adverse impacts of corruption on human wellbeing in general and in Ethiopia in particular. The study is correlational in nature, and thus a qualitative method was employed. The paper also stresses that corruption is a moral problem and cognitive perversity (deterioration) of individual offenders. Thus, the prime cause for corruption is embedded in unethical passions and irrational thinking of offenders. It has also uncovered two competing scenarios regarding corruption, i.e., the values and systemic approaches.

5. **In Vitro Anti-Mycobacterial Activity of Selected Medicinal Plants against Mycobacterium Tuberculosis and Mycobacterium Bovis Strains**, by Adane Worku, Addis Ababa University. Email: adane.worku@aau.edu.et

Tuberculosis (TB) is a global burden with one-third of the world’s population infected with the pathogen *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex, and annually 1.4 million deaths occur due to the disease. This high incidence of infection and the increased rate of multi-drug resistant and extensively-drug resistant strains of the organism further complicates the problem of TB control and has called for an urgent need to develop new anti-TB drugs from plants. In this study, the in vitro activity of the root of *Calpurnia aurea*, seeds of *Ocimum basilicum*, leaves of *Artemisia abyssinica*, *Croton macrostachyus*, and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* were evaluated against *M. tuberculosis* and *M. bovis* strains. Five Ethiopian medicinal plants, a root of *Calpurnia aurea*, seeds of *Ocimum basilicum*, leaves of *Artemisia abyssinica*, *Croton macrostachyus*, and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* were used locally for the management of TB. They were investigated for in vitro anti-mycobacterial activity against *M. tuberculosis* and *M. bovis* strains. 80% methanolic extracts of the plant materials were obtained by maceration. The anti-mycobacterial activity was determined using 96 wells of microplate with the help of visual Resazurin Microtiter Assay. The crude 80% methanolic extracts of the root of *C. aurea*, seeds of *O. basilicum*, and leaves of *A. abyssinica*, *C. macrostachyus*, and *E. camaldulensis* had anti-mycobacterial activity with minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) ranging from 6.25–100μg/mL. The MIC of 80% methanol extract in the order mentioned above ranged from 25–100μg/mL and 12.5–75μg/mL, 25–100μg/mL and 25–50μg/mL, 25–100μg/mL and 12.5–50μg/mL, and 6.25–50μg/mL and 12.5–50μg/mL respectively for *M. tuberculosis* and *M. bovis* strains.

The results support the local use of these plants in the treatment of TB, and it is suggested that these plants may have therapeutic value in the treatment of TB. However, further investigation is needed on isolating chemical constituents responsible for eliciting the observed activity in these plants.

6. **Interferon Gamma Release Assay as an Alternative Tool to monitor Tuberculosis Treatment Response**, by Adane Worku, Berecha Bayissa, Dr. Girmay Medhin, and Gobena Ameni, Prof. at Addis Ababa University (AAU), and Rembert Pieper, Prof. at J. Craig Venter Institute (JCVI). Email: AdaneWorku adane.worku@aau.edu.et

The emergence of Mycobacterium tuberculosis (MtB) drug resistance strains exacerbate the global TB health crisis. Monitoring and evaluating the immune response to anti-mycobacterial therapy can contribute to assessing the effectiveness of a drug therapy. The objective of this research was to use Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) as a tool to assess TB treatment with first-line anti-TB drugs. A longitudinal cohort study design was used to evaluate TB treatment response of 21 patients. Eligibility criteria for recruitment were for participants to be positive for the Acid Fast Bacilli Stain (AFB), culture “and” OR “or” GeneXpert.
MTB/RIF Assay, Body Mass Index (BMI) and IGRA were used to evaluate treatment response. The patients were within the age range of 23-56 years with the mean and median age of 35.5 years and 33 years respectively. All patients were cured after treatment. The mean (sd) of the BMI increased from 19 (0.5) at baseline to 20.9(0.5) at the end of the treatment. The IFN-γ response had a decreasing trend from the baseline (mean = 2.09; sd =1.09) to the end of the treatment (mean = 0.23, sd = 0.20). At the individual patient level, there was significant variability in the baseline IFN-γ and that variability was narrowed over time. The IFN-γ response to TB chemotherapy was not significantly affected by any one of the socio-demographic factors (P>0.05). The measurement of IFN-γ response by IGRA after successful anti-TB therapy revealed a strong decline in the IFN-γ plasma level upon in-vitro MTB antigen stimulation for 21 patients. Hence, IGRA may be a method complementary to (perhaps more accurate than others) clinical data to suggest the elimination of the pathogen. Thus, IGRA may be useful for diagnostic purposes including detection of unsuccessful treatment.

7. **Emerging Issues in Research on Conflict, Terrorism and Development: Keynote Address**
   by Adesoji Adelaja, the John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor in Land Policy in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics (AFRE at Michigan State University (MSU). Email (work): adelaja@msu.edu

   The incidence of conflict has grown in Africa in recent years. This has created a significant gap in knowledge and understanding about how to prevent and manage conflicts and how best to direct post-conflict redevelopment efforts. In this keynote address, Prof. Adelaja (1) explains the growing incidence of conflict; (2) utilizes evidence from the literature to explain the economic, developmental, ethnic, religious, social, political and governance-related causes; (3) explains the agricultural, food security, production, trade, public finance, population and institutional impacts of conflict; (4) reviews the resulting knowledge gaps, especially with respect to conflict-related decision making and policy; (5) reviews the changes in policy circles and the resulting opportunities in funding opportunities; and (6) identifies specific areas where deeper research insights are needed. Prof. Adelaja identified specific research questions in areas such as (1) managing critical sources of conflict, unrest and terrorism as part of a preventative strategy; (2) improving the capacity to mitigate the effect and impacts of conflict; (3) effectively implementing post-crisis rehabilitation, reconstruction and resettlement policies and programs; (4) improving knowledge to increase the capacity to manage critical crisis elements as they occur; and (5) improving early warning systems. Prof. Adelaja further reviewed the climate for research on conflict, terrorism and development in higher education and the opportunities for creating new collaborations for multidisciplinary research. He presented MSU’s response, the Conflict, Terrorism and Development (CTD) Collaboratory as one example of emerging infrastructure to meet the research needs. The presentation ended with ideas about funding sources for new research.

8. **Grievances and Unrest in Africa: A Cross Country Analysis of Unobserved Pissedoffness,**
   by Adesoji Adelaja, the John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor in Land Policy in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics (AFRE at Michigan State University (MSU), and Justin George is a post-doctoral Research Associate at AFRE.Email (work): adelaja@msu.edu

   Not all grievances lead to unrest. Also, various forms of grievances have varying potential to occur. In this paper, we conceptualize a latent variable, which we label “pissedoffness”, as an aggregate measure of unobservable grievances and a precursor to various forms of unrest. Using the MIMIC model, a special class of Structural Equation Models (SEMs), we estimate the relationships between various socioeconomic factors and pissedoffness, and between pissedoffness and several forms of unrest based on 2000-2015 country-level panel data on unrest in Africa. Empirical findings show the contributions of unemployment, infant mortality, urbanization, democracy and government instability in fomenting pissedoffness and its differential impacts on domestic and transnational terrorism, battles, riots and other forms of unrest. This approach also yielded country indices of the latent variable, pissedoffness, which reveal country vulnerabilities to unrest.
9. The Burden of Road Traffic Injuries among Trauma Patients in Ethiopia: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis, by Akililu Endalamaw, Gondar University, Ethiopia. Email: yakililu12@gmail.com

Road traffic injury has been increasing. There is a need for information to develop and implement a public health emergency management strategy. Therefore, this systematic review and meta-analysis was aimed to estimate the national prevalence of road traffic injury among trauma patients in Ethiopia. To gather data, PubMed, WHO Global Health Library, ExcerptaMedica Database, and Wiley online library databases were searched. Additionally, gray literature, like World Wide Science, psycEXTRA, and Google scholar were accessed. The quality of each article was appraised based on Joanna Briggs Institute criteria. The computed I-squared value was 99.6%. This indicated that the included studies were characterized by high heterogeneity. P-value of Egger’s regression test was 0.243, which implies the absence of potential publication bias. Research published from 2000 to 2017 were included. A total of 17 hospital-based studies with 61,716 trauma patients and 10,505 road traffic injury cases were included in the study. The overall pooled prevalence of road traffic injuries among trauma patients in Ethiopia was found to be 31.5% (95% CI: 25.4%, 37.7%). In the subgroup analysis, the highest (33.3%, 95% CI: 22.9, 43.7%) prevalence accounted for Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. The conclusion and recommendations are that the pooled prevalence of road traffic injuries among trauma patients in Ethiopia was significantly high. Strengthening road safety management, safer roads and mobility, promoting the use of safer vehicles and safer road users, and establishing immediate post-crash response throughout the country need more emphasis.

10. Defining Health in the 21st Century, by Alemu Fite, PhD MPH, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. Email: alemufite@gmail.com

Immobility, unhealthy dietary practices, and harmful behaviors are important contributors to the health problems of the general public. We are faced with national and international killers of chronic health problems. These include heart disease, cancer, lung disease, stroke, Alzheimer’s, diabetes, kidney disease, lung infections, accidents, and suicide. In order to effectively address modern day individual, family and community health, a paradigm shift is needed in terms of health care approaches. Integrative medicine in school curricula, wholeness and ministry oriented health care in the community, and individualized health services are revolutionary approaches. Without addressing the whole person which includes body, mind, spirit and relationships, health service cannot be complete. This presentation will address a diverse scientific audience regarding a broader and diverse approach to health suitable for the 21st century. The new public health approach needs a new definition in context that is preventive in nature and participatory in practice. Forming and developing healthy lifestyles through step-by-step changes in dietary habit, increased physical activity, and behavioral and spiritual changes are important components of holistic health approaches. It encourages specifically designed community participation in which parents become the role models for the healthy lifestyle of children. Parents should be aware of setting boundaries, values and attitudes for children in tackling unhealthy eating habits, sedentary activities, and harmful behaviors. Raising awareness towards an integrative approach to the wholeness of health among seniors, adults, and parents is as important. Developing lasting behaviors and good habits should lay a foundation in homes in order to cope with the reality in schools, work places and religious institutions. Implementation of a wholeness and ministry approach to lifestyle changes and social networking can be enhanced through activities such as forming good daily habits, forming new friends, having one-to-one conversations, and attending seminar series. In terms of nutrition and exercise, there are several resources of recommended models people could choose from e.g. USDA, CDC, Harvard University and the Daniel Plan. In regard to exercise, simple regular movements within existing recommendations help tremendously. Behavioral changes to foster healthy life approaches can be enhanced through spiritual development such as regular fellowship, and inspirational and spiritual devotion with bible study, meditation and prayer as important elements.
Ministry and voluntary support of others should be another important element of a holistic health approach. In conclusion, the integrative approach to health through addressing the whole person should be the best health care model for an individual, family and community in the present day and age.

11. Remittances, Remittance Concentration, and Volatility: Is Africa Different from the Middle East? by Amr Hosny, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Washington, DC. Email: ahosny@imf.org.

This paper contributes to the empirical literature on the macroeconomic consequences of remittances. It uses data over the 1970-2015 period from 56 African and Middle Eastern countries to study the impact of (i) large remittance inflows and (ii) high concentration of the origin of remittance on the volatilities of real GDP growth, exports-to-GDP ratio, nominal exports growth and nominal exchange rate depreciation. It was found that (1) large remittances can reduce all types of volatility, especially in African countries, and (2) high remittance concentration, by itself, has been associated with higher volatilities in African but not Middle Eastern countries, and that both have high remittances, but also that high concentration aggravates all types of volatility in both regions, although results for the Middle East are not always conclusive.

12. Effect of Currency Devaluation and Oil Price Fluctuation in Nigeria: A Dynamic General Equilibrium Analysis, by Anestina Agboje. Email: anestina4bubble@gmail.com

In recent times, Nigeria has experienced varying exchange rates allowing significant depreciation of the Naira amidst oil price fluctuation in the world market. Naira devaluation and rising oil prices have induced economic shock exposing industrialists and consumers to risk. However, the extent of the nexus between Naira devaluation and oil price fluctuation for an oil-based economy on the performance of the production and household segments were investigated using a recursive dynamic computable general equilibrium framework. Results from simulation revealed that the most import depending sectors experienced negative change in import demand, while exporting sectors had an increased export demand in the early years and significantly less in the later years. Correspondingly, domestic output declined remarkably as producer and commodity prices fluctuated more positively than output changes over time. On the other hand, as the population grew by 2.67% in declining domestic output in the long run, the marginal return on labor and capital fell giving rise to a decline in income for all households excluding the years 2009 and 2017 where income increased. The welfare of households decreased as income changed in the ninth year following the shock. The number of poor households in the pool grew considerably from 78.2% in 2009 to 86.2% in the long run in 2017. In the long run, the urban north households were negatively affected and had the largest increase of the poor by 15.9% than every other household category. The extent of poverty was largest among the rural south (46.4%) and rural north (59.2%) households than other categories. Consequently, there is no significant difference in inequality between the pre- and post-policy changes across representative household groups. Hence, the society has to give-up as large as ₦36,000 to avert inequality among urban north households and ₦4,200 among the rural north households. It is therefore recommended that a floating exchange rate policy be relatively more stable and should consider the OPEC price of crude oil to reduce welfare loss of the households and accommodate sector performance.

13. Marvel's Black Panther Movie as an Existential Symbol of Cultural and Historical Identity amongst Africans at Home and Abroad: A Critical Evaluation, by Anthony Adeleye Olajide, Nigeria. Email: anthonyolajide@yahoo.com

There is no doubt that Marvel's Black Panther movie released in February 2018 has garnered much attention and international recognition especially by people of African descent all over the world. That a movie could inspire so much internet and social media activity makes one wonder what exactly such a movie presentation is made of.
For instance, on Instagram alone, everyday one wakes up to see several posts inspired by the Black Panther movie, especially among Africans within and outside the continent. It is therefore because of such media and internet attention that one realizes that this is not just a movie for the sake of entertainment, but there must be some cultural and or historical significance with regards to the identity of people of African descent. That said, this paper seeks to critically relate the contents and contexts of the movie to real life cultural identity of African people, and by saying "African people," I refer to those within the continent and abroad, or those who identify with Africa racially. That is, inquiry to discover or put forward the ways that the film serves as a metaphor or mirrors the existential framework of African people. Furthermore, the cultural significance of the movie is so large that several the characters are notably modeled after real-life African people. Take for instance the Dora Milaje inspired by the Dahomey Amazons of West Africa. The thesis of this paper therefore puts forward that Marvel’s Black Panther movie, before and upon its release, fueled the quest for the understanding of African history, identity and consciousness as a people. The method employed in this paper draws heavily from the movie and symbolism therein, as well as contextual and conceptual analyses.

14. The Deficits of Ethnic Federalism in Ethiopia: Searching for a Road to Democratic Federalism, by Ayalew Bezabih, Wollo University. Email: ayalewzeleke1977@gmail.com

The toppling of the Derg, which ruled the country for seventeen years, by the EPRDF-led government in 1991, marked another turning point in Ethiopia’s socio-economic and political history. A great majority of the literature on Ethiopia’s federal system reveals that federalism in its ethnic model has emerged as one of the hottest topics causing heated debate among scholars in the field and various political forces. This article attempts to critically examine the deficits of the Ethiopian federal system through a careful and thorough review of the existing literature on the subject. Relevant information for the study was drawn from different books, journal articles, theses, dissertations, governmental reports and legal documents. The paper indicates that Ethiopia’s ethnic federal model deviates from the basic and common principles of federalism in many respects such as in its philosophy of legitimacy, division of authority, balance of unity and diversity, democracy, and institutional framework. The paper argues that there is an urgent need for developing a roadmap which addresses these shortcomings in the system and paves the way for the institutionalization and maturity of a genuine democratic federalism in Ethiopia.

15. The Effect of Women’s Employment on Marital Instability: The Case of Rural Women in Central Oromia, Ethiopia, by Aynalem Megersa Gemechu, PhD, Addis Ababa University. Email: Megersaa@yahoo.com

Due to increasing women’s job opportunities as a result of increasing access to education and the expansion of export industries in the country, Ethiopian rural women have had wider chances of engaging in income earning activities. This paper examines the effects of women’s employment on marital instability using retrospective longitudinal data collected from 765 women residing in rural villages of a specific district located in central Oromia, Ethiopia who have an employment history. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, Kaplan Meir’s Plot and discreet event history modelling. Qualitative data were also collected to countercheck the statistical findings and explain outcomes multi-dimensionally. The results show that wage employment significantly affected socio-cultural settings in the community by increasing marital instability because it allowed wives to escape unhappy marriages while self-employment did not have significant effects.
16. Fragility, Persistent Violent Agitations and Underdevelopment: Reflections on the Nexus and the Experience in Nigeria, by Bartholomew Ikechukwu Ugwuanyi, Nigeria. Email: Ugwuanyiib@gmail.com

Persistent violent agitation is one of the key features of fragile states. Indeed, states that have been classified as fragile, like Afghanistan, Mali, South Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Haiti, Somalia, Pakistan and others, where all experience varying forms and degrees of persistent violent agitations. Nigeria also, which is the focus of this paper, has been inundated with varying forms and degrees of violent agitations. The most persistent among them are the Boko Haram insurgency that started in 2002 and the Niger Delta Militancy that started in 1998. Boko Haram is an Islamic religious sect that seeks to forcefully establish a pure Islamic state ruled by Sharia and to put an end to western education or civilization in Nigeria. The Niger Delta Militancy is an organized violent activity by militant groups in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria that is popularly seen as an expression of dissatisfaction with the state of development in their area and the desire to control the natural resources, particularly oil, in the past seventeen years. There have been various efforts by the government for nearly two decades to control the violent activities of the Boko Haram sect and the Niger Delta militant groups. The groups, however, have proved to be very resilient as they continue to carry out major violent activities within their respective areas and even beyond. In the context of the concern over the persistence of these violent agitations and their impact on development, this paper is developed to critically reflect on the relationship among Nigerian state fragility, the persistent violent agitations and the nation’s state of underdevelopment. In doing this, data or information were largely gathered from secondary sources of information and consequently analysis was based on content analysis technique. The major conclusion of the paper is that the persistent violent agitations in Nigeria are manifestations or symptoms of the Nigerian state fragility and that the former are in turn aggravating the later in its various dimensions. Consequently, it is suggested that an effective and sustainable control of the persistent Boko Haram insurgency and Niger Delta militancy require integrated efforts towards exiting from the fragility syndrome that nourishes violent agitations.

17. Dynamic (AR) Spatiotemporal Models for Wind Speed Forecast in Ethiopia, by Bedanie Gemechu Bulty, PhD Candidate in Statistics, Addis Ababa University. Email: bgbulty@gmail.com

Data from spatiotemporal processes are common in the real world, and represent a variety of interactions across processes and scales of variability. The wind speed pattern assumes a big variability in space and time. This directly affects the wind power generation forecast and its uncertainties in the wind farm projects in Ethiopia. A dynamic (AR) spatiotemporal model was chosen to be more suitable to model spatial fields evolving in time under a Gaussian process. It facilitates the modeling of spatial and temporal dependence structures that account for the spatiotemporal autocorrelation effects in wind speed distribution. Particularly, spatial dependencies were captured based on the weighted separation distances between existing meteorological stations which constitute the weighting matrix. Prior to fitting the specified model, descriptive analysis using plots of wind data with respect to geo-location parameters was performed in order to investigate the spatial aspects and temporal trends of the wind speed under stationary and isotropic assumptions. The weighting matrix was employed in the covariance function to improve precisions of the model and to modify the tests of spatiotemporal autocorrelations (STAC) such as Moran’s I and Gray’s C statistics. It was further incorporated into the model to improve the prediction power of the model to carry out forecasts in time and interpolation in space.
18. Determinants of Adopting Improved Bread Wheat Varieties in Southeastern Highland of Ethiopia: A Double-Hurdle Approach, by Bedilu Demissie Arsi University, Adem Kedir, Arsi University, Hussien H.Komicha, University of WINNEPEG, & Sisay Asefa, Western Michigan University. E-mail: billybedilu@gmail.com/bedilu.zeleke@yahoo.com

The improvement of agricultural productivity using technology is an important avenue for increasing output and reducing poverty in sub-Saharan countries. However, low adoption of high yield varieties has been identified as one of the main reasons for low productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa. Consequently, this study examined the effects of demographic, socioeconomic and institutional factors affecting adoption and adoption-intensity of IWVs using data obtained from a randomly selected 140 farmers in the southeastern highlands of Ethiopia in 2014/15. We estimated a double-hurdle model to analyze the determinants of intensity of IWVs adoption, as adoption and use intensity were two independent decisions influenced by different factors. The results also show that this model is more appropriate than the Tobit model. Empirical estimates of the first hurdle reveals that wheat farming experience, distance to cooperatives, rental of a tractor and combine harvester, Urea application, and the net income from wheat grain sale all significantly increased the likelihood of IWVs adoption. Households with a female head were also found to have a higher probability to adopt than male-headed. Estimates of the second hurdle revealed that the decision to use optimal intensity of IWVs by smallholder farmers was significantly and positively influenced by seed availability, row planting, and distance to a cooperative. The intensity of adoption was also found to be negatively related to the proportion of farmland allotted for wheat production. Accordingly, policies and interventions that are informed about such factors are required to accelerate adoption and adoption-intensity of IWVs in Ethiopia in order to realize a Wheat Green Revolution and fight food insecurity in a sustainable manner.

19. The Ontological Moral Ground of Africans Quest for Climate Justice, by Brooh Asmare, Mekelle University, Ethiopia. Email: brooha3212@gmail.com

The problem with climate change is the most challenging phenomenon Africans currently face because they are not responsible for its cause. The African politicians and the African philosophers are, however, looking at the problem from quite different temporal perspectives. While the African politicians bother with the mitigation and adaptation of the problem in the future, the African philosophers focus on how humanity, first of all, has fallen into this ontological problem, and what has been the role of the Africans in this ontological decadence. The ground of the politicians’ claim, however, is founded on historical and empirical facts of Africa’s contribution to the environment, i.e. Green House Gases (GHG) inventories. Starting from the 15th Conference of Parties (COP - 15) held in December 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark, Africans for the first time united and reflected on their quest for climate justice with one voice and sent a single negotiating team mandated to negotiate on behalf of all member states of the African Union. It was learned that the claim based on GHG inventories is politically relevant, however, philosophically, it is weak and shallow for it lacks an African ontological foundation. It is argued in this paper that Africans have another strong ontological moral ground for their quest for climate justice. This strong moral ground is the African existents ontological relationship with nature based on intuition, not on instrumental reasons. This ontological moral ground is important for bringing all stakeholders of the climate to ontological polilogue that arrives at universally valid ethics for the environment.
20. Ethiopia’s Quest for a Sea Outlet: Developing a Strategy to use Ports of Eritrea and Somaliland, by Brook Hailu Beshah, PhD, Ohio University. Email: beshah@ohio.edu

Ethiopia is one of the oldest nations of the world. This ancient country is characterized by its unique geo-strategic location sandwiched between Africa and the Middle East, and for its traditions, culture, history and home to all three major religions of the world, namely Christianity, Judaism and Islam. The anchor of the Horn is Ethiopia. Given its population and promising current economic growth and developments, Ethiopia needs its own port or ports. An outlet to the sea is still a burning issue of discussion for Ethiopians at home and abroad even to the point of view of connecting it to the very existence of the Ethiopian polity. Hence, the central theme of this talk will investigate Ethiopia’s quest for an outlet to the sea and use of ports accompanied by a suggestion of short and long-term strategies by considering the geo-politics of the Horn Region. The presentation will have the following parts.

Part I. Background on the Outlets of the Ethiopian state:
- Commerce and trade in the area; ports of Ethiopia in pre-colonial Horn Region;
- The transition of the coastal province of Bahere Negash to becoming an Italian colony: Eritrea;
- Colonialism and state formation in present day Somaliland.

Part II. Survey of Ethio-Eritrean and Ethio-Somaliland Relations: 1991-2018
- Survey of Ethio-Eritrean Relations 1991 to 2018;
- Survey of Ethio-Somaliland Relations 1991 to 2018;

Part III. Ethiopia: Quest for a sea outlet and the challenge of using ports; options and scenarios will be the main part of the presentation.
- Scenario 1: Long-Term Strategy to Developing own port: Tio and Zeila and the rationale behind this strategy.

Part IV. Conclusion
The presentation will wrap up with a current socio-political assessment of Ethiopia, especially the new government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and relations with the Eritrean and the Somaliland governments.

21. Benefits and Possibilities of Provincial Federation in Ethiopia: A Panel Discussion,
Moderated by Daniel Teferra, Emeritus Professor, Ferris State University, Michigan. Email: daniel_teferra@hotmail.com

There is a general feeling that the system of ethnic federation that was introduced twenty-seven years ago in Ethiopia has not produced the expected outcome. Therefore, the purpose of this panel discussion is to suggest a system of provincial federation as a viable alternative to the ethnic federalism in Ethiopia. The discussants will first highlight the problems created by ethnic federalism, and then examine the benefits and possibilities of introducing a system of provincial federation in Ethiopia. Discussants: Professors Assefa Mehretu, Daniel Kendie, Sisay Asefa

22. Proposal on Design, Modification, Manufacturing and Utilization of Fuel Efficient Stoves (Mirte Magedo Kotabi Ye Injera Medja), by Dawit Wami, Adama Science and Technology, Adama, Ethiopia. Email: dwami@yahoo.com

Biomass fuels account for more than one-half of all energy used in many developing countries and as much as 95% of all energy used in some of the poorest nations. In Ethiopia, it accounts for more than 90% of total energy consumption. The dominant utilization of traditional fuels – biomass – coupled with the use of technologies of low efficiency are contributing to environmental degradation and prevalence of health problems due to indoor air pollution. This is one of the most important and systematic approaches to enhance the current design of fuel efficient stoves.
The design starts with a detailed introduction about the machine and utilization of the stove’s data gathered from the literature review and information gathered from the specialists who know the applications of these interlocking machines. Product specifications were developed and refined to the specific points. The weaknesses of the current design are being analyzed by looking at the movement of waste done by the machine operator, and the machine limitations or statement of the problem are identified. The interlocking brick-making machine is different from other normal bricks as they require no mortar or cement for masonry work. The basic raw materials are cement, sand and a little water. The positive and negative frogs on the top and bottom of the blocks disallow the horizontal movement of bricks. The stoves use fuels efficiently. This is one of the factors that can increase productivity. Selection of the best design was chosen from the several design concepts proposed. Finally, the drawing and detail designs were produced according to the standards and are ready to be built by the machine.

23. Convergence of Sustainable Land Management (SLM), Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and Agricultural Growth Program (AGP) towards Enhancing Food Security in Ethiopia: Case Studies in Amhara Region, by Degefa Tolossa, PhD, College of Development Studies, Addis Ababa University. Email: degefatd@gmail.com

Ethiopia has put in place a series of agricultural and food security policies and strategies with the goals to accelerate economic growth, alleviate rural poverty and improve the livelihood and food security of rural people. Despite progress in poverty alleviation, food insecurity and malnutrition continue to threaten the livelihood of millions of citizens. About 29% of Ethiopia’s population is food insecure and consume below the minimum requirement of 2100 Kcal. The nation is characterized by a high rate of malnutrition since 40% of under-five year old children are stunted, 9% are wasted and 25% are underweight. On average, about 4.72 million people have been suffering from a food shortage crisis per annum over the last five decades. Ethiopia’s situation in terms of hunger and malnutrition is still categorized as “serious” with a Global Hunger Index of 33.4. In recent years, the Ethiopian government with the support of its donors has designed new flagship rural development programs. Since 2005, the Government of Ethiopia in collaboration with development partners and various donors has designed PSNP as a main food security program for addressing chronic food insecurity in the country. The government seeks to shift the financing of the program from food aid to cash. PSNP emphasizes three core and interrelated dimensions of food security, namely, food availability, access to food and utilization. The objectives of PSNP are to provide transfers to the food insecure population in 253 chronically food insecure woredas in a way that prevents asset depletion at the household level and creates assets at the community level. Within the umbrella of the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), the Agricultural Growth Program (AGP) was initiated with the support of major donors and development partners in four regions of Ethiopia, i.e., Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR and Tigray. AGP aims to boost agricultural growth and productivity in high potential areas in a sustainable manner. Scaling up the best agricultural practices is one of the three pillars of AGP. Integrated soil fertility management, watershed management, environmental sustainability, land use strategies and cropping practices are among the AGP interventions related to SLM. AGP Phase I was implemented between 2010 and 2014, and Phase II was launched in 2015. In Ethiopia, formal watershed development in a planned manner to implement natural resource conservation so as to overcome land degradation was started in the 1980s. The SLM Program that was started as a project in 2009 emphasized the scaling up of successful practices, approaches and technologies to prevent or control land degradation by pursuing integrated and cross-sectoral approaches to sustainable land management. The main objective of the SLM program was to assist smallholder farmers to adopt sustainable land management practices on a wider scale in order to: (1) reverse land degradation in agricultural landscapes; (2) increase agricultural productivity and income growth; and (3) protect ecosystem integrity and functions. The above-mentioned three programs fall under the MoANR, and thus their outcomes contribute towards attaining the Ministry’s vision and objectives. They appear to be complementary to each other when it comes to addressing food security. Eventually, each program has its own objective that directly or indirectly contributes to improve food security.
The SLM aims at reversing land degradation, PSNP is a flagship food security program, and AGP focuses on improving agricultural productivity. My core argument in the paper is that the three programs converge in improving the livelihood, income and food security level of farm households. This is because PSNP is the core food security program of a nation that is reversing land degradation and improving productivity. Thereby raising the income of farmers is the core aim of SLM, and AGP aims at increasing agricultural productivity towards contributing to increasing income and improving food security of farm households. Hence, on the basis of field data generated from some woredas of the Amhara region, the main objective of this paper is to explore the convergence of the three programs in regard to improving the livelihoods and food security at both community and household levels. The paper also looks at various political economy factors that affect the implementation and successes of each program.

24. **Conflict, Food and Water Security in Ethiopia**, by Desalegn Dagnew, Edmonton, Canada. Email: desalegn2000@yahoo.com

Ethiopia and its people are kind and hospitable to all humanity irrespective of race, tribe, ethnicity, religion or creed. It has been, and still is, a refuge to hundreds of thousands of people who seek shelter and safety. The world knows Ethiopians as people who love their country and who do not hesitate to defend it by giving their dear lives, as was the case during the fascist Italian invasions of 1895 and 1936 where thousands of Ethiopians died fighting to preserve Ethiopia’s identity as the only country in Africa that has never been ruled by a European colonial power.

However, Ethiopia also waged a protracted civil war from 1974 to 1991 which cost it billions of dollars and millions of lives. Making matters worse, during this civil war, Ethiopia also experienced drought and famine. The famine that struck Ethiopia was broadcast to American and European citizens and, as a result, most people from these countries identified and continued to identify Ethiopia as the county that struggles with poverty. However, Ethiopia is a diverse country blessed with many regions with evergreen vegetation beside the regions that lack precipitation. Therefore, regions that lack enough rain water can participate in other forms of livelihood other than farming, such as trading and moving items to places that are not available in other regions. As well, due to the fact that Ethiopia is blessed with the Nile River and the almost completed Renaissance Dam, it has the potential to alleviate the country’s lack of energy needs and to provide resources to regions that are not blessed with precipitation and fertile soil by exporting electricity to neighboring countries and distributing the resources equitably throughout the region.

In this way, the country maintains its uniqueness and makes sure that its people live in harmony without conflict by celebrating their oneness in their diversity in the way they portrayed in times of need. Therefore, the ethnic identity politics the current government of Ethiopia has implemented for the sake of ruling its people should be done away with as it may lead to division and conflict.

25. **Towards Redefining and Making Relevant the Concept of Entrepreneurship to Smallholder Agriculture: Evidence from KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa) and Implications**, by Edilegnaw Zegeye, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. Email: walee@ukzn.ac.za

Much of the rural development discussions in South Africa have placed smallholder agriculture at the center of the problem and the solution. The smallholder agricultural development discourse in sub-Saharan Africa has placed entrepreneurship as the key driver of performance and growth in the sector. There is even a term coined as agri-preneurship. However, the applicability and validity of the mainstream concept of entrepreneurship to smallholder agriculture have often been taken for granted and have never been examined in the literature. The smallholder agriculture development strategy in South Africa, and indeed sub-Saharan Africa, will not achieve much if understanding is limited to how they make decisions, and how that affects the operational definition of entrepreneurship. To what extent is the mainstream definition of entrepreneurship contextually relevant to smallholder realities in South Africa and beyond?
Does it remain relevant and applicable when it is examined in the light of the essential features of smallholder farming, such as heterogeneity, risk aversion, satisfactory behavior, the importance of family labor and indigenous knowledge? If not, how should the concept be redefined and what needs to be done with respect to policies and strategies to make the concept contextually relevant and inform entrepreneurial development policy decisions in the sector? Such an analysis is critical because it initiates discussions around what should change to improve the contribution of the sector and unlock on-farm entrepreneurship. The paper paves the way towards identifying the key conceptual and practical challenges stakeholders need to focus on to these ends. It also sets the scene for collective engagement and opens a critical debate. Finally, it comes up with a new definition for on-farm entrepreneurship using the concept of psychological capital and drawing from behavioral economics, as well as identifying the key lessons for consideration when applying the concept to smallholder agriculture.

26. The Pitfall of Water Resource Development and Management in the Abbay Basin of Ethiopia, by Embiale Admassu, Bahir Dar University. Email: embialebeyene@yahoo.com

The objective of this research was to analyze the challenges and opportunities of water resource development and management in the Abbay Basin. Qualitative research methods, mainly unstructured interviews, were used to gather primary data from purposively selected informants. With the objective of getting detailed information, a total of 16 key informants were interviewed. In addition, field observation at Koga irrigation scheme, Kesela district, Tana Belese hydropower project and the great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam project was done to understand the pattern of utilization in the basin. Furthermore, document analysis was conducted from secondary sources. Theories of Neo-Malthusian, Deep Ecology, and Shallow Ecology have also been used to analyze the nexus among various issues in water resource management in the Abbay Basin. The results showed first and second order scarcity of water resources, the trans-boundary nature of the river, lack of adequate and relevant information, economic challenges, legal challenges, domination of a sectoral and project-based approach, and lack of capacity as major factors that have been posing significant challenges to water resource management and development in the Abbay Basin. Moreover, there is inefficient use of the limited water resources of the basin due to second order water scarcity. The present study has shown that the various development potentials, mainly hydropower and irrigation, are less developed and poorly managed in the basin. The main conclusion of this study is that, thus far, there is no comprehensive water resource management or water resource management problems, and poverty will likely expand across the basin. Thus, market environmentalism, shallow and deep ecology theoretical priorities, are required to minimize the problems, while the actual practice is dominated by non-integrative ones. Hence, an integrative and conjunctive approach that considers the various stakeholders’ interests and needs must be taken as a base for sustainable development in the Abbay Basin. In addition, giving attention to both the supply and demand sides of management of water resources and the development of the national level capacity of managing water are very important.

27. Energy as a Source of Integration: A Case Study on the Role of Ethiopia’s Hydro Dams in Improving the Horn of Africa Regional Relations, by Endalachew A. Bayeh, Ambo University. Email: Endalckachew@gmail.com

The purpose of this study is to examine the role of Ethiopia’s hydro dam construction for improving the Horn of Africa regional relations. To achieve this purpose, the researcher employed qualitative methodology with secondary sources as instruments of data collection. The Horn of Africa region is one of the most volatile regions of Africa. The fragile nature of the region has been associated with different factors. Lack of economic cooperation is one significant factor, among others. This study argues that the regional relations and cooperation can be hastened by Ethiopia’s hydro dam construction and the subsequent electricity export. The study analyzed the role of those hydro dam constructions in promoting regional relations through the lenses of the two grand theories of international relations.
Accordingly, the findings of the study show a new level of regional economic cooperation based on mutual benefits following the construction of dams. And thus, the study calls for neighboring country cooperation for better economic, as well as social and political, cooperation.

28. **Social Work and Transportation Planning - Opportunities for Professional Collaboration to Advance the SDGs**, by Frances Sumner Jones, Steven Jones and Olive Musoni, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, USA. Email: Frances Sumner Jones fsjones1@crimson.ua.edu

There is an extensive body of knowledge in the transportation planning literature that is cognizant of challenges specific to sub-Saharan Africa such as access to remote areas, lack of affordable transport services, crippling urban congestion, and adverse health effects associated with transport (crashes, pollution exposure, etc.) In September 2015, the global development community united in a collective effort to put forth 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to build on the progress and momentum of the original 10 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set out at the beginning of the 21st century. Since then the transportation community has been working to identify the role of transportation in achieving the SDGs. Much of SDGs focus on social development needs and challenges, such as quality education, child health and welfare, gender equality, maternal health, poverty alleviation, food security, access to safe drinking water, safety of human settlement, and so on. All of these issues are core to the mission of the social work profession as set out in the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) Ethics in social work statement of principles and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics. We present the results of a cross-cutting literature review that examine recent academic and policy-oriented literature from both the social work and transportation fields. Common themes are identified as they relate to the SDGs. We propose new, cross-cutting research themes that bring together transportation planning/policy and social work academics and professionals in the effort to realize the promise of the SDGs.

29. **Hydro-Hegemony and the Changing Power Relation in the Eastern Nile Basin**, by Gashaw Ayferam, Wollo University. Email: mugashawbzu@gmail.com

This paper examines incessant hydro-hegemonic power configuration and the changing power relation in the Eastern Nile Basin. The hydro-politics of the Nile has been at the center of academic debates since antiquity, and several scholars, in this regard, have studied the multifarious aspects of the hydro-politics of the Nile River with different opportune contentious issues. However, little attention has been given to the study of hydro-hegemony and counter hydro-hegemony in the aforesaid river basin which is nascent. The overall objective of this paper is, therefore, to examine the hydro-hegemonic strategies and tactics used by Egypt in its long journey of establishing, maintaining and consolidating the current hydro-political status quo, and the reaction of non-hegemonic riparian with the intent of transforming the established order and thereby creating a new playing field. Accordingly, the paper argues that Egypt has used a smart power, a combination of hard and soft power, in establishing, maintaining and consolidating its most preferable state of affairs, and, in the meantime, there was no pragmatic change but only signs of changes which can be explained by changing the domestic, regional and international environments. Methodologically, the study employed qualitative research. In view of that, the study used both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary source of data was collected through key informant interviews while the secondary data was collected from books, published journal articles, published and unpublished theses and dissertations, governmental and non-governmental organization reports and remarks, speeches, magazines, and other internet sources. The given data gathered are qualitative, thus, the study employed qualitative data analysis techniques of which historical narrative, document and critical discourse analysis have been used. The findings of the study show that in the beginning there was a ‘hegemonic mythological view’ planted in the minds of ancient Egyptians which later grew as ‘sacred reality,’ and finally institutionalized by inefficacious legal agreements.
Although the Egyptian hydro-hegemonic position was institutionalized in the first and second half of the twentieth century, it is not a new phenomenon but rather, it is as old as the Egyptian pharaoh period, and thus, the 1959 agreement must be understood as a continuation and revitalization of the Egyptian hegemonic mythological view of the Nile. However, in the post 1990’s period, Egypt’s incessant hydro-hegemony is being challenged and contested by non-hegemonic riparians largely because of the changing domestic, regional and international environments. In this regard, it can be concluded that there is no change but signs of change foreshadowing a new order. This anticipated new order, however, is now injected by the hegemonic power using a hegemonic compliance producing mechanism of securitization, and thus, it is in between life and death. Thus, there is a need on the part of non-hegemonic riparians to use smart power, a combination of hard and soft power, to successfully transform the established order. First, there is a need for a ‘decolonizing hegemonic mind’ to show that ‘Egypt is not the scared husband of the Nile, but rather the Nile has made a geographical and legal marriage with 11 countries.’ Second, there is a need for a ‘historic non-hegemonic block’ to bring a consistent unified upstream position that can bring a pragmatic change. Failing to do so would mean blessing the current hegemonic status quo and calling for the extinction of the commonly shared resource, the Nile waters.

30. China in Africa: A Partner or Patron Ethiopia in Focus, by Gashaw Ayfram, Wollo University. 
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This study examines Africa-China relations by taking Sino-Ethiopia as a case study in light of patron-client relationships. Methodologically, the study employs a qualitative research approach and case study research design. Accordingly, the study has used secondary sources of data collected from books and published journal articles. Given that the data gathered are qualitative, the study employs qualitative data analysis techniques, specifically document analysis. The finding of the study shows that presently, China is regarded as a development partner of Ethiopia and other African countries; however, there is a sign of a patron-client relationship between the African ruling elites and China. Thus, the Chinese role in Ethiopia and other African countries should not be treated only in terms of the rhetoric ‘altruistic’ principles invoked by African ruling elite and the Chinese. In this regard, the growing presence of China in Ethiopia should be viewed in light of the Ethiopian people’s interests, aspirations and development rather than in terms of party-to-party relations and aid that comes from China. It would be naïve to negate the positive role of China in Ethiopia in terms of its involvement in various sectors, building of infrastructures and various projects, and growing trade relations, investment and aid, but we should examine whether Chinese presence in Ethiopia, as elsewhere in Africa, is a means to certain ends or an end in itself. This will depend on the reality and our own interpretation if the reality is that China’s growing presence in Africa further exacerbates intra-inequality, and if Chinese aid is being used to further consolidate life presidency and the power of the ruling elite. Then, it is possible to situate China-African relations as a patron-client. Though it seems too difficult to deny the rhetoric of strategic partnership, mutual benefit, win-win cooperation, China-Africa relations are a kind of asymmetrical relationship. Thus, in the contemporary Ethio-China relations in particular and the China-Africa relations in general, there is a need on the part of Africans to reconsider their relations with China. The undeniable fact is that there is an indirect manifestation of patronage and ‘clientelism’ in contemporary Africa-China relations. Thus, African countries should have a countering strategy of patronage and clientelism. Failing to do so will mean blessing clientelism.

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Malaria is a devastating parasitic disease with about 214 million cases and 438,000 deaths worldwide in 2015 with about 88% of the cases and 90% of the deaths being in Africa. This might be attributed to a wide spread of resistance of the parasites to the standard antimalarial drugs.
The plant Aloe megalacantha Baker is indigenous to Ethiopia where the sap of the leaves is traditionally used as a medicine for various illnesses including malaria. This study aimed at evaluating the anti-malarial effects of the leaf latex of Aloe megalacantha against Plasmodium berghei, as tested using Peters’ 4-day suppressive test. After treatment of Plasmodium Berghei infected mice with leaf latex of Aloe megalacantha for four days at 100, 200 and 400 mg/kg, it showed 30.3%, 43.4% and 56.4% chemo-suppression, respectively. The observed parasite suppression of leaf latex was statistically significant (P<0.05) as compared to negative control. The latex was also observed to reduce body weight loss and hypothermia due to infection with Plasmodium berghei. Moreover, neither the latex nor the compounds were seen to cause any sign of acute oral toxicity at a dose of 2000 mg/kg, which describes that the latex is safe at the specified dose. Hence, the present study supports the traditional use of the plant against malaria.

32. Promoting Good Governance for Sustainable Cities in Africa: The NEPAD Cities Programme, by Geoffrey I. Nwaka, Abia State University, Nigeria. Email: geoffreynwaka@yahoo.com

Poverty and rapid urbanization are two of the greatest challenges facing Africa today, and cities provide an appropriate platform for advancing the mandate of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, NEPAD, to alleviate poverty, promote good governance, and achieve the MDGs and the Post-2015 development agenda in Africa. This paper highlights the major challenges facing African cities and the NEPAD Cities Program that seeks to develop these cities as engines of economic growth and nodes of regional integration. It argues that in spite of continuing misgivings about NEPAD, the initiative provides a potentially useful framework for dialogue between African leaders and their external collaborating partners. The NEPAD Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) can be used to guide member countries in the reciprocal evaluation that is meant to help them fulfill their commitment to peace, democracy and good governance, and to learn from each other’s best practices in various areas of democratic governance, public sector management, anti-corruption measures, and sustainable development. Partnership is central to the APRM idea: partnership between African governments and their people; partnership between and among African governments themselves; and partnership between African governments and the foreign development partners. To realize its full potential, NEPAD needs to draw insights from several recent global initiatives, including the Habitat Agenda, ILO’s Decent Work Agenda, UN-Habitat’s twin Campaigns for Good Urban Governance, Secure Tenure, and other that suggest how state and local authorities, the private sector and civil society organizations, the international development community, and the urban poor themselves should collaborate to promote the growth of safe, productive, inclusive and socially equitable cities.

33. Election Security as a Threat to National Security among African States: A Case of Kenya, by Israel NyaburiNyadera. Email: inyadera@gmail.com

The continent of Africa has, over the last century, faced a number of security threats both internally and externally from the threats posed by slave trade raids to invasions from external actors who later colonized the region to more contemporary threats from disease, piracy, civil wars, terrorism and drought. However, a new emerging threat is gaining momentum in the region - election security. Since the introduction of multiparty political systems in several countries over the years, violence has become synonymous with elections. Violent cases reported before, during and after elections have increased in number despite efforts to democratize. The impact of these violent events and the extent that the threats pose to the country’s security are becoming more and more alarming. The increase of more deaths, displacement of persons, violation of human rights, and socio-economic and political instabilities have occurred as a result of election violence. In this paper, we have chosen Kenya as a case study to examine the ever-growing security risks posed by election events, which include the consequences of such violence to the lives of the people, and the country’s economy, social and political spheres as well as the challenge it poses in the country’s quest for democracy.
34. Effects of Military Spending and Financialization on Economic Growth in Ethiopia and Their Implications for Political Federation of Africa, by Jimmy Alani, Gulu University, Uganda
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The paper examined the effects of military spending and financialization on economic growth in Ethiopia and attempted to point out their implications for political unification of Africa as one federal system of government. The Generalized Least Squares (GLS) method was used in the data analysis. Data for the study were obtained from the United Nations, Global Economy and Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). First, the paper found that in Ethiopia within the 1990 to 2015 period growth in military spending, financialization, capital productivity and labor productivity could have had negative contributions to economic growth. Second, it found that growth in population and technical progress could have had profound positive effects on economic growth of Ethiopia within the same given period. Third, it found that growth in military spending and financialization could have had negative contributions to technological progress of the country. Finally, the paper found that population growth, growth in income per capita, labor productivity growth and growth in capital productivity could have had positive contributions to technical progress in the country within the same given period. The findings show that much of Ethiopia’s economic growth came from its population growth and technical progress. Thus, the economic growth of Ethiopia could have been much higher if Ethiopia, along with other African countries, had a one union government and acted like the Peoples Republic of China to advance Africa’s industrialization process through technology transfer, acquisition, innovation and diffusion. The other implication of the study is that a united continental system of government could minimize military spending and financialization. Such declines might come as a result of pooling military, natural, human and economic resources to enable Africa to enjoy economies of scale. Such economies of scale might accrue from (a) technology diffusion and (b) sharing of (i) a vast market, strategic projects (e.g. effective and prompt quelling of internal wars, having minimal threats arising from borders, etc.), (ii) ports for international trade and (iii) military resources along with others.

35. Does Terrorism Cause Food Insecurity? by Justin George, post-doctoral Research Associate in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics (AFRE), Michigan State University (MSU), Adesoji Adelaja, the John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor in Land Policy at AFRE, MSU, and Dave D. Weatherspoon, Professor in AFRE, MSU. Email: kappiaru@msu.edu

The majority of the world’s undernourished people live in countries facing conflict, violence and fragility. Conflicts, especially terrorism, can impact food security conditions by destroying agricultural production, distribution and markets; hindering economic growth; and increasing unemployment levels. In this study, we spatially joined Boko Haram terrorist incident data with geo-coded household level food security data from the General Household Survey (GHS) panel data for Nigeria to generate a panel data linking attacks to food security conditions. We used this date to estimate the impacts of Boko Haram’s terrorist attacks on food security conditions. We found that an increase in the intensity of attacks (a) increased the number of days where the household had to rely on less preferred foods (reduced dietary diversity), (b) increased the number of days where the household had to limit the variety of foods (per capita calorie consumption), and (c) increased the number of days where the household had to limit the portion of meals consumed (per capita food expenditure). Specifically, we found that a household’s exposure to 10 additional attacks per annum from Boko Haram annually increased food insecurity by up to one additional day per week.

Promoting opportunities for people with disabilities requires free access to basic education that welcomes all disabled children to school without discrimination. This study begins with an overview of the Ethiopian government’s strategies and new legislation aiming to support the realization of the right of disabled children to an inclusive education. Then, the related literature on international policies and concepts of inclusive education have been reviewed. The study addressed critical factors challenging the opportunities to implement inclusive education in selected primary schools in Addis Ababa’s administrative region. The assessment indicates that many critical challenges continue to affect and regulate the development of an inclusive education system that remains elusive in the country. The impact of a limited understanding of the concept of students with disabilities, and other institutional and socio-economic barriers, are then discussed and followed by suggested recommendations.

37. Factors Influencing Sustainable Employee and Business Development in Africa: The Case of Chinese Organizations, by Dr. Lisa Qixun Siebers, Associate Professor of International Business, Department of Marketing, Nottingham Business School, Nottingham, UK, NG1 4FQ. Email: Lisa.Siebers@ntu.ac.uk

This paper explains the factors that influence African sustainable development in the context of business by using a stakeholder view. The paper analyzes the practices of 86 Chinese organizations investing in Kenya, Zambia, and South Africa. These organizations involve different types of ownership and sizes across various sectors. From these organizations, 156 interviews were conducted with a similar proportion of Chinese investors/business owners and local employees from each of the countries. The findings show that (1) Chinese managers perceive that local workers are able to improve their stakeholder roles in the workplace by improving their education level, skills for work, and capabilities both prior to work and in the workplace; (2) Chinese managers’ ability to adapt to and learn from the local business environment will help improve the stakeholder status in the local workforce; and (3) local perceptions of Chinese organizational practices influence the development of both Chinese firms and the local workforce. These findings help identify the need for local sustainable development in businesses and the influence of foreign organizations on such development from a local employee's stakeholder perspective.

38. Assessment of Programmes that are Being Delivered to Support Street Children: A Case Study in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, by Lude Abiy (MA in Sociology), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Email: hi_lude@yahoo.com

There are many reasons why children end up on the street. “Poverty, family disintegration, gaps in policies and regulations, neglect and violence at home, lack of educational opportunities, the death of parents and sexual abuse were among the factors that pushed vulnerable children onto the street” (UNICEF, 2012, p. 30). Africa, being the continent comprised of many developing countries, needs substantial research and policy assessment to address the problems of all vulnerable children on the continent. The problem of poverty challenges the continent to guarantee children’s fundamental rights. In this study, it was found that because of the unbearable conditions of poverty in their families’ homes, all children do not want to go back to their families. Rather, they want to stay in the street life.

Moreover, it was also observed that there should be further research in order to design well-structured support programs and policies to address the problems of street children on a wider range and in an effective method to reunite them with their families, as well as to counsel children who are on the verge of going out on the street. Because of this reason, I am seeking to investigate which support programs are effective by conducting an explorative study among programs that currently exist. The research does this by evaluating the outcomes of the support programs that are being delivered by support providers in a randomly selected area of Addis Ababa.
The study will use a qualitative method approach in which a purposive sampling technique will be used for the data collection. This approach will help the researcher examine the participation of NGOs and government organizations in the work of support programs that are being delivered currently.

39. **Keynote Address: Bring Back the Ethiopianism Philosophy to Indigenize Ethiopia’s High Quality Education System**, by Professor Mammo Muchie, DST/NRF Rated Research Professor, Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa. Email: [mammo.muchie@gmail.com](mailto:mammo.muchie@gmail.com)

From the 16th to the 20th century, Ethiopianism has given spiritual strength to all oppressed humanity. “Ethiopianism asserted that African history, civilization and culture are sources of pride and the fountainhead of European culture... on the wider meaning of the designation, Ethiopians agree that according to the prophesies, it literally refers to all non-European peoples." Ethiopia has a unique distinction in the universe for empowering those who were disempowered, for humanizing those who were dehumanized, spiritualising those who were denied their right to worship God, and inspiring and strengthening those oppressed to resist oppression. (Source: Mammo Muchie, *The Thinker: A Pan-African Quarterly for Thought Leaders*, Quarter 3, 2018, vol.77, pp. 60-63)

Ethiopia has now entered into a new period where the new leadership is promoting a moral revolution. Love, forgiveness, reconciliation, respect, self-worth, dignity, pride, independence and liberty are being promoted with the new leader Dr. Abiy who is navigating the complex and difficult terrain of the existing politics with moral and emotional intelligence that are full of humility, sincerity, honesty and integrity. It looks like Ethiopia has now entered into a new era of Ethiopianism. Just as we had during the 1829 Manifesto, and also the 1896 Ethiopia Manifesto. We are now on a path to declare the 2018 Manifesto of Ethiopianism with what Dr. Abiy is remarkably and successfully promoting. If what he is promoting at the present time is succeeding, there is no doubt that all of us should be prepared to acknowledge that the brain child for the new Ethiopianism for our time is Dr. Abiy. It will be right to prefer and acknowledge the current phase of Ethiopianism philosophy with "Abiysim." It is the churches that promoted the first phase of Ethiopianism to provide spiritual strength to all of oppressed humanity. Now we have a morally engaged leadership that has emerged in Ethiopia and that is promoting the second phase of Ethiopianism that inspired me to link it to Abiyism. The new Ethiopianism will bring new humane relationships to all people and humanity in this world by relying on rehabilitative and restorative justice anchored in love, reconciliation, respect and forgiveness. Ethiopia will have the unique distinction once more being the spiritual example for changing the current difficult world politics into a humane one with the love, respect, reconciliation and forgiveness anchored in a civilised world of politics in the universe. Let us unite together, all of us, from the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean and from both to the Atlantic Ocean to make Ethiopia shine with moral and spiritual brilliance to revive the Ethiopianism philosophy of spirituality for our time! Let Abiysim succeed in promoting the new Ethiopianism philosophy for our time to save Ethiopia, Africa and the world! The 2018 Ethiopia Manifesto will come soon.

40. **Trajectories of Change: Contextualizing Local Government Creation in Nigeria**, by Mayowa Abati and Mike Adeyeye, Nigeria. Email: [adeye2002@yahoo.com](mailto:adeye2002@yahoo.com)

Reforming local governance in Nigeria has always brought to the foreground various underlying issues that need to be properly contextualized. More so, attempts to further decentralize, or create as it were, local governments in a fragile federation like Nigeria has always generated its own contestations, if not strident conflict. Over the years, creation of local governments whether in a military or civilian dispensation has had its own measure of impasse, but more so in a civilian set up that assumedly should engender a democratic platform for smooth creation exercise. This paper traces historically the twists and turns of local government creation since 1976.
By contextualizing the different arguments and perspectives, the paper identifies, among others, constitutional debacle, conflictual intergovernmental relations and amixture of poor observance of centralization and decentralization practices as factors embedded in the imbroglio, while uncontrolled partisan political interest is also a common denominator. The paper, within the context of the identified issues, asserts that an all-inclusive debate among relevant stakeholders, devoid of political partisanship, would be required to leverage and smooth the rough edges of agitation, put issues in proper social and political perspective, and thereby engender a development-oriented local government system in Nigeria.

41. Political Reforms in a Developmental State: The Case of Ethiopia, by Mebratu Kelecha, PhD
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In Ethiopia, the development state concept is one of the two pillars of the "national renaissance." Alongside the other pillar of democratic federalism, the creation of a developmental state is expected to lead to a national transformation. This view largely originated from the 2005 election results, in which the opposition won a significant number of electoral votes. Following the 2005 elections and setting aside democratic legitimacy, the discourses of economic development and poverty eradication became key aspects of EPRDF's claims of legitimacy. Later, the regime reframed Ethiopian democratic measures in the context of the state's developmental ideology. As a result, the country was hailed as a nation in "renaissance" - anchored for its economic growth and partnership in key strategic security interests with the West. However, the interest in building a development state with deepening democracy has not been without challenges. Findings undergird eloquent testimony of complexity and uncertainty theories and functioning democratic models that Ethiopia can emulate, which supports the fact that this can be complex when current reforms are also subject to ideological therapy. Therefore, the main objective of this paper is to explore concepts, processes, models and policies that advance or limit the boundaries of democracy in the context of Ethiopian development ideology.

42. Enterprise Innovation in Developing Countries: Evidence from Ethiopia, by Megersa Debela Daksa, Sisay Diriba, Lemessa Mola Alemayehu, Yismaw Shemelis and Kebede Hundie, Haramaya University, Ethiopia. Email: Megersa at mdebela4@gmail.com

Enterprise innovation has gained the interest of development policymakers and scholars as the bases for industrial development. This study comprehensively analyzes the determinants of enterprise innovation in Ethiopia. The study used enterprise survey data collected by the World Bank and a multivariate probit model (MVP) to analyze the determinants of enterprise innovation in Ethiopia. For this study, enterprises were grouped into four categories: all sized, large sized, medium-sized, and micro- or small-sized enterprises. It appears that engagement in research and development (R&D), on-the-job training, and website ownership significantly determined enterprise innovation.

This study, unlike previous studies, comprehensively analyzes determinants of innovation by considering enterprises in different sizes at the same time. This helps identify factors most relevant for enterprise innovation of all sizes which helps policymakers focus on strategy development. Based on the findings, further emphasis on the engagement of R&D would help enterprises become innovative in all categories. Furthermore, strengthening the availability of formal training and diversifying the type of training that is related to skills, knowledge, and techniques that help achieve the long-term objective of the enterprise are worth considering. Enterprises also need to subscribe to different sites that help increase learning and access information.
The population in Ethiopia consists of more than 50% women. Gender equality and women empowerment have been a fashion in Ethiopia’s governance discourse and by most of the NGOs functioning in the country for decades. Even though efforts by national and international agencies and the government have brought some changes in women empowerment to the country, significant numbers of women are still suffering from gender inequality. The fact that women empowerment is one of the key priorities in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda; calls have come for the importance of revisiting the subject from different angles. Women empowerment is a multi-disciplinary aspect, and therefore, the need for the right strategies to tackle disparities in the field should remain multifaceted as well. Therefore, the objective of this study is to examine the extent to which the current language policy has affected the process of women empowerment in southern Ethiopia, the Sidama Zone. The study specifically attempts to identify the sources of empowerment information for women in the Sidama Zone and the role that the Sidama language has played in the process. The summary and recommendation will consider inputs for the direction of the national language policy and women empowerment in the country.

After a quarter of a century’s experiment with federalism and multi-party democracy, Ethiopia has begun to experience a crisis of major proportion where powerful, popular protests against authoritarian rule have been rocking the country for the past four years. Consequently, the ruling party has been undergoing a soul searching – taking days, even weeks of evaluation and revaluation of its policies and actions to date. And, as a response to the ongoing crisis, it has released thousands of political prisoners, reformed its party leadership and, above all, promised a national dialogue with opposition political groups and civil society organizations operating both inside and outside the country. It has also selected a new prime minister from the country’s largest group, which hitherto has been wallowing under centuries of historical marginalization. However, despite the fuss being made about change and state transformation, most of the measures taken so far have remained, what can be termed “too little, too late,” and many keen observers of the country’s politics still ask the all-important question of the day: *Quo vadis*, Ethiopia? This paper is an attempt to answer such critical questions in the hopes of Ethiopian transition by identifying the major challenges on the roads to cross the cross-roads.

Customer Relationship Management (CRM) is widely acknowledged as a powerful tool for gaining market performance in the banking sector. The purpose of this comparative study is to examine the effects of CRM on market performance with a special reference to selected private banks in Addis Ababa. For this study, CRM is evaluated using key customer focus, customer knowledge management, CRM-based technology and CRM organization. Market performances were assigned through indicators such as sales growth, market share, profitability, customer satisfaction and customer retention. This study employed descriptive surveys and explanatory research with mixed approaches. To achieve the objective of this study, primary data was collected from managers and employees of the Awash International Bank (AIB), Bank of Abyssinia (BOA) and Wegagen Bank, and was based on the grading information system from the top and medium 12 branches in Addis Ababa. For this study, systematic random sampling techniques were pursued to collect data.
Structured questionnaires were distributed to a sample of 178 employees, out of which 87% of the completed responses were returned. Interviews were also conducted with management of the banks. The questionnaires were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical analysis methods. The findings confirmed that all the independent variables have a positive and significant relationship with CRM and market performance. Moreover, BOA displayed a better understanding of key customer focus, CRM organization and technology-based CRM. AIB performed better in terms of customer knowledge management and market performance. In general, comparing the three private banks, BOA has a better understanding of CRM and market performance. The private banks must improve technology-based CRM by maintaining the comprehensive databases of customers to improve their services, to handle online transactions, necessary hardware and software facilities, and to address the dynamic need of customers towards the advancement of banking technologies, technical personnel support for the utilization of computers, modern banking equipment and technologies to improve the capability of employees to use the technology. There are many employees and customers using banking services in the urban and semi-urban areas, but the banks should have a wider scope and cross-functional teams in rural areas in the days to come.

46. Effects of Employee Engagement on Employee Turnover at the Ethiopian Management Institute, by Mesfin Lemma, PhD, International Leadership Institute, and Hayget Adhana, MBA, Ethiopian Management Institute. Email: mesfinl38@yahoo.com

The aim of the study was to investigate the effect of employee engagement on the turnover intention of employees in the Ethiopian Management Institute. The data was collected through a self-administered questionnaire from 160 respondents. The instruments used for data collection were a Gallup Poll (1985) 12-item employee engagement questionnaire and the Shore and Martin (1989) 4-item turnover intention survey tool. Spearman’s Rank Correlation Statistical tool and linear regression were used to test the hypotheses. The findings revealed that there was a moderate level of employee engagement. The findings also showed that the turnover intention level of employees in the institute was moderate. A significant negative relationship was found between employee engagement and turnover intention. A significant negative relationship was also found between turnover intention and employee engagement factors such as opportunity, recognition, perception of care, development, sense of mission, opinion counts, co-worker commitment to quality, existence of friendliness in the workplace, progress feedback, and an opportunity to learn and grow. No significant relationship was found between employee engagement factors such as clarity of expectation and availability of materials and equipment with turnover intention. The result of the study also revealed that employee engagement is a major predictor of turnover intention and of the twelve employee engagement factors. Only care was found to be a significant predictor of turnover intention.

47. Determinants of Bank Selection Decision and Customer Loyalty: Evidence from Ethiopian Banks, by Mesfin Lemma, PhD., and Metasebiya Boru, MBA, International Leadership Institute, Ethiopia. Email: mesfinl38@yahoo.com

A customer’s choice of bank is an important element of banking strategy in today’s increasingly competitive environment. Bank management must identify and improve factors that can increase customer retention. Plan a suitable marketing strategy to keep existing customers, and attract new customers. Commercial banks need to identify the criteria on which customers make their bank selection decisions. Hence, the purpose of this study is to examine the significance of the bank selection criteria and the determinant factors influencing customers in selecting a bank in Ethiopia. Data included responses given by 101 customers. Quantitative and qualitative approaches were employed to analyze six factors, including 38 attributes on a 5-point Likert scale which determined the criteria for selecting banks. A non-probability convenience sampling was used, and data was factor analyzed to reduce the number of total variables in a manageable way.
The findings revealed that the major factors determining customer bank selection are: the speed of services, the extent of the branch network, the location of branches, and Forex resources. On the other hand, price, innovation, financial performance, and e-banking are the least required factors that customers consider when they make a bank selection. Given these findings, it is recommended that there should be frequent marketing research by e-banks to monitor and evaluate the ever-changing customer perspectives in order to develop products or services to meet the tastes of their customers.

48. Financial Literacy and Wealth-Building Consciousness: A Critical Tool and Strategic Imperative for Optimizing the Economic Health and Empowerment of Developing Nations, by Professor Meskerem Tadesse, University of the West, Rosemead, California, USA. Email: Meskeremt@uwest.edu

Financial Literacy is a critical knowledge base and wealth-building tool necessary for optimizing one’s personal economy, and is a strategic imperative and pathway to Economic Empowerment for families, communities and nations. If Ethiopia, or Africa in general, is to be free of economic slavery, financial literacy may be the one lethal ammunition that can destroy the destitution and hopelessness that we have been conditioned to accept. History has proven that the insincere promise of “trickle-down economics” has been effectively utilized by the “Rich and Powerful” as a means to deprive poor nations and poor people of their basic human dignity and rights to economic freedom for themselves, their children and their communities. This paper is based on a financial literacy pilot program in Ethiopia, Banking in a ShoeBox, that challenges and dares as well as inspires young people in developing economies to take charge of their personal economics, to dare to dream and set audacious goals that lead their families and communities out of the bondage of the cycle of poverty. The paper also examines certain historical, cultural and current perspectives and realities that have mentally and economically shackled the working class to be unwitting participants to the systematically broadening gap in the economic divide between the rich and the poor, both intra- and inter-nationally. The harsh reality is that today’s working class, who work harder and longer to earn less, are conditioned to finance (by credit) their contribution to the unprecedented level of wealth and economic growth boasted by rich people, rich nations and their corporations. Education is the key to freedom, and financial literacy is the key to economic freedom. If our Ethiopia, and Africa in general, is to be free of economic slavery, the young must be encouraged and inspired to visualize and build a different economic future for us all.

49. In the Names of Fatima and St. Mary, by Misganaw Melaku Tadesse, University of Western Cape, South Africa. Email: yesmisge@yahoo.com

Wollo is a province in Ethiopia where Muslims and Christians live together peacefully. The religious demographic of the province, which has almost equal numbers of Muslims and Christians living together intermingled, has made social interaction inevitable. As a result, the community has a unique history of tolerance, peaceful coexistence and a strong sense of togetherness. The people are intermixed and share many custom, cultural and ritual practices. Among these custom/cultural practices, which are exercised among the Wolloyes regardless of their religion, is a prayer which is supplicated to a pregnant woman for her labor pains to be easy. A few days before a lady’s delivery, a prayer, which is referred to as “Fatima Qori,” is made for her in the name of Fatima, the daughter of the Prophet Mohammed. Likewise, at birth, the same pray is done for the lady who is going to give birth but in the name of St. Mary so the mother delivers safely. In such away in Wollo, Christians participate in “Fatima Qori” and Muslims pray in the name of Mary. This is a living witness of togetherness and peaceful co-existence in the province. Thus, this article examines this customary practice of the prays for a pregnant woman, which are made in the names of Fatima and St. Mary, and other shared practices which result in a peaceful co-existence between Muslims and Christians in Wollo, Ethiopia.
50. **Religious Extremism and Terrorism in Africa**, by Muhabie M. Mengistu, Hawassa University. Email: Muhbiemekonnen@yahoo.com

Since the turn of the century, international jihadists and religious extremists have posed a big security threat to Africa and the International Community as well. The recent Global Terrorism Index reveals that religious extremism is the main driver of terrorism. This is truer in Africa than elsewhere in the world. Either by politicizing religion or radicalizing it, the Fundamental Islamic Sects in Africa are bringing terrorism to the continent such that the security situation of Africa has become more exacerbated than ever before. To this end, Africa is at the crossroads of drawing itself into a global war on terrorism and extremism with few, higgledy-piggledy resources. Even though their impact and number are not as significant as Islamic radicals, there are also some religious criminal syndicates from the Christian side such as the Lord’s Resistance Army and the X-FAR in the great lake regions. Meanwhile, the rise of political Islam that has a link with the religious extremist groups in the Middle East and South Asia is the major challenge for the continent. Many scholars posited various arguments about the nexus between religious extremism and terrorism. To some, there is an automatic link between radicalism and terrorism, but for others the correlation is not direct but still significant. But, in general, most researchers, policy makers and debaters in the field have commonly agreed that the threat of the militant and deadliest Islamic fundamentalists and Christian extremists (to a limited extent) have taken center stage in the security situation of Africa. Hence, the central argument of this paper is that terrorism in Africa will not end unless religious radicalism and extremism end. Therefore, Africa should cooperate with the International Community in the fight against religious radicalism whereby the spread and impact of terrorism throughout the continent will be contained.

51. **A Combined Effect? Explaining the Persistence of 'Poor' Governance in Cameroon**, by Pechulano Ngwe Ali, Cameroon. Email: pun29@psu.edu

This study explains why poor governance is persistent in the Central-African country of Cameroon. Research has shown that most African economies are fast growing. However, economic growth is not proportionate to the growth and strength of governance in Africa. While many studies have focused on the effects of poor governance on the growth and development of African economies and the people, a few who have attempted explanations for the existence and persistence of poor governance in African states attribute the governance predicament plaguing the continent to political instability and civil wars. Cameroon has technically not had any political turbulence or civil conflict of any sort since independence. However, for over two decades, Cameroon remains classified within institutions such as the World Bank and Transparency International as one of the worst African countries in terms governance. Using scholarly literature, data from multilateral institutions and anecdotal evidence, this study argues that factors such colonial legacies, ethnic multiplicity, and the availability of and dependence on natural resources not only account for the persistence of poor governance in Cameroon but create a combined effect that leaves the country in a vicious circle of a governance system. For a nation that is articulating a major policy goal of becoming an emerging economy by 2035, the importance of good governance cannot be overemphasized.

52. **Determinants of Entrepreneurial Success in Micro and Small Enterprises in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**, by Dr. Rahel Belete Balkew, PhD, and Dr. Addis Kassahun Mulat, PhD, Bulacan State University of Philippines. Email: Rahel etgrace@gmail.com or Addis addiskassahun@gmail.com

Since 1992, following the World Bank and IMF’s Structural Adjustment Program (SAP), a series of reform programs that are aimed at transforming the economy from a quais-communist command structure to a market economy have been initiated and implemented in Ethiopia. In recognition of the significance of micro and small enterprises (MSEs), the government issued a National Micro and Small Enterprises Strategy in 1997 and established the Federal Micro and Small Enterprises Development Agency (MSEDA) in 1998.
The country’s industrial policy in 2003 and the poverty reduction strategy in 2006 have singled out MSEs as major instruments for creating a productive and vibrant sector to reduce poverty. The role of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) has been argued to be the sector that may serve as a “seedbed” of entrepreneurship, with entrepreneurs graduating to run large industries (McPherson, 1996). Such a seedbed might be especially important given the role of entrepreneurship in economic development (Kilby, 1971). Thus, this study was conducted to identify the determinants of entrepreneurial success of MSEs in the manufacturing, construction, urban agriculture, trade and service sectors.

The study used primary data from interviews conducted with one hundred MSE operators and four government officials in Addis Ababa, and secondary data from Federal MSEDA’s Bulletin 2014, the Federal MSE Development agency database and Directory 2014. Through a descriptive and quantity study, the research intended to describe and verify determinants of MSE’s success. The hypothesis was that entrepreneurial success is significantly determined by three factors: individual dimensions, organizational dimensions and the external environment. The study used an interview guide and Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) for data organization and analyses using descriptive, correlation and multiple linear regressions. In the socio-demographic aspect of the MSEs, the study shows that more than two-thirds of the micro and small enterprises operating in Addis Ababa were found to be male owned. Three-fourths of the study participants were less than 40 years old and the average age of the study participants/operators was 35 years. Almost all of the operators attended formal education and more than half of them had diplomas and above. Concerning entrepreneurial motivation, about three-fourth of the study’s participants pursued and continued operation after starting business, which implied that they were persistent with their initial business and had strong motivation for survival. The need for achievement was high, which participants strongly supported when sharing the idea that “even if I have achieved success in my business, I want to become better.” Service and construction sectors had the maximum need for achievement. However, the risk-taking behaviors of the participants were relatively low, which indicated that participants were neutral in terms of taking risks related to their businesses. Considering the institutional factors of the MSEs, for example years of operation or the age of the firms, the majority of the micro and small enterprises had less than 10 years in business, which was detrimental to accessing loans from financial institutions. In addition, the number of years of operating a business had a positive relationship to accessing loans and repayment capacity of the women micro entrepreneurs. It was found that three-fourths of MSEs had received at least one type of business development service (BDS) from the government, and most of the study participants mentioned that the development service helped them acquire better marketing skills, get financing, access working premises and generate better project ideas. Based on the results of the study, MSE’s success is determined by multi-dimensional factors of individual, institutional and external dimensions rather than a single factor. This research was financed from the researcher’s own personal sources.

53. Wellbeing and Childhood Development in Africa: An Exploration of the Everyday Lives of Childhood Policies and People in Rural Ghana, by Sampson Addo Yeboah, Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Email: sam.a.yeboah@connect.polyu.hk

Wellbeing and development of children are important to all governments. In Africa, policies directing the development of children are mostly influenced by the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Ghana was the first country to ratify the UNCRC in 1990. This study explores the negotiations of childhood cultural brokers and translators as they introduce childhood policies and programs influenced by the UNCRC to parents. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, informal conversations and observations. Findings show that both grassroots childhood development workers and rural parents have a ‘front stage’ and a ‘backstage’ reality towards child-focused development projects. There seems to be an existential need for these programs to run, and yet the commitment to their objectives was blurred. The study concludes that the multiplicity of actor interests involved causes of critical spaces to be negotiated, which shape the outcome of external policies on childhood development.
54. **An Inquiry into the Patterns and Structures of Grand Corruption: The Case of Ethiopia**, by Seid Y. Hassan, PhD, Professor of Economics, Murray State University, Murray, KY. Email: shassan@murraystate.edu

This paper begins by tracing Tigray People's Liberation Front's (TPLF) rapacious lootings and hoarding of public resources which began when the group was a liberation Front. Using numerous published studies, reports, surveys and confessions of former TPLF leader turned dissidents, the paper documents the group’s relentless history of plundering of public treasures which began with the abuse of humanitarian aid. The TPLF financed its guerrilla war largely through the siphoning off foreign humanitarian aid, confiscating privately owned businesses, ransacking government financial structures, and taxing peasants. On its way to the capital Addis Ababa, the Front ransacked and dismantled publicly owned physical structures, such as power generators, tractors, etc. and hauled them to its bases in the state of Tigray. As soon as it seized power, TPLF used the looted resources to establish “endowed” conglomerates subsumed under the Endowment Fund for the Rehabilitation of Tigray (EFFORT). Since then, EFFORT, with the help of its owners (i.e., TPLF leaders who control the commanding heights of the Ethiopian economy), has been preying on the Ethiopian people (Gellaw, 2010; McCracken, 2004) just as the Front preyed on humanitarian aid “donors.” It then established an elaborate but highly corrupt patron-client system with the TPLF leaders as kingmakers (bandits-in-chiefs). Their clients were and still are former prisoners of war who have been serving as regional kingmakers. This ethno-regional patronage system is also highly predatory because of the military’s heavy involvement in the country’s politico-economic system. From the outset, the TPLF has built and nurtured a violent and clientelistic system, thereby making corruption as its operating system (Hassan: Forthcoming). Consequently, the TPLF as a dominant group cannot survive without corruption. Paradoxically, the seeds of rapacious corruption that the licentious TPLF leaders purposely sowed seem to have come to fruition: growing resentment. Kleptocracy that the TPLF/EPRDF established to help stay in power has become a bane for itself, leading the predatory system to the brink of collapse. Unfortunately, the kleptocratic system that the TPLF created may stay longer than its creator. How would those concerned with such an entrenched system go about rectifying the problem?

55. **Challenges and Opportunities for Improving Education and Health with Good Governance in Africa, with a focus on Ethiopia**, by Sisay Asefa, PhD, Professor of Economics and Director of Center of African Development. Email: sisay.asefa@WMICH.EDU

This presentation explores the critical role of democratic good governance and leadership including how to identity and assess or measure good governance outcomes. It also argues that only under good governance and leadership can poverty and conflict be reduced and explores various ways of measuring poverty such as absolute and relative poverty and multidimensional policy measures and outcomes. The paper explores human capital which economists define as a combination of health and education, which are complementary. It also provides data on the Government of Ethiopia role in providing more access to education including higher education and health centers. It implies that the critical policy issues of moving democratic governance to reduce poverty and hunger will also reduce conflict and better enable institutions and transparent administrative systems with qualified people while avoiding corruption and nepotism in selecting civil servants. The purpose of this paper is to promote serious research in finding means for improving education and health access and quality to build an inclusive sustainable economy to support a population like Ethiopia that has over 100 million and is the second most populated among 54 countries of Africa. The presentation concludes with the challenges of the recent rise of promising charismatic and uniting leadership such as Prime Minister Dr. Abiy and his democratic reform partners and Ethiopian people united.
56. Rebuilding the Ethiopian Nation State and Economy: The Promise of the New Prime Minister Aby Ahmed and his Democratic Reforming Partners and Ethiopian People United, by Sisay Asefa, PhD, Western Michigan University. Email: sisay.asefa@wmich.edu

The purpose of this paper is to explore the governance and leadership problems that have trapped Ethiopia and Horn of Africa in poverty, food insecurity, foreign aid and conflict in spite of the potential in natural wealth and hardworking people. Governance is a multi-dimensional concept that involves the traditions and institutions under which political authority in a country is exercised. Governance includes the process by which rulers are selected, monitored and replaced, and the capacity for government to effectively formulate and implement sound and inclusive policies, including the respect of citizens and the institutions that determine economic and social policies. This paper explores alternative paths toward Reforming Politics, economics rooted in tribal conflict that drive of dictatorships by promoting Unity in Diversity and the Rule of Law for justice and inclusive sustainable development for 21st Century free interaction among citizens including free movement of people across traditional provinces that allows for market-based development. The paper is intended to promote further serious dialogue and research by students and scholars on critical issues of governance, leadership, political development, conflict resolution, peace building in Ethiopia and the Horn Africa and beyond and concludes with rise of Promising elected on April 7, 2018 and making dramatic positive changes against some challenges.

57. What Brought Us (Ethiopians) to Where We are Today? by Solomon Addis, PhD, Central Michigan University, USA. Email: solomonaddis2012@gmail.com

This paper examines the various political developments in Ethiopia from the 1960s to the present and scrutinizes the main trajectories that have contributed to the political debacle in Ethiopia. It is the presenter’s conviction that the greatest weakness of the country’s elite stems from its desire to solve Ethiopia’s problem from the same faulty political premise: “Ethiopia was an Empire.” The paper also contends that while the country’s elite recognizes the diversity of Ethiopia, it, however, proposes and implements a “one fits all” solution to the diverse country and society. Moreover, the elite’s inability or unwillingness to look inwards to solve the country’s problems has been another error that has continued to drag the country backwards. Furthermore, it points out that the country’s education system, be it traditional or “modern,” has failed to effect change in the right direction.

58. Peace, Transport, and Understanding: A Research Agenda in Support of Sustainable Development Goal 16, by Steven Jones, PhD, Professor Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering, University of Alabama. Email: S.Jones@eng.ua.edu

This paper presents a crosscutting literature review within the two fields of Transport Policy and Peace Studies. This initial, exploratory analysis focuses on rural Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) as evidenced in relevant academic literature. Ideally, this work can serve as the basis for new interdisciplinary research themes on which to base future work. While there has been considerable related work in both fields, we show that there is limited overlap in the literature. If anything, our qualitative examination of the academic literature indicates that Peace Studies typically address transport-related concepts rather than Transport Policy deals with the concept of peace. We identify key crosscutting themes from the literature review and present them as a basis for new crosscutting research into Transport Policy and Peace Studies.
59. What do Road Crashes in Namibia have to do with Sustainable Development Across Africa? by Steven Jones, PhD, and Kenneth Odero, Namibian University of Science and Technology, and Emmanuel Kofi Adanu, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. Email: S.Jones@eng.ua.edu

Within a broad framework for comprehensive advancement, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3 and 11 (Targets 3.6 and 11.2) directly address the availability of safe transportation as important to development. We present an analysis of crash data from Namibia recorded between 2012 and 2015 that illustrates connections between what is happening on the roads of Namibia and sustainable development themes there (and throughout Sub-Saharan Africa). In particular, we document how the provision of safe transport is related to the broader SDGs, including those not explicitly addressing transportation such as 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, and 17.

60. Understanding Healthcare Access in a Developing Country through Mapping: Two Case Studies in Rwanda, by Steven Jones, PhD., Preston Jutte, Travis Atkison, and Olive Musoni, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. Email: S.Jones@eng.ua.edu

Safe, reliable access to healthcare, whether for preventative purposes or for specialty care, is essential to human development and progress. The international development community recognized this fact in the formulation and articulation of Sustainable Development Goal 3 and its fourteen (1 – 9, plus A, B, C, and D) targets. Understanding, healthcare accessibility is essential at the individual, facility, and community levels. Accessibility can vary by the mode of transport available and in some cases, seasonal issues such as road conditions. We use the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and an Application Programming Interface (API) developed for GoogleMaps to illustrate how these tools can be used to map out accessibility to healthcare facilities at varying spatial scales. We document our approach and the process for using it, then present sample results from applications to accessibility of Butaro Hospital in northern Rwanda and two separate AIDS Healthcare Foundation facilities in different geographic regions of the country.

61. Is Asking for Forgiveness Sufficient to Move Ethiopia Forward? by Tedla Woldeyohannes, PhD., Southwestern Illinois University. Email: twoldeyo@slu.edu

In this paper, I attempt to clarify some ideas that are crucial for what is happening in Ethiopia these days, especially since the coming to power of a new prime minister Dr. Aby Ahmed. In his various speeches to Ethiopians, the prime minister has repeatedly asked for forgiveness from the people of Ethiopia for the wrongs his government has committed against civilians. He has also emphasized the importance of moving forward as a society leaving behind the bad things that are collective scars for society and between the government and the people. The role of the government related to forgiveness and national reconciliation need to be handled carefully so that we can avoid confusing political forgiveness with forgiveness as it takes place in the context of churches or in any other contexts. How should we think about forgiveness, the rule of law, and justice at a basic level? In this article, I offer a basic sketch about the relations among these ideas. The main purpose of this paper is not academic; rather, it is to address practical issues Ethiopians face and need to handle with extreme care.

62. Economy and Population in Ethiopia: A Search for Relations, by Terefe Degefa, PhD, College of Development Studies, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. Email: terefd@yahoo.com

This article uses national datasets to find the relations between economic and population indicators in Ethiopia. It follows a time-series method and acknowledges the endogeneity of population in economic growth dynamics while considering Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth as a driving force in bringing changes in population indicators, which is a reversal of the often-followed approach where population becomes a driving force.
Evidence shows that the growth of GDP negatively interacts with population indicators such as population growth, total fertility rate, infant mortality rate, child mortality rate and unemployment. On the other hand, it positively interacts with enrollment in primary and secondary schools, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), undergraduate studies, and health coverage through varying levels. The evidence contributes to efforts made to narrow the gap of understanding in the literature regarding the relationship between economy and population in a broader perspective in Ethiopia and beyond. The evidence further explicates that future research could make better contributions to policy-making efforts and create greater impacts if they focus more on the human capital dimension of economic growth when attempting to establish relations between economy and population.

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In contemporary times, customary conflict resolution mechanisms are playing a crucial role in keeping the balance of peace among societies. These mechanisms are many in number and vary from place to place. Among the many, this study focused on the roles of Bokkuu, Oromo cultural centers in conflict resolution. Currently this system is playing a significant role in solving conflicts and bringing harmony among the communities. The study was conducted in western Shawa, Ambo district. In specific, the data for this research was collected from three Bokkuu centers, namely Bokkuu Cittuu, Bokkuu Bakkee and Bokkkuu Xulee, by spotlighting their practice of peace making and conflict resolution. In this work, types of conflicts resolved at the centers, accusation steps, trial procedures and types of punishments are identified. Also, contemporary practices are addressed, including changes and continuities. In addition, the relationship between formal court and the customary centers in the area was also evaluated. According to the findings, a Bokkuu center is one of the preferable systems for dispute settlement because of justified reasons. The reasons are mentioned in this work. Structurally, the centers have five higher officials including Abbaa Bokkuu, the leader of the centers. The officials are capable of handling and solving any kind of dispute. The data of this study was collected through different qualitative data collection methods, such as interviews, focused group discussions (FGD) and observations. Abbaa Bokkuu (Bokkuu leader) of all centers participated in key informant interviews. Clients of Bokkuu Centers, Sam’aloo (central council members) and local elders are also included in the FGDs.

64. A Study of Factors that Determine Enrollment Rates of Households in Community-Based Health Insurance in Digalu Tijo Woreda (District), by Tesfaye Abebe, Oromia Region Arsi Zone Health Office, Ethiopia. Email: tesfishyordanos@gmail.com

The majority of developing countries with health systems are afflicted by poor quality health service such as inefficiency, inequitable access, inadequate funding of the poor, and quality services. Due to this problem, a majority of global annual deaths is due to communicable diseases, non-communicable conditions, and injuries. In light of this, community-based health insurance is a solution to this problem. Therefore, my research focused on the enrollment rate of the community in the system, and also assessed the benefits to inform policy makers and researchers by providing a systematic review of the existing empirical evidence on the operation and effectiveness of such a system with a focus on enrollment status. A community-based cross-sectional study was utilized that used a quantitative method of data collection of studied households. A systematic random sampling method technique was used. Prior to the actual data collection, a preliminary survey was conducted to check whether the questionnaire was understandable and clear of error. To select representative samples of families (HH) from rural kebeles, the total sample size of 847 was collected proportional to the size of each kebele. The data was entered and analyzed with the SPSS 20 version software. Descriptive statistics, Bivariate and Multivariate analysis used the binary logistic regression method and crude adjusted estimate with OR, 95% of CI and P-Values. Odds of enrollment in community-based health insurance (CBHI) were three times more for those respondents with a P-Value of 0.01 with a confidence interval of (1.28, 8.52).
This indicates the importance of a social and cultural organization like Eder and a significant association with the enrollment of CBHI. The other factor that affected the enrollment status of the households was the enrollment fee. Most of the respondents were asked how difficult the fee was, and they responded indifferently with a CI of 0.01 and were less likely to determine enrollment by adjusting an odds ratio of 0.44 and CI (0.25, 0.79). Waiting time for treatment also has a strong association to enrollment rate. The odds of waiting more than one hour were six times more likely that of waiting less than one hour with CI 6.15 (2.20, 16.93). Depending on the premium set, the actual enrollment was not as expected. As my research indicates, this is due to low awareness in the community. Most of the respondents had heard about the premium from their neighbors which accounts for 210 (24.8). This indicates that a majority of respondents heard about the premium and its service from their neighbors, and this shows that the social mobilization for awareness created by the Kebele Administration as well as health professionals was very low. The district administration and health professionals should continue to do social mobilization and sensitization programs to create awareness and willingness to enroll in order to strengthen community-based health insurance and to increase the enrollment rate.

65. Resource Access and Human-Wildlife Conflict in the Pastoral Communities of Southern Rangelands of Ethiopia: The Case of the Yabello Protected Area, Oromia Regional State, Ethiopia, by Tesfaye Nigatu, Wollo University. Email: tesfish064701@gmail.com

A variety of conflicts have occurred in the protected areas of Ethiopia. These conflicts include resource access conflicts, wildlife-human conflicts, benefit-sharing conflicts, park-people conflicts, institutional conflicts and trans-boundary conflicts. The objective of this study was to assess the two major conflicts of resource access conflicts and human-wildlife’s conflicts in the case of the Yabello District Protected Area in the Oromia Regional State of Ethiopia. The data was collected by using questionnaires, interviews, field observations and secondary document analysis. The questionnaire was distributed to thirty households for human wildlife conflict identification and 47 households for resource access conflict analysis within and around the protected area. In addition, interviews were conducted with select local community representatives and office personnel. Uncontrolled management of grazing land, encroachment on the local communities, living settlement patterns near and within the protected area, lack of boundary demarcation and zoning, the dryness of the Yabello district, limited understanding of the significance of the ecosystem, and the increasing market demand of the plant products found in the protected area are major causes of conflicts in the Yabello Protected Area. The main plant products used in the home and for other purposes by the local community include basketry, firewood/fuel wood, charcoal for home use and market use, construction and other household tools. Loss of livestock contributes to disturbances in the livelihood of local households, which in turn has a major impact on the human-wildlife conflict in the local communities. Habitat disturbance and migration of wildlife are the serious by-products of human-wildlife conflict. Loss of biodiversity, damaging of trees and environmental degradation, and ecotourism potential loss are the major effects of resource access conflict in the study area. Predatory wildlife includes hyenas, foxes, and leopards. Crop-raiding animals are zebras, wild pigs, gerenuk, and monkeys, all of which are also negatively affected by human-wildlife conflicts.

66. Evangelical Christians in Ethiopia: Examining the Terrains of Political Engagements, by Tibebe Eshete, PhD., Michigan State University. Email: Tibebe@msu.edu

The history of the evangelical movement in Ethiopia is, relatively speaking, a recent one. Over the last five decades, the number of Ethiopians who consider themselves as evangelicals, or to employ a more popular term, the Pentes has grown considerably. They now constitute close to 20% of the population, introducing a big demographic shift. The socio-political engagement of the evangelical Christians in the nation has been very limited in the past. Cultural, legal and political factors may account for their lack of involvement. But currently, they are causing significant debuts in a number of ways. The most visible expression of this development is the meteoric rise of the new prime minister Abiy Ahmed.
The new political dynamics in Ethiopia calls for a fresh thinking of the wider role of faith-based institutions in Ethiopia. This subject, in spite of its importance, has not been sufficiently explored, and this paper is an attempt to fill the gap, partially if not wholly.

67. Peace and Sustainable Development in the Horn of Africa, by Tigist Yeshiwas, PhD, Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University. E-mail: tigist.y@ipss-adds.org

Peace and development are interconnected. Some say that the more developed you are, the more secure you become, and the more secure you are, the more you develop. As much as prolonged economic decline can be a potential source of conflict, economic growth alone may sometimes intensify tensions in the absence of meaningful cooperation that addresses competition over shared resources among states. The case of Africa in the Horn of Africa is nothing different. Integration of regional economies and cooperation for joint development increase interdependence and therefore, reduce the risk for violent conflict among member states. Where frameworks for cooperation of shared resources or infrastructure are in place, an environment of regular contact and collaboration among policymakers follows, and this, in turn, contributes to building trust, facilitates cooperation, and reduces tensions among the member states. Integration of infrastructure such as railroads, power grids and dams involving joint investment make conflict a lose-lose situation, thereby discouraging it. Increased trade and other mutually beneficial linkages also tend to reduce the likelihood of conflict, while cooperation for the development of transit corridors and access to the sea by land-locked countries increase the stake of joint security cooperation which itself is a basis for joint development. This paper introduces the relationship between peace and sustainable development beginning with an overview of the contending concepts. The paper will try to visit some of the perceived causes and consequences of intra- and inter-state conflicts in the context of the Horn of Africa. The assumption is that many of the primary causes of conflict are related to questions surrounding sustainable development, sharing natural resources and/or accessing natural resources. Claims over territories, access to these and transit corridors, and competition over the use of natural resources like trans-boundary water resources are examples of such perceived causes of conflicts. In this respect, the paper will limit itself to cover the management and development of some shared resources like trans-boundary water resources, access to the sea and the development of transit corridors. Problems associated with divided communities and cross border criminality including threats of terrorism will also be discussed. In this regard, cross border economic cooperation, criminal control and early warning including response mechanisms will be investigated as ways of enhancing peace and development in border areas. The paper will also broadly examine the link between environment and security.

The objectives or research questions will be:

- What is the nexus between peace and development and how do we associate it to the Horn of Africa context?
- How do we comprehend problems of peace and security and approaches to solving them in a regional context?
- How do we examine the regional development issues and investigate their link to regional peace and security?
68. **Population Policies and Fertility Transitions in East African Countries: Implications for the Demographic Dividend**, by Tizta Tilahun Degfie, Yohannes Dibaba Wado, Martin Bangha1, and Chimaraoke O. Izugbara, Africa Population and Health Research Centre, Nairobi, Kenya. Email: ttilahun@aphrc.org

The global population has changed much in size, with an addition of about two billion people over the past twenty years to reach 7.4 billion. Developing countries hold the largest share of the world population. National population policies have been used as instruments to respond to and address population dynamics and growth by governments. The policies have helped a number of countries in Asia to attain the intended fertility levels and facilitate economic development. Particular to East Asian countries, the decrease in fertility and a simultaneous increase in the share of the working-age population have accelerated economic growth, reaping a phenomenon called the demographic dividend. In Africa, however, to realize the demographic dividend, strenuous efforts and national population policies as witnessed from the experiences of the Asian tigers are needed. This paper reviews population policies and fertility transitions of Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda and examines the implications of fertility transitions and population policy on the prospects of the demographic dividend in these countries. Data for this review were obtained from the World Population Prospects (WPP) by the United Nations and Demographic and Health Surveys. In all of these countries, while fertility rates are decreasing, the population continues to grow rapidly. All four countries have policies to regulate population growth, which is a strong sign indicating the governments’ commitment to realizing sustainable population growth. Nevertheless, efforts should be made to meet the goals set in the current population policies. These have a remarkable role in the attainment of the demographic dividends in the countries.

69. **Household Shocks and Child Labor: Evidence from a Panel Survey of Nigerian Households**, by Wei-chiao Huang, PhD, and Kofi Acheampong, Western Michigan University. Email: wei-chiao.huang@wmich.edu

This paper studies the effects of household shocks on child labor and school enrollment. We used data from a two-year panel dataset of Nigerian households surveyed between 2010/2011 and 2012/2013. We found that agricultural shocks, measured as crop and livestock losses, increase child labor hours and decrease the probability that a child will enroll in school. We also found that health shocks to men increase child labor hours. In contrast, health shocks to women have no impact on child labor hours and school enrollment.

70. **Demystifying the Nile Water Discourses and Imperatives for Democratic Pan-Nilism**, by Wuhibegezer Ferede, Mekelle University. Email: wuhibegezerbdu@gmail.com

Historical linguistic and archeological evidence have indicated that the Nile Basin has made rich contributions to world civilization. In addition to this, because of the advanced state of socio-economic development, the basin has also been dominated by countless myths embedded in the cultural core and the discourses of society. Thus, this research has attempted to explore the epistemological foundations of the Nile water myths and their impact on the contemporary policy formulation and riparian dialogue for fair and equitable utilization of the river. Hence, the data collected from discourses such as ancient tales, archives, travel accounts, inscriptions, and decrees were analyzed using an analytical and qualitative pluri-disciplinary approach through a critical discourse analysis method. Accordingly, the basin has been dominated with ethnocentric, creation, geographic, cartographic, migration and diversion myths which have had direct impact on the Nile water utilization claims and counter claims. The impacts are manifested in the naming, the morphology, origin, discovery and the quest of the ownership of the Nile water. The commutative effects of these myth-driven assumptions are found as basic determinants of riparian dialogue. Thus, the demystification of the epistemological basis of the Nile water discourses by promoting water science is a demanding task for democratizing the utilization of the Nile water.
In addition, the competing needs and prejudicial consequences of unilateral appropriation of Nile water resources have created intricate problems. In response to these challenges, the search for a harmonious criterion for defining the water rights of riparian states has resulted in the formulation of diverse, but non-binding, legal doctrines due to the nostalgic love attached to state sovereignty. Hence, the researcher contends that the cause of the incompatibility of sovereign right with the legal doctrines, especially in the Eastern Nile Basin, is due to the antithetical relations between the nature of the states and the natural interconnections created by rivers. Therefore, for addressing the transplant effect of the state system and realizing the dreams of the pioneering fathers of African independence, the researcher proposes the establishment of a new continental water regime modality which could lead towards pan-Africanization of the continent’s rivers and states. Therefore, the recent optimistic head starts of the African water vision for 2025 and Nile Basin Initiative should foster the move towards a continental regime by bridging divides in regional cooperation by taking Pan-Nilism initiatives for addressing challenges related to the water-energy-food nexus.

71. Indigenous Ways of Tree Biodiversity Conservation in Traditionally Protected Forests and Sacred Sites: Experience from Gedeo Community, Southern Ethiopia, by Yospeh Maru, Dilla University, Ethiopia. Email: yospeh.mar@yahoo.com

This research was conducted in the Gedeo zone, Southern Ethiopia to explore indigenous types of tree biodiversity conservation in traditionally protected forests and sacred sites. The purpose of the study was to investigate the environmentally friendly indigenous practices and to explore the human-nature nexus in environmental management regimes. A qualitative research approach with a biodiversity inventory was carried out to inspect tree species diversity of both landscapes. The study used focus groups (FDGs), semi-structured interviews, participatory observations, historical archives and informal discussions with proposed informants. Local elders, traditional leaders, rainmakers, women leaders, traditional healers and development agents participated. The informants were purposively chosen from three kebeles (districts) based on their sex, age, and position in traditional institutions along with their length of stay in the study area. The research results determined that taboos and ancestral sanctions were playing critical roles in safeguarding the loss of biodiversity and mitigation. The local community set aside forest patches, totemic trees and Songo shrine places for spiritual and cultural purposes. In shrine places or sacred forest patches, people refrained from cutting down trees, grazing, molesting wildlife refuges in revered sites, and collecting fuelwood for home energy or other purposes. The species inventory shows that traditionally protected areas have higher species diversity than farming habitats. In this study, one amba sacred grove (forest patch), 35 totemic Songo trees and 34 Sacred Songo places were identified. In the sacred Amba Forest, 40 indigenous old tree species, 19 bird species, 25 wild animals and 30 traditional medicinal plants were recorded. The species comparison revealed that sacred areas were home to endangered tree species and 10 extinct tree species were recorded in the sacred groves due to their dedication for spiritual purposes and taboos. The spiritual forest patches were dedicated for praying to God when unexpected calamities (disasters) such as disease outbreak, pest-epidemics, war, drought and other social situations were happening. The cutting of trees, damaging of forests, and killing of animals were prohibited in refuges, so human encroachment to respectful forests and sacred sites was considered taboo. All members of the communities were forced to adhere to the ancestral sanctions to protect his/her families from impending calamities such as misfortune, death, loss of children, drought, land bareness, and pest-epidemics. In contrast, religious monotheism, social changes, lack of proper policies and legal enforcement, disregard of indigenous knowledge, and population pressure were main challenges and the driving factors for the erosion of indigenous practices and loss of biodiversity in the study area.
Federalism and National Question: Implications for National Security in Nigeria, by Yusuf Abdullahi, Nigeria. Email: ymanguella@gmail.com

Nigeria is a state with heterogeneous formation is composed of different ethnic groups. These differences are binding forces in classical Federal states in that it binds and promotes social and national cohesion in homogeneous states, so in a heterogeneous state social and national cohesion must be strived for. However, the reverse is the case with the practice of federalism in Nigeria. Nigeria’s federalism is characterized by numerous problems such as leadership and bad governance, resource control, and indigene settler dichotomy among others, and these have had adverse effects on nation building, social cohesion and stability. This paper relied on secondary data and content analysis as methodology. It argues that national questions affect national unity and social cohesion among Nigerians and have had negative repercussions on Nigeria’s national security. The paper recommends, among others points, that the governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), and community-based organizations (CBOs) should intensify public enlightenment campaigns on the need for peaceful co-existence. The principles of meritocracy should be adopted in appointments or employment into any position in government rather than Federal Character Principles or State/Zones. This may help to reduce mediocrity and corruption in the management or leadership positions, and thereby, encourage credible and visionary leaders while enhancing good governance in Nigeria.

The Application of the Sustainable Development Model to Slum Settlements in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, by Zafu Teferi, Curtin University, Australia. Email: assefazafu@gmail.com

Slum housing is a characteristic of the cities in the global south. In Africa, slum housing is very extensive, and in many cities like Addis Ababa, it can include about 80 percent of the population. Slum settlements in Addis Ababa have emerged in the built-up areas of the old inner city, and new slums are scattered throughout the rest of the city. This paper uses Newman’s sustainable cities model that looks at how inputs and waste outputs from a settlement need to be reduced whilst simultaneously improving livability. The paper examines slum dwellers living along an older slum settlement in Arit Kilo and compares them to residents of the nearby high-rise apartment blocks in Ginifle, who had previously been slum dwellers but who have been moved out into a modern high-rise complex using this framework. The result shows that a healthier, upgraded slum settlement is clearly better on all the environmental and footprint factors, and it creates a more livable place from the perspective of housing and economic development. However, the social aspects of such new developments do not induce the same quality of trust and depth of social networking found in the traditional slum settlements.
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