

Theme IV- Human and Social Development Research Thematic Area

Sub-theme 4.1: 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 socio-cultural dynamics, and tourism development that result change are essential for the region. It is also vital to figure out the various interacting and mutually dependent fields. Accordingly, the following research areas focusing on society, culture tourism development and media are selected as top priority areas under subtheme I for 2023/24 Call for Proposals:

1.1 Indigenous Knowledge and local institutions for societal Development

- Traditional medicinal practices and practitioners, (Documentation, Practices, Preservation and Utilization),
- The role of local institutions in cementing intra and/or Inter-Ethnic interaction and integration in Eastern Ethiopia

1.2 Studies on Gadaa system

- Comparative analysis of Gadaa and modern systems of democratic governance
- Operations and interrelationships among the different branches of Gadaa Government
- Murti Guto and the Gadaa military organizations among the Hararge Oromo
- The role, institutions and practices of women in Gadaa System:Hararge in Focus

1.3 Tourism potential and development strategy in Eastern Ethiopia (Gara Mulata Royal Prison House, Qundudo, and Babile Sanctuary)

1.4 Cultural products, product development, products management marketing linkages and employment opportunities

1.5 Media and journalism in advancing justice and accountability.

1.6 The role of religions and religious heritages in Eastern Ethiopia in fostering peace, integrity, work ethics, good governance etc

Sub-theme 4.2: 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 2023/24 call for proposals.

2.1 Innovations in teaching-learning Natural and social sciences disciplines.

- E-learning/Online learning,
- Improvement of students' attitudes and interest to basic sciences,
- Technology supported alternative learning approach in science classrooms like virtual labs in chemistry, physics, biology and other disciplines

2.2 Alternative innovative teaching-learning approaches appropriate to pastoral and Agro-Pastoral context in eastern Ethiopia

2.3 Innovative approaches for integration of indigenous knowledge in modern education

2.5 Innovative approaches in drug & alcohol abuse prevention & interventions in education

2.5 Inclusive learning

- Developmental disabilities, inclusive education, persons with disabilities)

2.6 Adult and non-formal education

- Innovation, digital transformation and diversification of adult and non-formal education methods, and modalities
- Functional Adult literacy, Adult curriculum and training

2.7 Performance, challenges and prospects in national examinations: case studies in Eastern Ethiopia

Sub-theme 4.3: 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. 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 research areas are identified as top priority for 2023/24 Call for Proposal.

3.1 Nexus between conflict, development and security

3.2 Urbanization and Migration

3.3 Towards Smart city: Mapping comprehensive economic, social, and environmental profile of Maya city

3.4 Resource rights and Livelihood challenges in cities

3.5 Gender Base violence, Harmful traditional practices in Eastern Ethiopia

Sub-theme 4.4: 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 play 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, research 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 2023/24 Call for Proposals.

4.1 Rule of law and administration of justice

4.2 Land law and conflict prevention

4.3 Transitional justice system and its implementation