

Dr. Ahmed Sh. Ibrahim

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PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

The Graduate Center, City University of New York – New York, NY (Fall 2009 – Fall 2017)
PhD, Socio-cultural Anthropology

University of Minnesota – Minneapolis, MN (Fall 2004 – Spring 2008)
B.A. (Global Studies/International relations)
B.A. (Political Science)

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2023-Present Anthropology instructor, *Ecology and Anthropology in Tanzania*, Carleton College, Arusha, Tanzania.
- 2023-2025 Research Associate on “Geopolitics at the margins – Exploring emergent political orders across the Red Sea,” The Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, and the School of Global Studies (SGS) of University of Gothenburg, Sweden.
- 2019-2023 Co-founder and partner of *Institute for Research in Intellectual Histories of Africa (IRIHA)*, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- 2019-2021 Assistant Professor of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton College.
- 2019-2019 CODESRIA fellow in the Sociology and Anthropology Department, University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Tanzania.
- 2017-2019 Postdoctoral Fellow in Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton College, Northfield, MN.

PUBLICATIONS: REFEREED

- “Turkey in Somalia: From ‘Humanitarian Diplomacy’ to Strategic Relations.” *Security Monitor* (2025): 78-83.
- “Islam and Politics in Africa: Politics within and without the State,” in *Handbook of Islam in Africa* (Routledge 2022).
- Ahmed Ibrahim, Aditi Malik and Cori Wielenga. 2020. “Migration in sub-Saharan Africa: The Somali Refugee and Migrant Experience.” *African Studies Review* 63 (1): 9-17.
- “Changing of the guards: politico-religious authority and Islamic education in Mogadishu, Somalia.” *Islamic Africa* 9 (2018): 133-162.

- “The Shari’a Courts of Mogadishu: Lessons for Reconciliation,” in *War and Peace in Somalia: National Grievances, Local Conflicts and al-Shabaab*, edited by Michael Keating and Matt Waldmann (London: Hurst 2018).

- “The State and its Fragments: Debates on Kinship and the State in Somalia.” *Somali Studies: A Peer-Reviewed Academic Journal for Somali Studies*, Vol. 2 (2017): 8-30.

PUBLICATION: UNREFEREED

- “The Absent Present: Politics with(out) the State in Eastern Africa” Paper for CODESRIA 15th General Assembly co-authored with Natasha Shivji (2019).

- “The Shari’a Courts of Mogadishu: Shari’a Morality and Social Mobilization.” *Newsletter of the African Politics Conference Group* 12, no. 1 (February 2016).

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

- “The efficacy of strategic narratives: Somali perceptions of Turkey’s pivot to Africa,” with Jan Bachmann and Ozan Kuyumcoglu.

- “Property, authority, and the Shari’a in Somalia: Adjudicating land disputes and governing society in Mogadishu,” in *The Anthropology of Land*, edited by Preeti Sampat and Andres Leon.

POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

- “Somalia in the Crosshairs: the Consequences of the Iran War on Somalia,” *African Arguments*, (<https://africanarguments.org/2026/06/somalia-in-the-crosshairs-the-consequences-of-the-iran-war-on-somalia/>) June 2026.

- “US trashed Somalia, can we really scold its people for coming here?” *Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft*, (<https://responsiblestatecraft.org/somali-people-in-the-us/>) January 2026.

- “Why the US can’t beat al-Shabaab in Somalia,” *Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft*, (<https://responsiblestatecraft.org/trump-somalia-al-shabaab/>) April 2025.

- “Questions of Sovereignty-Somalia on the UN Security Council,” *ISS Blog Bliss*, (<https://issblog.nl/2024/10/01/in-this-blog-ahmed-sh-ibrahim-and-nisar-majid-consider-how-somalias-joining-of-the-un-security-council-at-a-time-when-its-nationally-recognised-government-controls-only-a-portions-of-its-t/>) October 2024.

- “US inks deal to build up to 5 bases in Somalia,” *Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft*, (<https://responsiblestatecraft.org/us-base-somalia/>) February 2024.

- “Poetry, nationalism, and al-Shabaab,” *Africa is a Country*, (<https://africasacountry.com/2023/12/poetry-nationalism-and-al-shabaab>) December 2023.

- “How Somalia never got back up after Black Hawk Down,” *Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft*, (<https://responsiblestatecraft.org/black-hawk-down-somalia/>) September 2023.

- “Ma’awisley: a double-edged sword in the fight against al-Shabaab,” *Rift Valley Institute*, (<https://riftvalley.net/publication/maawisley-double-edged-sword-fight-against-al-shabaab>) September 2023.
- “Can an al-Shabaab deputy-turned-Somali official open space for talks?” *Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft*, (<https://responsiblestatecraft.org/2022/09/07/controversial-new-somali-government-minister-opens-space-for-talks/>) September 2022.
- “‘Time of Dispersal:’ Elections and Memory of War in Somalia,” *London School of Economics Blog*, (<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/crp/2021/03/08/time-of-dispersal-elections-and-memory-of-war-in-somalia/>) March 2021.
- “State-building and COVID-19 in Somalia: Impact on Government Revenues,” *London School of Economics Blog*, (<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/crp/2020/09/02/state-building-and-covid-19-in-somalia-impact-on-government-revenues/>) August 2020.
- “War begets terror,” *Africa is a Country*, (<http://africasacountry.com/2017/11/war-begets-terror/>), November 2017.
- “Workshop on ‘Inclusion and Exclusion in sub-Saharan Africa: Migrants’ Challenges in Comparative Perspective,’” *Political Science Now*, (<http://www.politicalsciencenow.com>) March 2017.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

- “Horn of Africa and Red Sea politics workshop,” Mombasa, July 2025.
- “Challenges to Political Transitions and Strategies for Regional Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa,” Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS), Addis Ababa, June 2025
- Workshop on “Challenges to Political Transitions and Strategies for Regional Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa,” Social Science Research Council and Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS), Addis Ababa, June 2025
- “European Workshop in International Studies,” Kadir Has University, Turkey, July 2024.
- “APN Writing and Dissemination Workshop,” Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February, 2024.
- “APN Next-Gen Research Methods Workshop,” Gaborone, Botswana, July 2023.
- “Adjudicating land disputes and governing society,” workshop on *Anthropology of Land*, November 2021.
- “Land-Scapes of Conflict in southern Somalia,” University of Cambridge, Center of African Studies, Public Seminar series “Grounding the Struggle: Land and the Working People in the Global South,” November 2020.
- “Re-thinking Indian Ocean History,” *Institute for Research in Intellectual Histories of Africa*, March 2020.

- “Diaspora Formation in the Shadow of the GWOT: The Somali Diaspora in the U.S.,” at the University of Toronto – Toronto, ON, Canada (Feb. 2019).
- “Muslim Americans, Shari’a, and American Politics,” at Carleton College – Northfield, MN (March 2018).
- “The Shari’a and formation of political authority in Mogadishu, Somalia,” at American Anthropological Association – Washington, D.C. (November 2017).
- “The emergence of political authority on the basis of the Shari’a,” at African Studies Association – Chicago (November 2017).
- “Imperial relations and national expressions: Somali political engagement in Minnesota,” at Carleton College (March 2017).
- “Islamic Education, Rise of new Intellectuals, and Shari’a Practice,” at *Texts, Knowledge, Practice: The Meaning of Scholarship in Muslim Africa*, Harvard University Conference – Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts (February 2017).
- “Population displacement, migration, and the ‘war on terror’ in Somalia,” *Inclusion and Exclusion in Sub-Saharan Africa: Somalis’ challenges in Comparative perspective* – University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa (May 2016).
- “The Shari’a courts of Mogadishu: Beyond ‘African Islam’ and ‘Islamic law,’” *Reimagining Somali Studies: Colonial Pasts, Postcolonial Futures* – Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts (April 2016).
- “Demobilization, Disarmament, and Reintegration under the ‘War on Terror’ in Somalia,” *International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)* – New York, NY (April 2016).
- “Youth as a temporal concept in Somali political discourse,” *University of Minnesota International African Studies Conference* – Minneapolis, MN (March 2016).
- “The Temporality of Youth in Somalia,” *American Anthropological Association* – Denver, Colorado (November, 2015).
- “Power and Knowledge Production in Somali Studies,” *Somali Studies International Association Conference* – Helsinki, Finland (August 2015).
- “Dismantling of Mogadishu’s War Economy and the Union of Islamic Courts,” *American Political Science Association, Africa Workshop* – Nairobi, Kenya (July 2015).
- “Critical Thinking and Higher Education,” *Mogadishu University* – Mogadishu, Somalia (March 2014).
- “Human Rights and International Law,” *City University of New York* – New York, NY (October 2011).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Anthropological Association
- African Studies Association
- American Political Science Association
- Law and Society Association

LANGUAGES

- English: Spoken – Fluent; Written – Advanced
- Somali: Spoken – Fluent; Written – Advanced
- Swahili: Spoken – intermediate; Written – Intermediate