

4.2. Society, Culture, Tourism and Development

Development and Change Research that address fundamental/theoretical as well as applied questions related to development and socio-cultural change is crucial for contemporary Ethiopia. Research on Development and Change focuses on the dynamics between the various interacting and mutually dependent fields. Accordingly, the following Development and Change Themes are selected as top priority areas for 2017/18 calls:

- Resources, rights and livelihoods: Focuses on the dynamic interactions between resources and their exploitation, domination and conservation. Resources refer not only to land, food, minerals and the environment but also to knowledge, information and heritage. This theme foregrounds contestations over resources and how these are created and framed through structures of governance, legal and extra-legal frameworks and lived realities
- Crisis, reordering and resilience: Engages with change and re-ordering of systems associated with crises and disasters and their aftermath in which new linkages, institutions and livelihoods may develop. Crises and natural or human-made disasters are seen as complex processes of reordering with historical, present and future dimensions rather than unproblematic, manageable routines of ‘disaster risk reduction’, ‘relief’ and ‘reconstruction’;
- Assessing divides and boundaries: Focuses on the material and discursive dynamics that change old divides and bring about new ones. How ontological, epistemological, empirical or other boundaries are shaped, steered, used, strengthened or weakened and divides such as urban-rural, powerful-marginalized, whole-parts, developed-undeveloped, and crisis-normality are studied. Divides and boundaries are operationalised and studied on all levels, including practical material levels and on the level of knowledge and science, in order to understand their practical, epistemological and ontological consequences for broader process and structures of development and change.