

MERON ZELEKE

Affiliated Senior Researcher

M +251 919 147 925

E eressokiyya@gmail.com

PROFILE

Meron Zeleke is a Postdoctoral research fellow of Volkswagen foundation. She is an adjunct assistant professor at Addis Ababa University and holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies. She has an MA in social Anthropology and BA in history from the University of Addis Ababa.

Meron is the chair of Eastern African Chapter of African Good Governance network (AGGN) and has previously worked as a researcher at DFID and the World Bank. She has taught at Addis Ababa University and University of Bayreuth. She was a visiting scholar at California State University, University of Singapore, and University of Wake Forest in North Carolina.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral researcher. The Volkswagen foundation Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities in Sub-Saharan and North Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assistant professor at Addis Ababa University Department of Social Anthropology 	2013 – September 2016
Researcher for the International Law and policy institute project on “Legal and Judicial Plurality and the Protection of the Rights of Women in Ethiopia” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research, monitoring and evaluation on protection of women’s rights in the customary, sharia and formal legal systems; focused on women’s rights to protection from sexual and gender based violence, discrimination and protection of women’s property rights. 	June 2014 onwards
Guest researcher at California State University, California.	April 2014 – October 2014
Lead coordinator for the UK Department for International Development (DFID) community security and justice programme pilot project in security of young Girls and women	February – March 2014
Representative for the Eastern African Regional chapter of African Good Governance Network (AGGN)	December 2013 to present
Guest fellow at National university of Singapore. Singapore.	August to October 2013
Ethnographer for the World Bank Project on Indigenous People in Ethiopia.	January 2013

Trainer for the Fredrick Ebert Stiftung on Conflict Management. Adama.	October 2012
Coordinator of the workgroup Religion in Contemporary Africa Work Group- Bayreuth	April 2009 – June 2012
International Students representative at the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies. BIGSAS.	April 2010 – November 2011
Teaching at the Social Anthropology Department of the University of Bayreuth. Germany	Summer semester 2011
Research Assistant for UK Department for International Development (DFID) Research on Religious Radicalization: The Potential For and Signs of Religion Radicalization in Ethiopia.	January 2011
Lecturer at the Horn of Africa Courses, Rift Valley Institute, Lamu, Kenya.	June 2010

EDUCATION

Postdoctoral Fellowship from Volkswagen Foundation	2013 – Three years
PhD Social Anthropology Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies	2012
MA Degree in Social Anthropology, Addis Ababa University	2005
BA Degree in History, Addis Ababa University	2003

LANGUAGES

- Oromo (mother tongue),
- Amharic (mother tongue)
- English (fluent)
- German (Basic communication)

PARTIAL LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

- Meron Zeleke, 2014, *Faith at the Crossroads: Religious Syncretism and Dispute Settlement in Northern Ethiopia.*, Wiesbaden: Harrasowitz Verlag. (Forthcoming).
- Meron Zeleke 2014. *We are the same but Different : Accounts of Ethiopian Christian adherents of Islamic Sufi Saints.* Journal Of African Religions.
- Meron Zeleke and Asebe Regassa.2014.“*The Local Oromo Thanksgiving Ritual Going Global*”. In: Afe Adogame (ed): *African Religion in the West.* Ashgate Publishing Ltd.
- Meron Zeleke and Silvia Bruzzi. 2014. “*A Dual Representation of Muslim Women in Eritrean and Ethiopian Sufi Shrines*”. In: the *Journal of Northeast African Studies .*, 2014.
- Meron Zeleke.2013. “*The Gendering Discourse in the Debates of Religious Orthodoxy*”. In: *Terje Ostebo and Patrick Desplat (eds.) Muslim Ethiopia: The Christian Legacy, Identity Politics, and Islamic Reformism.* Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Meron Zeleke. 2013. “*Competing Narratives on the Causes of Ethiopian Muslim Protests*”. In: *Horn of Africa Bulletin*, 2013 (1), 6-9.
- Meron Zeleke and Halkano Abdi. (ed.). 2012. *Trends, Discourses and Representations in Religions in Africa.* Institute of African Studies Series, Bayreuth.
- Meron Zeleke. 2 “*Terusina*”. In: Siegbert Uhlig (ed.): *Encyclopedia Aethiopia.* Vol. 4: O-W. Wiesbaden:Harrasowitz.
- Meron Zeleke. 2011. “*Ye Shakoch Chilot: The Court of the Sheikhs. A Traditional Institution of Conflict Resolution in Oromia Zone of Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia*”. *African Journal of Conflict Resolution* 10 (1). PP 63-84.
- Meron Zeleke. 2010. *The Mother and the Bread Winner: The Socio Economic Role and Status of Gumuz Women.* Munster: Lit Verlag.
- Meron Zeleke. 2010c “*The Former Sufi Shrines and their Contemporary Courts*”. *Journal of Religion, Conflict and Peace.* Vol. 3. Issue.2. Plowshares Inc.

PARTIAL LIST OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES / WORKSHOPS

- April 2014- The Rise of Religious Conflicts in Contemporary Ethiopia: The multifaceted factors and Their Interplay. California State University- Sacramento, USA
2013. Changing Faces of Christian-Muslim Relations in Ethiopia. Paper presented at The Volkswagen foundation International Conference for Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities in Sub-Saharan and North Africa. Sally, Senegal.
2013. Government Policy and involvement in conflicts. Paper Presented at National University of Singapore, Singapore.
2012. “The Signification of the Social Media in the Current Debates on Religion: the Case of Ethiopia”. Paper presented at the International workshop: Opportunities and Chances of New Media - Utilizing New Technologies in Africa. University of Moi: Kenya.

2011. “Religious Innovation: The Spirit Possession Cult at Sufi Shrines”. 4th European Conference on African Studies (ECAS). Uppsala: Sweden.

2010. “Gender and the Intra-religious Ideological Conflict: the Case of the Sufi-Salafi dichotomy In Northeastern Ethiopia”: Paper presented at Bologna University: Italy.

2010. “The Problematic of Studying Religion and Ethnicity in Contemporary Ethiopia: Insights from Anthropological Fieldwork in the contemporary socio-political landscape of Ethiopia”. Paper presented at the Workgroup of Religion in Contemporary Africa. Bayreuth, Germany.