

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE 2011 OSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Theme:

Building Transformative and Dynamic Leadership and Facilitating the Empowerment of People in Oromia and the Greater Horn of Africa

Date: July 29-31, 2011

Venue: University of Minnesota

Objective:

In Oromia and in the Greater Horn of Africa, collective violence and human rights violations are widespread and recurrent famines and preventable diseases are taking the lives of millions of people each year. The efforts made by international organizations are ill-planned and do not address the core problems. Indeed, international aid is used by the Ethiopian government to repress and terrorize, to control and manipulate, and to perpetuate absolute poverty and powerlessness. The international aid industry has created two types of societies- charity givers (Euro-Americans) and charity receivers (the people of the Horn), legitimizing the use of global power that benefits only the few. The Ethiopian government has violated individual and collective rights of the Oromo people and denied them the right to develop independent institutions and leadership. To empower the Oromo people and to end their sufferings require a strong, united, and transformative leadership. This necessitates studying critically and thoroughly about the process of leadership and examining the challenges and the opportunities the Oromo people face in developing their leadership.

Expected outcomes

At the end of the conference, participants are expected to have a better understanding of the complexities in developing leadership, the challenges that colonized people face in the advancement of leadership, and the opportunities they have to do so. The participants are also expected to understand the importance of research on the issues of leadership formation and strategic planning.

Directions

In order to construct knowledge on the process of leadership development and introduce innovative cultural and political ideas and facilitate change in Oromia and the Greater Horn of

Africa, the Oromo Studies Association (OSA) has selected its theme for the 2011 Annual Conference. For this conference, papers will be screened on the qualities of the theories the presenters offer and the practical applicability of the theories to Oromia and the Horn of Africa. The presenters can organize their papers around the following questions.

Theoretical issues

- How can we define, explain, conceptualise, and reflect on and critique the ideas of leadership and empowerment?
- What are the core questions to be asked in researching the issues of leadership & empowerment?
- What does it mean in practice to have leadership that empowers people?
- What are the importance of studying, theorizing, and examining the processes of leadership and empowerment?
- What are the shortcomings in our knowledge in the areas of leadership and empowerment?
- What kinds of methodologies and theoretical frameworks can we apply to examine the relationships between leadership and empowerment?

Practical issues

- Some scholars explain that leadership is something that is learned and others regard it as something that you grow with as part of the culture. If the colonized people do not have control on their education and resources, how can they influence the type of leadership their children should develop?
- If a society is under a colonial rule and has no control over its social, economic, political, cultural and environmental affairs, what type of leadership can its children develop?
- What are the manifestations of the presence and absence of a strong leadership?
- What are the pathways through which leadership can influence the empowerment of people?
- What are the 'lived realities' of Oromo leaders under the Ethiopian colonial administration?
- How can we cultivate a kind of leadership that is accountable to the people?
- How did global powers under-develop the leadership of the colonized people like the Oromo?
- What are the relationships between human rights violations and the underdevelopment of leadership?
- How does culture positively or negatively influence the development of leadership?
- What are the impacts of the denial of leadership?
- How are the colonial schooling (formal educational curricula) and the informal teachings (religious teachings) influencing leadership development and the empowerment of people?

- What are the differences in cultures that promote democratic leadership and supports justice and equality and ones that foster dictatorship and underdevelopment?
- What are the roles of information and scientific technology in the development of leadership and empowerment of people?

Paper submissions:

You can send your abstracts from January 3rd 2011 to March 15th, 2011 to Dr. Begna Dugassa at b.dugassa@utoronto.ca

Full papers are expected by April 15th, 2011

We accept both individual papers and panels.

Thank you,

Galatoma