Gadaa as an Organizing Theme of Oromo Life: Tradition, Knowledge and Contemporary Significance

Date
July 28-30, 2017

Venue
The Dorothy Betts Marvin Theatre
Marvin Center

Local Arrangements
Biqiltuu: The Oromo Youth Association of Washington DC
Oromo Professionals Group
Oromo Community Organization of Washington DC

Conference Program
Friday July 28, 2017

Opening Session
5:30 PM – 11:30 PM
The George Washington University
Elliott School of International Affairs Building

Saturday July 29, 2017

Registration 8:00-9:00
Local Organizers

Session I: 9:00-10:15
Roundtable: No Woman Left Behind: Reframing an Understanding of Gadaa for the 21st Century
Moderator: Ayantu Tibeso, Minneapolis, MN.
A Stick in the Hand: Scholarship and Siqqee Sisterhood
Peri M. Klemm, California State University-Northridge
Arsi Oromo Women’s Sung Dispute Resolution Process in Ethiopia
Leila Qashu, Concordia University, Montreal.
The Survival of Gada Values among the Orma: A Case Study
Hilarie Kelly, University of La Verne, California
Women in the Gadaa System: Economic Players and Custodians of Sacred Knowledge
Bonnie Holcomb, The George Washington University
Diversity and Inclusion in Digital Institutions: Women in Gadaa and in Blockchain as a Paradigm
Naa’ol Dhugaa, BitGadaa.
Discussant
Daniel Ayana, Youngstown State University

Session II: 10:20-11:35
Panel: Gender Suffering and the Saga of Siinqee-Addooyyee Protection: The Lived Experiences of Oromo Women and Girls in Ontario
Chair: Nasir Kenea, City of Markham, Canada
Fayyaa-Nagaa: The Oromo Conceptual Framing of Health and Wellbeing
Begna Dugassa, Toronto Public Health, Kuwee Kumsaa, Wilfrid Laurier University, Badri Adam, Toronto, Canada
Maree, Ciccoo and Kakuu: Cultural Resources for Methodological Framing of Research
Bilise Lome, Brock University, Kuwee Kumsaa, Wilfrid Laurier University
Muka Dhibu Bira Muka Jigu’ Jira: Nuances and Double Standards in the Lived Experiences of Oromo Women and Girls
*Baredu Abraham, Oromo Canadian Community of Toronto, Bilise Lome, Brock University*

Gender Suffering and Human Rights: Confronting the Taboo!
*Dammee Sero, Wilfred Laurier University, Baredu Abraham, Oromo Canadian Community of Toronto*

I Refuse Erasure!
*Tolee Biya, University of Toronto*

**Break 10:35 – 10:45**

**Session III: 11:45-12:30**
*Featured Speakers: Women in Leadership and their Impact on Society*
Amane Badhasso and Elella Daba
Introduced by Yadessa Boji

**Lunch 12:30-2:00 (Business Meeting)**

**Session IV: 2:00-3:15**
*Panel: Gadaa Democracy in Representation and in Practice*
Chair: Mohammed Hassen, Georgia State University
The Representation of Democratic Egalitarian Philosophy in Oromo Myths
*Teferi Nigussie Tafa, Norwich University*

Making Oromo Movies and Television in Ethiopia
*Bayisa Tura, Kelbessa Megersa, Hanna Adem and Kumsa Tamana*

Toward a Theory of Cinematic Form for Gada Democracy in Oromo Movies
*Steven W. Thomas, Wagner College*

Humour in the Oromo Indigenous Cultural Context: Historical Perspectives and Significance in Communication
*Zelealem Aberra, University of Tampere*

**Session V: 3:20-4:35**
*Panel: The Gadaa System in Periods of Transition*
Chair: Getahun Benti, University of Southern Illinois

*Guluma Gemedela, University of Michigan-Flint*

Gadaa Laws, the Rationales and Methods of Conflict Resolution in an Oromo Society: The Case of Gumaa
*Abbas Gnamo, University of Toronto*

Old References and New Clues about Oromo in Southern Egypt/Northern Nubia: Revisiting Egyptian and Nubian Sources
*Daniel Ayana, Youngstown University*

Management of Oromo Life at the Raabaa Doorii of Odaa Bultum
*Hassen Aymo, San Diego, California*

**Break 4:35 – 4:45**

**Session VI: 4:45 -5:45**
*Roundtable: Women in Oromo Society: Exploring Kuwee Kumsa’s Scholarship*
Moderator: Bonnie Holcomb, George Washington University
Zakia Posey, Baltimore County Community College
Ayantu Tibesito, Minneapolis, MN
Siyade Gemechisa, Baltimore, MD
Awol Allo, Keele University, UK.

**Session VII: 5:50 -6:50**
*Roundtable: Gadaa as an Organizing Model in Creating Global Gummi Oromia*
Moderator: Bichaka Feyissa, Middle Tennessee State University
Jamal Ibrahim, Gumii Oromiya Adugna
Abdulajil Abdalla, Gumii Oromiya Adugna
Rundasaa Ashetee, Gumii Oromiya Adugna
Guluma Gemedela, University of Michigan-Flint

**Sunday July 30, 2017**

**Session VIII: 9:00-10:15**
*Panel: Climate Change, Oromo Indigenous Farming and Emerging Food Safety Problems*
Chair: Samuel Geleta, Salisbury University

The Role of Oromo Indigenous Knowledge in Mitigating the Impacts of Climate Change, on Soil Ecosystem and Crop Productions
*Ayalew Ligaba, Delaware State University*

Climate Change and Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Livestock: Mitigating the threats through the Oromo Indigenous Knowledge
*Fantahun Diba, Baltimore City Community College*

Climate Change and Food Safety as Emerging Public Health Problem: Opportunities and Challenges of Pursuing Solutions from the Oromo Indigenous Knowledge
*Begna Dugassa, Toronto Public Health*

Building Resilience from Oromo Perspective: Social, Economic and Environmental Aspects: Applying Gadaa Science
*Tolessa Deksissa, University of the District of Columbia*
**Session IX: 10:15-11:30**

**Panel: Gadaa Democracy in Oromia and in the World**

**Chair:** Mekuria Bulcha, Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala

- Make Oromia Great Again: The Gadaa Way
  - Alemayehu Debelo, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Germany
- Gadaa Outside of Oromia? Some Possibilities for Australia and the USA
  - David Schecter, newDemocracy Foundation
- Envisaging Neo-Gadaa in Contemporary Oromia: An Essay for Praxis
  - Zelalem T. Sima, University of Coimbra, Portugal
- Comparative Analysis of Two Indigenous Models of Democratic System
  - Alemanyh Kumsa, Charles University, Prague

**Break 11:30-11:45**

**Session X: 11:45-12:30**

**Keynote Address**

Gadaa as an Organizing Theme of Oromo Life: Knowledge, Tradition and Contemporary Significance

- Speaker: Prof. Asmarom Legesse
- Introduced by Ezekiel Gebissa

**Lunch 12:30 – 2:00**

**Session XI: 2:00-3:00**

**Panel Gadaa Democracy in Comparative Perspective**

**Chair:** Ebissa Regassa, Chicago State University

- Gadaa as a Foundation of the State Constitution of Oromia
  - Bona Gishe, George Mason University
- Democratic and Secured Oromo Life and Lifestyles in Oromo Farming Villages in the Walliso Area: A Personal Observation
  - Mossisa Regessa, London, England
- Gadaa, Waaqeффannah and Irreecha
  - Asnake Erko, Waaqeффannya Oromo Assembly, Norway

**Session XII: 3:05-4:20**

**Panel: Building Oromo Institutions in the Diaspora: The Case of Oromia Media Network**

**Chair:** Dereje Hawaz, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories

- Inferior Institutional Configurations and the Oromo Quest for Freedom
  - Terferi Mergo, University of Waterloo
- The Challenges, Opportunities and the Difficult Task of Sustaining Oromia Media Network
  - Mohammed Hassen, Georgia State University
- Lessons for the Future: The Way Forward
  - Asfaw Beyene, San Diego State University

**Break 4:20 – 4:30**

**Session XIII: 4:30-5:15**

**Roundtable: Issue of Oromo Women and Representation in Decision-making**

**Moderator:** Demitu Argo, University of Washington

- Elella Daba, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
- Anaf Lello Wako, Siiqqee Chronicles
- Lello Negera, Washington DC

**Session XIV: 5:15-6:15**

**Panel: Politics of Genocide and Displacement**

**Chair:** Gifti Paulos, Lanham, MD

- The Politics of Genocide Denial in Ethiopia
  - Joanne Eisen, Independent Institute
- New Media and Social Movements in Authoritarian States: A Multinational Impact Analysis and Synthesis
  - Habtamu Dugo, University of the District of Columbia
- Geopolitics, Authoritarianism and Refugee Crises in the Horn of Africa: A Multidisciplinary Inquiry into The #Oromoprotest in Ethiopia
  - Henok Gabbisa, Washington and Lee University