4.1: Society, Culture and Tourism
- Tangible and intangible Heritage resources and their potential in sustainable development,
- Identification, preservation and transformation of literary materials,
- Material and non-material culture (Language, Arts, spirituality etc.) and their dynamics in society,
- Peoples interactions and integration and their role in peace building,
- Social norms, values, ethics, ideals and morals;
- Challenges and prospects of tourism and in economic development, Environment, Society and development,
- Change and continuity in society and institutions
- Customary/indigenous institutions

4. 2 Educational Advancement and Quality Assurance
- Alternative basic education,
- Early childcare and education,
- Adult literacy, early childhood schooling and its challenge,
- Educational massification and its drawbacks in higher learning,
- Quality assurance and its implementation,
- Educational relevance, educational governance and leadership
- Academic freedom in schools, colleges and Universities
- Empowering people with disabilities
- National arenas of educational reform and the formulation of indigenous knowledge

4.3. Population, Gender and development
More than any other thing currently in eastern part of our country there is a widespread internal displacement, political unrest and socio-economic crisis. Assessing these issue from different angels is timely and a professional responsibility of HU, CSSH. Additionally, the indigenous and governmental peace and conflict resolution institutions are not properly functioning and downgraded to the level of nonexistence. Moreover, there is a widespread urban sprawl and traffic accident in the region too. Thus, the following research issues could be considered as top priority areas for research projects in 2018/19.
- Internal Displacement (ID): Cause, consequence and implications in Eastern Ethiopia;
- Population increase, Urban Sprawl, rural –urban interface, traffic accidents and its consequences and implications in Eastern Ethiopia;
- Indigenous Institutions and the role of females, the role of gender based socio economic and political institutions, assessing/exploring the dynamics strategies & challenges of gender parity; the rise of female labor migration, gender based violence
- Unemployment, prostitution, homelessness, crime, poverty, risk behavior of the youth
- Political unrest, inter-regional and cross border conflicts and illegal business

4.4. **Governance and the rule of Law:** In the last few years and even currently, there is discrepancy between theories and praxis of constitutional ideals, the implementation of of international conventions and human rights declarations. Accordingly, it would be good if attention is given for the following research issues:

- 4.1 Democracy, human rights, rule of law,
- 4.2 Ethnic federalism and alternative perspectives,
- Ethnic and cultural rights,
- Land rights, land laws
- Study and revival of indigenous customary institutions, indigenous Conflict resolution mechanisms and peace building processes,
- Democracy in third world and challenges of democratic reforms,
- Transitional justice,
- Media law (print and electronic) journalism, role of Media and communication in advancing peace, justice.