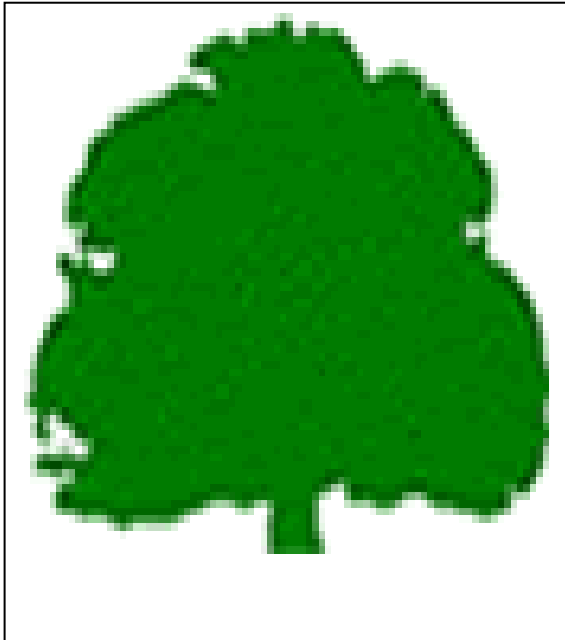


# OSA Newsletter

## Oromo Studies Association

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1. **A Message from OSA President**
2. **2007 OSA Annual Conference Program**
3. **Books You Need to Have**

## 1. A Message from OSA President

Dear OSA Family,

OSA conference is only days away and I am excited to meet you all in the capital of Oromia outside of Oromia. The Oromo Sport Federation in North American (OSFNA), the International Oromo Youth Association (IOYA), Oromo-American Citizen Council (OACC), Run for Oromia and many other Oromo political and religious meetings had been planned to take place in the last two weeks of July, 2007. It is all Oromo in the Twin-Cities. This is a place where Oromos walk tall and feel proud. It is a place where Oromos call home away from home and it is our Oromia, but just a "Little Oromia".

I am overwhelmed by the requests many deserving individuals are making to share a room with someone and/or get help transportation from the airport. I have their names and their arrival times from overseas and please and please if you can help, you will make a friend for life. Please contact me at my personal e-mail and you will be glad, and I will appreciate your help immensely. Please contact adde Tsehay, OSA treasurer, if you want to help financially.

One very important issue I would like to mention is TIME. Please plan accordingly and be present at the meeting halls as scheduled. Even though OSA has rented to two meeting halls, we will still be under time pressure to conduct our meetings as scheduled for our own benefit. Please make OSA your priority and join us with anticipation and positive spirit to take part and enjoy quality presentations. Many of our presenters have spent many hours, travelled thousands of miles and spent a lot of money to bring you their best research, observations and experiences. It is your responsibility to sit on a comfortable chair, marvelous hall and share their thoughts through their presentations.

The Ad hoc Inquiry Committee (ICOM) OSA Executive Committee established has completed its work and submitted its report. They are Dr. Daniel Ayana, Dr. Abebe Adugna, Dr. Ayalew Kanno and Obbo Ebissa Ahmed. They have produced, in my opinion, the best report OSA members will be proud of use it for future references. On behalf of the OSA Executive Committee, I would like to congratulate the ICOM members and want to thank them for this historical and complete report. The ICOM will present its findings during one of the two OSA Business meetings scheduled; either on Saturday or Sunday evening. We have allocated 6:00-

11:00 pm with one hour break for dinner at site on Saturday night, and 4:00-9:00 pm with optional one hour dinner break on Sunday night. Thus, OSA Executive Committee believes the time allocated is more than enough to resolve any outstanding issues and to move on to face the next challenges of OSA. Please send me your agenda items for consideration. I honestly believe the children of Gada will rise up and claim their ancestors embodied spirit of unity, tolerance, allegiance and work in harmony for a brighter a stronger OSA. OSA is only TWENTY ONE years old and is still active, full of energy and still growing experiencing growing pains.

If you have visited an OSA website recently, you might have noticed its new look. A young, brave and talented individual who felt the work that needs to be volunteered and spent many hours and resources to create such an attractive site. On behalf OSA, I want to thank an OSA member who took this initiative and make us all look good in the universe of web community. If we work together in the field of our individual expertise and talent, we can accomplish more collectively. Please send me your inputs, questions, comments and suggestions about the new look of the website so that I will pass on the information.

## **2. 2007 OSA Conference Program**

There are only few changes from the preliminary program you received a while ago. Only a few reshuffles and time allocation to each speaker has changed from 20 minutes to 15 minutes. I would like to impress on our presenters to abide by this shorter time and prepare their presentations accordingly for a smooth flow of the programs. If you have PowerPoint presentations or anything that needs multimedia equipment, make sure your panel chair knows about it ahead of time. The panel chairs have full responsibility to enforce the time as indicated and limit the number of questions or comments from the audience accordingly. If there is a question you must ask and did not get the chance to do so during the conference, I have the e-mail address of all presenters and I will forward your question(s) to the individual of your interest promptly. You may make a concerted effort to contact the speaker if he/she is willing to answer you questions courteously after the presentation. Since we will be conducting concurrent presentations, please make sure you know what is going on in both halls before you decide which presentation to attend. I do not anticipate significant changes, but please always be flexible and enjoy your fellowship with old and new friends. Please let me know if any correction is needed to the program immediately.

## 2007 OSA Annual Conference Schedule

The University of Minnesota  
Coffman Memorial Union  
Great Hall

Ω **Saturday, July 28, 2007** Ω

9:00 AM **Registration**

Welcome: OSA President

Welcome: University of Minnesota

Religious Leaders	Ceremony and Blessing
Oromo Student Union	Recognitions

10:10 AM

### Keynote Speakers

Obbo Zegeye Asfaw	<b>OSA Keynote Speaker</b>
Adde Bangu Qaweti Letu	<b>OSA Keynote Speaker</b>
A Letter from Obbo Dirribi	
Demissie Bokku	<b>Macaa-Tulama Association (M.T.A.) President</b>

11:00 AM

### Panel 1: The Human Rights Situation in Ethiopia

**Chair: Prof. Seifudein Adem**

Dr. Trevor Trueman	The Human Rights Record of the Ethiopian Government: An American Import
Obbo Firehiwot Samuel	Human Rights Violations by the Ethiopian Government: The Inquiry Commission Report
Obbo Obang Metho	The Anuake Human Rights Violations

11:45 PM

### Panel 2: Discourse on Oromo Music by Oromo Musicians

**Chair: Prof. Asfaw Beyene**

Obbo Ali Birra	Oromo Music: Voice of Oromo Identity and Nationalism
Adde Elfinesh Qanno	The Challenges and Roles of Oromo Artists in Diaspora
Obbo Qamar Yusuf	Role of Oromo Music in Construction of Oromo Identity and Nationalism

12:30 Noon

**Lunch, on Site**

1:30 PM

**Panel 3: Forming and Building the State in the 21st Century Oromia**

**Chair: Dr. Beyan H. Asoba**

Prof. Asafa Jalata	Applying Gada Principles to Form and Build the State in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Oromia
Prof. Guluma Gemada	Oromo State Formations in Historical Perspective
Prof. Ezekiel Gebissa	Political Transitions and Common Fallacies in the Debate on Oromo Liberation
Rev. Harwood D. Schaffer	Agricultural/Economic Policy for a New State in the Horn of Africa

2:30 PM

**Panel 4: The Constants of Ethiopian Rulers: Repression, Human Rights Abuse and Poverty**

**Chair: Dr. Melaku Mekonnen**

Dr. Mohamed Mukhtar Hussein	Who Owns the Ethiopian Nation-State? Understanding the Ethiopian – Somali Ogaden Conflict
Adde Fowsia Abdulkadir	The Impact of a Century Long Human Rights Abuses on the People of Ogaden
Prof. Mohammed Hassen	Brutality: The Art of Governing in Ethiopia

3:15 PM

**Panel 5: The Oromo Women: The Complex Nature of Oromo Women Struggle**

**Chair: Adde Dunee Silga**

Obbo Zegeye Asfaw	Economic Empowerment and Human Rights Education of Women in Oromia
Adde Zeituna Kalil	The Cultural Oppression of Oromo Women in the Society
Adde Bengu Qaweti	Siigqee: An Oromo Women Empowerment Tool

4:00 PM

**Panel 6: Second Edition on Oromo Democracy and The Quarterly Burqaa Magazine**

**Chair: Prof. Asafa Jalata**

Prof. Asmerom Legese	Oromo Democracy: Publication of the Second Full Edition and Follow up; My Visit to the Oromo Immigrant Community in "East Leigh, Nairobi"; My Dialogues with Arsi Elders, and My First Ever Field Trip to Tana River Orma
Obbo Darara Matti	Deemsa Guddina og Barruu Afaan Oromoo Keessatti Gahee Maxxansa Burqaa.

4:35 PM

**Panel 7a: Challenges and Opportunities for the Oromo People's Quest for Self-Determination**

**Chair: Dr. Sentayehu D. Bedane**

Dr. Alemayehu Biru	Can Democracy Deliver a Comprehensive Solution to the Complex Problems of the Ethiopia Empire?
Obbo Leenco Lata	The Emergence and Consolidation of Electoral Authoritarianism in Ethiopia.
Prof. Asfaw Beyene	The Oromo Struggle: What next? A Synopsis of Challenges and Opportunities

5:20 PM

**Panel 7b: Challenges and Opportunities for the Oromo People's Quest for Self-Determination**

**Chair: Prof. Gobena Huluka**

Dr. Negasso Gidada	Invoking the Right to Self-Determination in Ethiopia; Relevant or Taboo? The Oromo Quest to Self-Determination
Obbo Mesfin Namarra	Trends and Prospects of Voicing Oromo Issues in Parliament
Prof. Marara Gudina	The Ethiopian State, Electoral Politics and Oromo People's Quest for Democracy

6:15 End of Saturday schedule

[OSA Business Meeting, Members Only Go](#) **The Mississippi Hall**

Ω **End** Ω

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**The Mississippi Hall**

Ω **Saturday, July 28, 2007** Ω

1:15 PM

**Panel 8: The State of Health in Oromia**

**Chair: Dr. Gudata Hinika**

Dr. Ibrahim Elemo	The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Oromiya
Dr. Begna Dugassa	Collective Rights and Public Health: The Case of Oromia.
Obbo Kadiro Elemo	The Role of Customary Law in the Prevention of HIV/AIDS with Special Emphasis to the Boorana Gadaa System

2:00 PM

**Panel 9: The Oromo Youth (The Qubee Generation): Challenges and Opportunities**

**Chair – Adde Arfasse Gemed**

Obbo Jawar Mohamed	The Origins and Challenges of Regional and Religious Divide Within the Oromo Nation: Possible Solutions for the New Generation
Gadab Foundation	Empowerment through Education: Building the Future of the Oromo Nation
Adde Gelane Gamechisa	A Youth Perspective on the Struggle to Define Oromummaa in the 21st Century: Exploring Internal and External Identity Issues Facing Oromo Youth in Diaspora
Obbo Damee Ormaa	Oromo Youth in Diaspora: Challenges and Opportunities

3:00 PM

**Panel 10: The Question of Oromo Self-Determination**

**Chair: Prof. Ezekiel Gebissa**

Dr. Bahiru Duguma	Trends and the Dynamics of Oromo Struggle: Impacts of the First on the Latter
Obbo Darara Gubo	Self-Determination Rights in Ethiopia: The Case of Oromia
Obbo Daba S. Gedafa	Some of the Challenges and Solutions for Oromo's Self-Determination in 21 <sup>ST</sup> Century
Prof. Tsega Etefa	Pan-Oromo Confederations in the Seventeenth Century: A Legacy?

**4:00 PM    Ω       End       Ω    Please go to Coffman Memorial Great Hall**

**Coffman Memorial Union  
Great Hall**

**Ω    Sunday, July 29, 2007    Ω**

10:00 AM

**Panel 11: Strengthening the Core Components of Oromo National Movement**

**Chair: Dr. Bonnie Holcomb**

Prof. Addisu Tolessa	Organizational Models for Oromo National Movement: Lessons from the Past for Present Realities
Obbo Dima Noggo	Leadership in National Liberation Struggle: The Oromo Experience
Obbo Lube Biru	The Importance of Unity and Tolerance for Oromo National Movement
Obbo Kebede Feda	Family Size and Children's School Attendance in Rural Oromia

10:45 AM

**Panel 12: Sustainability and Natural Resources**

**Chair: Dr. Alemayehu Biru**

Obbo Mohamed Adilo	Invasion of Borana Rangelands by Woody Perennials: Climate Change or Institutional Constructs?
Dr. Tolessa Deksisa and Obb Bula Atomssa	Deforestation is Putting Fresh Water Resource at Risk in Oromia
Obbo Mohamed Bedri	A Grassroots Oromo Organization: Activities of Saphalo Foundation in Kenya
Obbo Zegeye Asfaw	The March 5, 1975, Land Proclamation and Its Impact: A Historical Retrospective

11:45 PM

**Lunch, on site**

1:00 PM

**Panel 13: Gada: An Indigenous African Democracy**

**Chair: Dr. Asmerom Legesse**

Obbo Rundassa Eshete	Evaluating the Gadaa System and Compare It to Other Social Organizations Around the World
Obbo Aman Qamsare	The Past, the Present and the Future of Gadaa
Obbo Daba S. Gedafa	Comparison of Oromo's Gada System with Maasai's Age-set System
Obbo Lube Biru	Oromoo Gadaa System: Unacknowledged Indigenous African Socio-Political Democracy

2:00 PM

**Panel 14: What Clicks to the Oromo Youth?**

**Chair: Obbo Jawar Mohamed**

Obbo Beka Jalata	Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela: Lessons for Oromo Struggle for National Liberation
Adde Kulani Jalata	Oromo Nationalist Heroes
Oromo Youth (TN)	Regional and Religious Divide within the Oromo Nation: Facts or Myths?
Gadab Foundation	Empowerment through Education: Building the Future of the Oromo Nation

3:00 PM

**Ω End Ω**

[OSA Business Meeting, Members Only Go](#) **The Mississippi Hall**

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**The Mississippi Hall**

**Ω Sunday July 29, 2007 Ω**

1:00 PM

**Panel 15: Discourses on Ethiopian Political Changes**

**Chair – Dr. Mesfin Abdi**

Dr. Teka Obsa Fogi	Oromo Identity and the Christian Faith
Obbo Apee Jobi	Some Thoughts on the Narrative of Modern Ethiopian Nationalists
Prof. Sisay Asefa	Peace, Democracy and Progress in Ethiopia

1:45 PM

**Panel 16: Education as Basis for Development of Oromia**

**Chair: Prof. Addisu Tolessa**

Obbo Dinku Deyasa	The Status and Role of Private Higher Education in Oromia
Obbo Kebede Hordofa	Preliminaries to Oromo Dialectology: Towards Sub-classification

2:30 PM

**Panel 17: Entrepreneurship and Business Potentials for the Oromos**

**Chair: Prof. Mosisa Aga**

Obbo Amsalu Bultosa	Oromia Business Environments and Its Prospects
Obbo Samuel Gamtessa	Playing for the Best Bet in the Non-Cooperative World: Some Lessons from the Theory of Games of Strategy
Obbo Mike Abebe	Entrepreneur and Business Potential of Oromos in Diaspora
Obbo Desta Galgalu	Connecting Immigrants to the Financial System of USA: The Case of Oromo Immigrants

**3:30 PM**

### 3. Book You Must Have in Your Shelf

There are many books and journals and other items that will be exhibited at the conference. Some of the books are written about Oromos and/or by Oromos. I will like to impress on you to buy them for yourself, your friends and for anyone be it your hometown library just as a gift for someone. Dr. Asmarom Legesse will be presenting his Second Full Edition and Follow up “**Oromo Democracy: An Indigenous African Political System**”. Dr. Asmarom put Gada on the map of great social and political institutions that were never expected from an indigenous Africa nation. Please buy one and get autographed since Dr. Asmarom will be at OSA conference.

The other book is the book Dr. Ayalew Kanno, an OSA member, translated from fresh to English, **The Oromo, An Ancient People, Great African Nation**. Dr. Mohammed has written a great commentary on this book in the February/March 2007 JOS edition on pages 147-164. Dr. Ayalew generously donated about 400 of this to OSA. By buying this indispensable book, your are not only disseminating great information about Oromos, but your are also helping OSA. If you have already bought one last year, buy another one for your children, wife, husband and friends. It is a win-win situation where you buy a great and help OSA at the same time. We will have enough for everyone and please make sure you buy at least one.

The other book in my shelf a book written by Dr. Alemayehu Biru Worku, entitled **Individual Versus Communal Autonomy, A Critical Study Of Rawls' Liberal Conception of Pluralism**, 206 pages and I do highly recommend for serious analysis and in depth understanding of political philosophy. Dr. Alemayehu, a philosopher himself, suggests alternatives to the dominant Rawls’ *A Theorey of Justice* in political philosophy. Limited number of this book will be available with the author autographing for you when you purchase one. Buying books in general will initiate others to write and encourages those who have been writing. It is with noble intentions that I ask to get these great books and others that will be available at the conference. After all, at the end, we will die for what we love, we love only what we understand, and we understand only what we are taught or read. This is a good reason to buy these great books.

A Letter from Dr. Mohammed Hassen

### **Acknowledgement**

In my statement, which appeared in the previous issue of OSA Newsletter, I did not include Dr. Getahun Benti in my acknowledgement. The reason why I did not include his name in my list was lack of information. I did not know at the time that Drs. Guluma Gameda and Getahun Benti jointly compiled the brochure that I mentioned in my statement. It was only after my statement appeared in the newsletter, that I remembered that Dr. Getahun was the chair of OSA External Activities Adhoc Committee during 2005/2006. As part of his duty, Getahun together with Guluma prepared leaflets about OSA activities, which were distributed during the African Studies Association Conference, held in Washington DC in November 2005. Once again, during the 2006 African Studies Conference, which was held in San Francisco, in November 2006, Getahun distributed at his own expense leaflets that included the titles of all the articles that have been published in the JOS up to that time and other OSA activities. I sincerely thank Dr. Getahun Benti, for his genuine efforts of advertising OSA activities the task that is expected of every OSA member- especially those who are involved in academic activities.

### **Correction**

In paragraph three, last line of my statement, that appeared in the previous OSA Newsletter, I incorrectly stated the University of Michigan at East Lansing. I should have stated it as Michigan State University at East Lansing. I apologize for the error.

Mohammed Hassen

Thanks Dr. Mohammed for the agenda items you suggested. I will include in my agenda list and present them to the general assembly for considerations. I will like to use this opportunity ask all members to send me agenda items you will like to considered for the general assembly. I have attached a corrected version of OSA Bylaws draft that will be discussed at the business meeting for your information.

Well, my time is up and I do sincerely thanks for yours. I look forward seeing you at OSA Conference and wish you all a safe trip!

Together we can do more for OSA.

Nagaan,

*Gebana Huluka*

OSA President

<http://www.romostudies.org>