

### **1. Population, Gender, Peace & Development**

More than any other thing currently in the eastern part of Ethiopia abounds with political, legal, economic and sociological challenges. Thus, the following sub-themes are identified for top priority areas for research projects in 2018/19:

- Political unrest, Internal Displacement (ID), inter-regional & cross-border conflicts, illegal businesses and gender-based assaults;
- Population increase, urban sprawl, land-grabbing and investing in land rights for agricultural/rural transformation;
- Exponential growth of unemployment, prostitution, homelessness, crime, poverty and risky behaviors of the youth.

### **2. Good Governance and Rule of Law**

Currently, wider gaps are observed among Constitutional ideals, International Conventions and Rule of Law. Therefore, the following themes are top priority areas worth investigating:

- Democracy, human rights and rule of law
- Ethnic federalism and alternative perspectives, ethnic and cultural rights, federal and regional states' jurisdictions
- Land rights, land tenure and land laws in protecting fertility and sustainability of the ecology
- Electronic and traditional media laws, government-controlled, private and independent media, freedom to teaching and doing journalism as the profession demands

### **3. Educational Advancement and Quality Assurance**

As scholars and educators we cannot rely on narrow and traditional scholastic perspectives where each 'subject area' and their taken for granted approaches are treated like islands, because the social reality of higher education, like many other social and public realities, have been influenced by the forces that we today rather carelessly sum up under the globalisation concept. Therefore, any educational research programme need to acknowledge the strong forces that combined, act on and influence social realities globally as a way to enlighten locally the society. The contemporary research and education trend in Ethiopia however ignores local and indigenous knowledge, practices, and creates detrimental effects on the natural and social environment. Therefore, the following themes are worth researching for the coming years:

- Education and research towards social justice, change, development or transformation;
- The role of public and private schools and Higher Education Institutions in a society and comparative educational research in the age of globalization;

- National arenas of education reform or change and formalization of the Indigenous Knowledge (IK) i.e., the age-old locally and naturally accumulated and granted body of knowledge of the indigenous people; opportunities to empower peoples with different disabilities, educating them & enabling them for leadership;
- Schools, colleges and universities as public sphere and the condition of academic freedom as a researcher, teacher, professor or student.

### **4. Society, Culture, Tourism and Development**

Ethiopia is changing fast while at the same time revitalizing its age-old histories, cultures and social institutions. Thus, it is important to study both the ground and horizon of this fast changing society. It is important to give priority to studying: Languages, cultures, institutions and history in evolution, change, development and reclamation.