

Call for Papers: Special issue of the *Journal of Oromo Studies* marking the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Oromo Studies Association.

Theme: “Leadership, Empowerment and Grassroots Participation among the Oromo: Historical and Contemporary Issues”

In recent years, the study of the leadership and grassroots participation in political processes, economic development, and maintenance of peace has seen a revival of interest. This has been driven by efforts to develop new approaches to academic studies aiming to find sustainable solutions to vexing political and economic problems affecting large portions of the global community. A new set of post-heroic theories have challenged researchers to think and imagine leadership as a relationship in which leaders influence the knowledge, capabilities, and interest of followers. And these theories do not necessarily assume that effective leadership requires recognized positions of authority or tried-and-true models. Instead, they promote imagination, adaptive learning, and stakeholder participation.

The Horn of Africa has its share major challenges related to poverty, security, and the environment. It has become painfully clear that there are no “easy” solutions to these problems, and consequently it is going to take deep and sustained reflection, from all viewpoints—technical, social, economic, cultural, historical, and spiritual, among others—if progress is to be achieved. The *Journal of Oromo Studies* (JOS) seeks to publish a special issue dedicated to exploring the leadership dimensions of the problems of equity, peace, and environmental sustainability in the Horn of Africa.

This special issue investigates the variety of contexts in the Horn region in which leadership challenges are manifested. In particular, we call for papers that explore the crises of leadership and other factors that have beset the realization of the Oromo people’s aspiration for self determination. The purpose is not to spend time cataloging and bemoaning the myriad problems that the Oromo and other peoples in the Horn face, but to propose new ways to rethink and imagine the relationships and interactions between the various actors, spaces, networks, and contexts that affect leadership development and organizational competency. We seek contributions that examine the ways by which a host of authorities in the Horn countries have transformed and reconfigured notions of power, human rights, and identities in the past. We also seek contributions that attempt to put forth novel and creative solutions that will address the challenges. The list of topics given below assumes the Oromo to be the primary focus but contributions addressing the challenges of other peoples in the region are also welcome.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

Examining the factors hindering responsible leadership from emerging

- Conceptions of power, hegemony, and coercion in historical perspectives
- Participatory approaches in leadership
- The ‘lived realities’ of Oromo leaders under Abyssinian colonial rule

- Empire and distorted notions of sovereignty, boundary and space
- Empire, nation, state, and the transformation of identities
- Global powers inhibiting leadership development and the empowerment of people
- Conceptions of power and human rights violations historically and currently
- The role of formal schooling (formal educational curricula) and the informal teachings (religious teachings) inhibiting leadership development and community empowerment

Exploring models of effective leadership in society, specifically in dealing with political, economic, social, and environmental challenges

- Leading change in extreme situations (the many challenges in the Horn)
- Pathways to leadership that can influence the empowerment of people and capacity building
- Roles of responsible leadership in solving political, economic, social, and environmental problems
- Using cultural resources in developing effective leadership for solving some of the most pressing societal problems
- Effective leadership strategies and approaches that can mobilize stakeholders to create social change for the better
- Examining the relationship between cultural context and understanding of effective leadership
- Effective leadership for creating an ethical climate that can promote responsible governance
- Leadership in conflict resolution and peace making
- The role of leadership in managing resource, cultivating stakeholder culture, and maintaining systems of accountability
- Identifying the characteristics of responsible leaders and their followers?
- Leadership styles best suited to the challenges in the Horn of Africa
- Effective leadership for creating social innovation and social capital
- Incentives for responsible leadership behavior
- Explaining how responsible leaders make decisions, solve problems and cope with moral dilemmas
- Ways of developing talented people to become effective leaders
- Effective leadership and social entrepreneurship as approaches to solving the problems of poverty, security, and environmental challenges.

Process, Standards & Timeline

- All submissions will go through a double-blind review process.
- The paper selection criteria the *Journal of Oromo Studies* apply.
- To be considered for the special issue contributors should meet deadlines
 - 1 January 2011: submission of article proposals
 - 10 January 2011: notification of acceptance
 - 14 March 2011: submission of articles

Proposals (500 words) as well as any inquiries regarding the issue should be sent to Ezekiel Gebissa (egebissa@kettering.edu).