

# RESEARCH ON RELIGION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

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My assignment as director of the Center for Global Islamic Studies have also this year limited my research efforts. I have, however, been able to work on a few projects. One of these has been a continuation of a study of local representation of the Muslim Brotherhood in Ethiopia. While the movement has no concrete and formal presence in the country, it is present through individuals and groups of individuals attracted to the Muslim Brotherhood's ideas. This research has been carried out through my engagement in the International Law and Policy Institute (Oslo, Norway), and funded by Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre. In addition to a report and a brief – posted online – the project has resulted in one peer-reviewed article published in *Sociology of Islam*, and an additional one under review in the *Journal of Modern African Studies*. I was also able to finalize a study of African Salafism and the editing of a special-issue of *Islamic Africa* on this topic. I have also finalized two book chapters for the edited volumes *The Ethiopian Developmental State* (Dereje Feyissa

and Kjetil Tronvoll eds.) and *Ethiopia - The Rise of a Regional Hegemony* (Fantu Cheru, Dereje Feyissa, Goitom Gebreluel, and Kjetil Tronvoll eds.) – both forthcoming in 2017. I have also been able to carve out some time to continue working on a more long-term project about religion and ethnicity in the Horn of Africa, aimed to result in a monograph. The case in point for this project is an armed insurgency against the Ethiopian state taking place in the southeastern part of country in 1960s-70s, and here I aim to forward some new conceptual suggestions on how to understand the formation, maintenance, and power of such identities. I also embarked on a new research project last year, studying the rights of women in relation to sharia courts in Ethiopia. I spent one month doing fieldwork on this project during the summer of 2015, and the output has been a case-study report, and a broader analytical role of women's rights and sharia courts – currently being finalized. This research is part of a larger project looking at women's rights in Ethiopia judiciary systems, undertaken as part of my engagement with the International Law

and Policy Institute, and funded by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Addis Ababa. I have also been active disseminating my research, presenting my work at various academic conferences, as well as giving briefing and policy-advising for the U.S. and foreign government institutions

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