

Meron Zeleke Eresso

EDUCATION

PhD Social Anthropology Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies

MA Degree in Social Anthropology, Addis Ababa University

BA Degree in History, Addis Ababa University

PUBLICATIONS

Meron Zeleke.2013. “The Gendering Discourse in the Debates of Religious Orthodoxy”. In: Terje Ostebo and Patrick Desplat (eds.) *Muslim Ethiopia: The Christian Legacy, Identity Politics, and Islamic Reformism*. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.

Meron Zeleke. 2013. *Faith at the Crossroads: Religious Syncretism and Dispute Settlement in Northern Ethiopia*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag. (Forthcoming).

Meron Zeleke. 2013. “Competing Narratives on the Causes of Ethiopian Muslim Protests”. In: *Horn of Africa Bulletin*, 2013 (1), 6-9.

Meron Zeleke and Asebe Regassa.2013.“The Local Oromo Thanksgiving Ritual Going Global”. In: Afe Adogame (ed): *African Religion in the West*. Ashgate Publishing Ltd.

Meron Zeleke and Silvia Bruzzi. 2013. “A Dual Representation of Muslim Women in Eritrean and Ethiopian Sufi Shrines”. In: *the Journal of Northeast African Studies*. Vol. 12:2, 2013. (Forthcoming).

Meron Zeleke and Halkano Abdi. (ed.). 2012. *Trends, Discourses and Representations in Religions in Africa*. Institute of African Studies Series, Bayreuth.

Meron Zeleke. 2012. *Religious Syncretism and Dispute Settlement: A study of Sufi Shrine in North Central Ethiopia*. PhD dissertation: Social Anthropology. Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS).

Meron Zeleke. 2012. “Pilgrimage and Border-crossing: Christians at the Muslim Sufi Shrines in Northeastern Ethiopia“. In: Meron Zeleke and Halkano Abdi (eds.), *Trends, Discourses and Representations in Religions in Africa*. V (2) 2012.Institute of African Studies Publications: Bayreuth.

Meron Zeleke. 2011. “Terusina”. In: Siegbert Uhlig (ed.): *Encyclopedia Aethiopica*. Vol. 4: O-W. Wiesbaden:Harrassowitz.

Meron Zeleke. 2010a. “Ye Shakoch Chilot: The Court of the Sheikhs. A Traditional

Institution of Conflict Resolution in Oromia Zone of Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia”. African Journal of Conflict Resolution 10 (1). PP 63-84.

Meron Zeleke. 2010b. The Mother and the Bread Winner: The Socio Economic Role and Status of Gumuz Women. Munster: Lit Verlag.

Meron Zeleke. 2010c. “The Former Sufi Shrines and their Contemporary Courts”. Journal of Religion, Conflict and Peace. Vol. 3. Issue.2. Plowshares Inc.

Meron Zeleke .2005 The socio economic dis-empowerment of Women among the Gumuz Community. MA thesis submitted to the department of Social Anthropology. Addis Ababa University.

Meron Zeleke .2003 Social History: Analysis of Autobiographical Narratives of Dejazmach Yemane Kumsa Morada of Leqa Nekemte, BA thesis submitted to the Department of History, AAU.

Papers Presented at International Conferences /Workshops

2012. “The Signification of the Social Media in Religion: the Case of Ethiopia”. Paper presented at the International workshop: Opportunities and Chances of New Media - Utilizing New Technologies in Africa. University of Moi: Kenya.

2011. “Religious Innovation: The Spirit Possession Cult at Sufi Shrines”. 4th European Conference on African Studies (ECAS). Uppsala: Sweden.

2011. “Unity in Diversity. Pilgrimage across Religious Boundary in Ethiopia. The Case of Islamic Sufi Shrines”. International Conference of Pilgrimage in Pluralist Europe. Antwerp: Belgium.

2010. “Gender and the Intra-religious Ideological Conflict: the Case of the Sufi-Salafi dichotomy in Northeastern Ethiopia”: Paper presented at Bologna University: Italy.

2010. “Studying Religion in Contemporary Ethiopia: Insights from Anthropological Fieldwork in the contemporary socio-political landscape of Ethiopia”. Paper presented at the Workgroup of Religion in Contemporary Africa. Bayreuth, Germany.

2010. “Religion and Conflict Resolution”. The XXth Quinquennial World Congress of the International Association of the History of Religions conference Toronto, Canada.

2010. “Customary Institutions of Dispute Settlement in Ethiopia”. Rift Valley Institute Horn of Africa Lectures, Lamu, Kenya. Kenya.

2010. “Women, Access to Resources, and Representation”. Rift Valley Institute Horn of Africa Lectures, Lamu, Kenya.

2009. “Legal Choice Making: Opting for the Religious-based Courts than the State Court: The Case of Ye shakoch Chilot in North Eastern Ethiopia”. Paper presented at the 17th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa.

2009. “The Role of Religious Institutions in Conflict Resolution”. Paper presented at the International Seminar: The Role of Religion in Securing Society. Addis Ababa.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Since October 2012 - Assistant Professor of Social Anthropology.

Since 2009. Founder and Chair of the Network of Volunteers Ewkat in Makafal. Network of Western Educated Ethiopian youth Volunteers for higher learning.

Since July 2012-Representative for the Eastern African Chapter of the African Good Governance Network. AGGN.

March 2013. Researcher for the UK Department for International Development (DFID) project on Community Security and Justice Programme. Oromia National Regional State.

January 2013. Ethnographer for the gender dimension of the World Bank Project on Indigenous People in Ethiopia. South Omo and Borena Zones. Ethiopia.

October 2012. Trainer for the Fredrick Ebert Stiftung on Conflict Management. Adama.

April 2010-Nov 2011 . The International Students representative at the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies. BIGSAS.

April 2010-Nov 2011. Member of the Academic Committee of BIGSAS.

May 2010-June 2012. Coordinator of the work group Religion in Contemporary Africa.

Summer semester 2011: Teaching at the Social Anthropology Department of the University of Bayreuth. Germany.

January 2011: Research Assistant for UK Department for International Development (DFID) Research on Religious Radicalization: The Potential For and Signs of Religion Radicalization in Ethiopia.

June 2010 Lecturers at the Horn of Africa Courses, Rift Valley Institute, Lamu, Kenya.

December 2008-March 2010. Research, PhD research project on faith based Institutions of conflict Resolution, and inter faith conflict in Oromia zone of Amhara Regional state Ethiopia.

November 2008 _December 2008 Research Assistant, in the European Union Funded research project on Ethiopian Muslim Diaspora for Peace.

Dec 2006 – March 2007. Research Assistant, on the research project on Inter Ethnic Conflicts among the Nuer and the Anywaa in Gambella Regional State, Pact Ethiopia.

Aug 2005- November 2006. Lecturer, Life Lion College, Addis Ababa.

January 2005- April 2005. Researcher, as part of the partial fulfillment for MA Research in Benishangul Gumuz Region, on the socio economic disempowerment of Women among the Gumuz community.

February 2004 -March 2004. Research Assistant, the Ethiopian Public Health Association.

Sept 2003 - December 2003. Research Assistant, the Role of Churches in inter- ethnic Peace building, the case of the Gambella Peace and Development Council.

June 2002 - September 2002. Researcher in Nekemte Town and Addis Ababa, as part of the partial fulfillment for BA degree in History.

WORKSHOPS, EVENTS Organized and Attended

2012. Organized the workshop on Brain Drain and Its implication for Higher Education in Ethiopia. DAAD and Center for Human Rights. Addis Ababa.

2012 . Member of organizing committee of the Good Governance Debate Series Stuttgart /Freiburg.

2012. Workshop African Good Governance Network: “Internal Conflict in Africa”, 6-10 March. Bonn, Germany (certificate).

2012. Workshop “Governance & Economy in Africa”. Koln. May 29-30. (Certificate)

2012. Attended the workshop on Environmental Governance. 16-22 Sept. Freiburg, Germany (Certificate of Participation).

2012. Organized the International workshop Dynamics of Religious Reforms Movements in Contemporary Africa. Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies: Germany.

2012. Co-organized with Dr Silvia Bruzzi a panel on Gender and Religion at the 18th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies. “Social Movements in Ethiopia ”. Dire Dawa: Ethiopia.

2012. Participated at the expert interview panel discussion organized by the Deutsche

Welle. Value of customary institution of conflict resolution in contemporary socio-political Context of Ethiopia.

2012. Resource person for the Interview with the German Süddeutsche Zeitung (SZ). Studying in the Excellency initiative of African Studies: Insights to the Lived Experiences of African graduate Student in the Excellency initiatives.

2012. Skills training. Conflict Analysis. Bonn. (Certificate of training)

2012. Skills training. "Negotiation Skills. Koln. Germany (certificate of training)

2011. Organized a workshop on Gender and Development with Berlin Gender Competence Centre and BIGSAS. Germany.

2011. Workshop: Panacea for the Loss of Expertise in African Countries? Stuttgart. (Certificate)

2011. Organized the workshop International Career opportunities in Academics and Development for African Scholars. Germany.

2011. Organized a Workshop on 'Development Project Planning and Implementation'. Bayreuth.

April 2011- June 2012. Initiated and worked as co-coordinator of the work group of Scientific Reading and Thesis discussion group in BIGSAS. Bayreuth.

2011. Organized a workshop on Salience of Religion in Contemporary Africa. Bayreuth.

2011. Co-organized training on Teaching Informative and Interactive Courses at Higher Institutions. Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies. Germany.

2011. Workshop on Ethics and Governance: The Role of Moral Values in Socio- Political Governance and Decision Making in Africa. Bayreuth.

2011. Workshop on Living realities of legal pluralism, the University of Cape Town, South Africa (Certificate of attendance).

2009. Workshop on the Role of religion in Securing Society. Addis Ababa.

2009. Peace Research Capacity building Workshop, University of peace Africa Section.

MEMBERSHIPS

- Member of African Good Governance Network (AGGN)
- Member of International Network of Women Scholars on Religion
- Member of International Commission of legal pluralism.

- Member at the Ethiopian Sociologist, Social Anthropologist, and Social Workers Association.
- Member of YWCA (Youth World Christian Association).
- Member of Friends of Ethiopian Studies
- Member of the Bayreuth Work Group on Governance in Africa (BWGGA)
- Member of the Religion in Contemporary Africa Workgroup in BIGSAS.
- Founder of the Network of Knowledge Sharing: western Educated Young Ethiopian Volunteers
- Member of the DAAD Alumni
- Member of the University of Bayreuth Alumni

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2013. National University of Singapore. Short term visiting Scholar grant.

2013. The International Peace Research Association Foundation Small Peace research grants.

2013. The German Academic Exchange Programme DAAD publication grant for the PhD dissertation.

2009. Winner of the International Peace Research Association Dorothy Marcus Senesh fellowship for African Female PhD student.

2009. Simultaneous Doctoral grant from - DAAD PhD scholarship and KAAD PhD scholarship

2005. Winner of the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University Research Grant for MA research on Gender among the Gumuz society 2005.

2005. CPAR (Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief), research grant for MA research on Gender among the Gumuz society.