

Theme IV- Human and Social Development Research Thematic Area

Sub-theme 1: 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 2021/22 call:

1.1 Cultural Tourism and Sustainable Development in Eastern Hararge

- Series of tourism assets built around those cultural practices
- Identification and exposure of tourist sites both manmade and natural
- Development and Promotion strategies and extension cultural practices
- Develop and sell cultural goods in tourist sites found in urban areas

1.2 Crisis management, reordering and resilience in Eastern Ethiopia

1.3 Indigenous Knowledge and their interface with ‘modern’ science and technology

1.4 State in Transformation and the place of media

- Elements of the state transformation
- The role of media (print/electronic; government /private in the development of democratic culture
- Status of the transformation process

1.5 A biographical Study of historical figures Shiek Bekri Sapalo, Mustafa Harawe, Bakar Ware, Abubakar Musa, Abdi Qophe, Waday Elemo

Sub-theme 2: Population, Gender, and Development

Under the impulse of globalization and world trade liberalization, private and public investments are quite often considered as valuable development tools to unleash development potentials of a given country. Also, it is widely acknowledged that urbanization is, quite often, considered as the engine of development and also serves as an indicator to state power. Nonetheless, the status of

multidimensional challenges and opportunities of investment practices in Eastern Ethiopia have been inadequately investigated and addressed so far. In addition, more than any other thing currently in eastern part of our country there is a widespread problem in many aspects. Assessing these issues from different angles is timely and professional responsibilities of HU, CSSH. Specifically, there is widespread lawlessness among the youthful population. Moreover, there is a widespread illegal urban land occupation, religion-based conflicts and traffic accident in the region too. Thus, the following sub-themes are identified as top priority areas for 2022/23 call.

- Investment and employment in cities of industries.
- Demographic pressure in cities and their impact on peace and security
- Urban Informal Settlement, challenges of land administration and policy gaps in hierarchical Governance System: Evidence from Two Urban Towns in East Ethiopia

Sub-theme 3: Educational Advancement and Quality Assurance

Wider theory-policy-practice gaps are observed in the contemporary cultural and educational endeavors of the country. Innovative projects that could significantly narrow down or eliminate the theory-policy practice gap and enhance quality of education from primary to university level. Therefore, the following are selected as top priority research areas for 2022/23 call for proposals.

- Teachers effectiveness and efficiency in their teaching together with a deterioration of assessment result of students
- Inclusive education (disabled, gender parity, and marginalized groups)
- School leadership skills in primary and secondary schools.
- Student enrollment, drop-out and performance in different agro-pastoral and pastoral areas.
- Science and mathematics secondary education (Biology education, Chemistry education, Physics education, and mathematics education)
 - Develop students' attitudes and interests to basic science and technology;
 - Devise and implement alternative learning approach in the science classroom;

Sub-theme 4: Good Governance and the Rule of Law

In Ethiopia in general and in our region in particular, we are observing wider gaps between constitutional ideals and policy practices/implementation in Ethiopian law. Peacebuilding has also become a perennial challenge as a result of recurrent violence and security problems. Recent upheavals and, perhaps, ongoing conflicts as well as ‘silent’ contestations in different parts and inter/intra-regional border areas of the country bear witness to the causal power of these gaps and the ensuing poor governance and rule of law besides resource scarcity. There are also competing forces for local power control either legitimate or illegitimate. Moreover, good governance and rule of law plays crucial role in flourishing economy of the country and in maintaining the status quo in the society’s day-to-day interaction. Accountability and transparency on the part of the government is a foundation for peace and stability. Any economic, social or political policies cannot indeed be attained without good governance. Rule of law is another building block in creating peace, secure and democratic society. Good governance will be established when all social institutions including the state itself are accountable to the law. We may hardly expect good governance without supremacy of the law. Evidently, researches on the area of good governance and rule of law will be of excellent social and academic importance. Despite the wider scope of good governance and rule of law, the following are selected as top priority research areas for 2022/23 call.

- Criminal Justice Administration and Law enforcement
- The role of print/electronic, government/ private media and journalism in Advancing justice and accountability on media practitioners both the regular and social media
- Land Law and Conflict prevention
- Competency and diligence of judges