

CALL FOR PAPERS TO THE OSA 2011 MID YEAR CONFERENCE

Conference Theme:

Re-examining Theories and Practices of Human Capacity Building in
Oromia and the Greater Horn of Africa and Challenging Misguided
Practices

Date: April 2-3, 2011

Venue: Carlton University

Ottawa, Canada

The Oromo Studies Association (OSA) is a multi-disciplinary scholarly organization, engaged in producing knowledge that promotes social justice, individual and collective rights (e.g. the rights of people to self-determination), and democracy, and makes efforts to create favourable conditions for the people to empower themselves and advance sustainable social and economic development. In order to construct knowledge in the social, economic, cultural and political arenas and facilitating change in Oromia and the Greater Horn of Africa, OSA has decided to re-examine the theories and practices of capacity building. In this conference, the gaps between the theory and practice of the capacity building will be critically examined.

The knowledge produced by this conference will be published in the OSA proceedings and made available for sell with little cost. We believe the knowledge produced by this conference will help the Oromo and other neighbouring peoples to critically look at the policy of the rulers and international donors and encourages the peoples to participate in policy making and challenge misguided policies and practices. In addition, the knowledge that will be produced by this conference creates awareness of the entitlement of people in identifying and prioritizing their needs. At the same time, this kind of knowledge will encourage the so-called donor organizations and states to re-examine their policies and practices in providing aid. For this conference, papers will be screened on the qualities of the theories the presenters use and the practical applicability of the theories to the conditions of Oromo people and others in the Horn of Africa. The presenters are expected to base their papers on the following questions.

A. Theorizing capacity building

- How can we define, explain, understand, conceptualise, and reflect on and critique the idea of capacity building?
- What are the core questions to be asked in researching capacity building?
- What are the pathways in which the society can effectively build its capacity to be self-reliant and self-sufficient?
- Is it worth studying, theorizing and examining capacity building?
- What are the gaps in our knowledge in capacity building?
- What kinds of methodologies and theoretical frameworks can we apply to examine the relationship between leadership and capacity building?
- How does the dictatorial system of governance affect the capacity building of a society?
- How do the global powers influence the capacity building process?
- What are the roles of external support in capacity building?
- What are the relationships between empowerment and capacity building?

B. Entitlement and Capacity building

- What are the relationships between human rights (individual rights and collective rights) and capacity building?
- How does the absence or presence of control over the social, economic, political and cultural affairs affect the process and impact of capacity building?
- How does the incorporation of indigenous knowledge promote capacity building efforts?
- What are the roles of language policies in the efforts of capacity building?
- How do democratic governance and community participation promote the effectiveness of capacity building?
- What are the connections between community institutional structures and the effectiveness of capacity building?
- What are the importance of skills and knowledge in the capacity building process?
- How does the sense of land entitlement affect the efforts of capacity building among farming and cattle breeding communities?

Paper submissions:

You can send your abstracts from December 3rd 2010 to January 15th, 2011 to Dr. Begna Dugassa at b.dugassa@utoronto.ca

Full papers are expected by March 15th, 2011

We accept both individual papers and panels

Thank you,