The First Regional Days - the Horn of Africa - Friday 18 March 2022
ZASB, 9am – 2pm, room 02 (ground floor on the left)

Program

9:00	Welcome and Introduction	Natalie Tarr & Sonja Merten
9:15	Presentation 1: Fuelling the Developmental State	Thomas Betschart
10:00	Presentation 2: Barriers to health care access in old age and ethical implications: perspectives from health professionals and older patients in Ethiopia (online from Ethiopia)	Kirubel Mussie
10:45	Presentation 3: Pain management in Eastern Ethiopia: Health professionals' perception. A qualitative, multi-center study	Eleonore Arrer
11:30	Coffee Break	
12:15	Presentation 4: Militarization of education in Eritrea	Yeabio Melake
13:00	Presentation 5: Ethnographic Reflections on the Assemblage of Security Visions in Somalia (online from Kenya)	Darja Schildknecht & Nora Nadji
13:45	Wrap-Up and Closure	Natalie Tarr & Sonja Merten
14:00	Lunch at Rollerhof	

Program and Abstracts

9:00   Welcome and Introduction
        Natalie Tarr & Sonja Merten

9:15   Presentation 1: Fuelling the Developmental State. Sidama's dichtomic mobility
        regimes.
Thomas Betschart, *PhD candidate at the Urban Studies Program, University of Basel*
Ethiopia looks back on a century long, state-developmentalist, economic and urban development history. While the nation state is currently transforming at a fast pace since the inauguration of Abiy Ahmed's interim-government in 2018, ending 27 years of autocratic rule under the umbrella of TPLF (Tigrayan Peoples Liberation Front) domination, high-modernist plans of infrastructure development are still at the forefront of Ethiopia's all-encompassing narrative of eradicating poverty. These ambitious plans are manifest in the state-driven emergence of large infrastructures that focus on the establishment of international and

interregional interconnectivity, such as labor extractive industries. They further aim at shifting towards clustering urban geographies and to disperse socio-economic development through the construction of roads and development corridors.

The work presented discovers the governance of mobilities and the production of differential mobilities in the recently founded Sidama Regional State as an intervention of Ethiopia's urban political economy. Therefore, it explores how Ethiopia's federal state developmentalist project securitizes its territoriality and development projects in the context of political crisis and regional calls for political autonomy.

10:00   Barriers to health care access in old age and ethical implications: perspectives from health professionals and older patients in Ethiopia (online from Ethiopia)

Kirubel Mussie, *PhD candidate in Biomedical Ethics at the Institute for Biomedical Ethics, University of Basel (IBMB)*

Background: Significant numbers of older persons in Ethiopia are vulnerable. Although the traditional support system is believed to be the main source of health care for older people, it is weakening due to mainly the growth of industrialisation and urbanisation. The current health system infrastructure is not responsive enough to the health needs of older adults in the country and this has been a major challenge for older persons to access health services. Despite the urgency of this public health challenge, there exists limited evidence to investigate the situation and inform policies and interventions. Thus, the aim of this exploratory study was to investigate the barriers to health care access among older persons in Ethiopia.

Methods: A qualitative exploratory approach was used since the topic has not previously been studied in depth. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 20 older adults aged 60+ and 26 health professionals purposively selected from both private and public hospitals until data saturation was reached. The analysis followed the grounded theory approach.

Results: The analysis resulted in two broad categories of barriers: health system related and older patient related. Health system related barriers include unavailability of geriatric units in health facilities and inconvenient physical environments of health facilities for older patients. Older patient related barriers include older patient trust in medical services, older patient culture and religion, and financial hardship among older patients.

Conclusion: Health care access among vulnerable population groups such as older adults is a critical public health as well as ethical issue. More efforts are needed to improve health facilities to accommodate the health needs of older patients. More research is needed to further investigate these challenges and provide strategies to mitigate them.

10:45   Pain management in Eastern Ethiopia: Health professionals' perception. A qualitative, multi-center study

Eleonore Arrer, *PhD candidate at Swiss TPH, enrolled at the medical faculty of the U of Basel*

Introduction: Pain is one of the most neglected areas of care in sub-Saharan Africa. Access to adequate pain management is urgently needed, especially in remote populations, such as pastoralist communities in Ethiopia, where prevalence of untreated pain is expected to be high. However, pain management has scarcely been studied in sub-Saharan Africa, specifically

in the Somali region, and little is known about health professionals' experience on the topic. Research from other regions in Ethiopia reveal that nurses often lack training and knowledge in pain management.

Aim: The aim of this research is to gain a first insight into health professionals' perceptions of pain management for pastoralists in different health care settings in Eastern Ethiopia.

Methods: We conducted an explorative, qualitative multi-center study with narrative interviews among 17 health professionals, primarily nurses. Interviews were transcribed, translated, and analyzed using a grounded theory approach.

Results: We found that pain management was impacted by factors that either concerned health professionals' themselves (such as (a) lack of training and (b) exposure to local culture), or their perception of patients (such as (a) experience with professional care, (b) care preferences and beliefs and (c) reporting of pain), in addition to factors around access to care. The core category we identified was the "provider-patient relationship" elaborating on issues of trust and mistrust as well as communication.

Conclusion: The identified categories provide a rich description of experienced barriers to affectively assess and treat pain among pastoralists in a unique context. These findings allow for an initial understanding of the health professionals' perceptions and should be considered for further improvement of pain management in this region or population.

11:30   Coffee break

12:15   Militarization of education in Eritrea

Yeabio Melake *has completed his MA degree in African Studies at the ZASB, University of Basel, in 2021. He is currently engaged in different projects in Basel, both as an academic and work-wise.*

Since 2002, Eritrea as a nation has been characterized by an extreme dictatorship. It is described to be the most censored nation in the world, where economic hardship, repression, unlimited national service, militarization of education, and persistent migration of youth are a daily reality (Plaut 2016). In May 2002, the Eritrean government announced the beginning of what became known as the Warsay-Yikealo Development Campaign (WYDC). As part of this campaign, the educative system was militarized. Sawa, a former military camp, was changed into a semi-military secondary school and named "Warsay-Yekealo secondary school".

Sawa is a state-owned military training camp, located in the western lowlands of Eritrea. Here, all 12th grade students are mandatorily sent to. In fact, Sawa is the only secondary school for 12th graders in Eritrea; it has the capacity to hold more than 20,000 students at one time for a period of one year. This 12th grade is characterized by a school phase of 8 months followed by military training of 4 months. After passing the national exam in Sawa, about 15-20 % of the students continue their higher education in other colleges. Most of the remaining 80 % are conscripted into indefinite National Service and some few students continue their education in technical workshops.

As part of the WYDC campaign in 2002, the only University in Eritrea, Asmara University, was closed and colleges were put under strict military supervision. The Eritrean government

justifies this by stating that the purpose of WYDC is to create national unity and to promote growth and economic development by avoiding the dangers of "multi-ethnic" and "multi-faith" chaos among Eritreans (Kibreab 2009).

Here I argue that, on the contrary, the militarization of education was designed for two specific reasons. First, it is part of the broader government surveillance system, seeking to mold people's behavior and make Eritrean students more conformist and compliant. Secondly, it aims to lower the quality of the Eritrean educational system in order to paralyze intellectuals' protest. In this presentation, I am going to discuss and clarify the militarization of education in Eritrea, also from my personal/lived experiences.

13:00 Ethnographic Reflections on the Assemblage of Security Visions in Somalia (online from Kenya)

Nora Naji, *PhD candidate in Political Science at the Graduate School for Social Sciences at the University of Basel*

Darja Schildknecht, *PhD candidate at the University of Basel and part of the Gender, War and Security Research Group*

As part of the SNF research project "Gendered Security Strategies: How Gender Matters in the Policy and Practice of 'Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE)'", Nora Naji and Darja Schildknecht explore the intersection of security, peace and development within the framework of P/CVE. To conduct this research, they will investigate the cases of Kenya and Somalia within the backdrop of the greater geopolitical situation of the Horn of Africa. Being based in Kenya between September 2021 and August 2022, with field trips planned to the borderlands of Somalia and likely Somalia itself in May 2022, the two researchers would like to take the opportunity of the Regional Research Day to discuss their intervention in Somalia from an ethnographic perspective including their ethical reflections. Counted as a 'fragile state', security and hence the safety of the researchers has been a much discussed topic, with a particular focus on their positionality as Western academics. The manifold conversations with various stakeholders working in the context have illustrated how the context of Somalia has become an assemblage of visions of security that make it difficult for outsiders to differentiate between the imagined and the real. Somalia has therefore turned into a construct, where the securitization of the country is resounding. The researchers would like to explore the tensions *within* this security assemblage discussing the ethical obligations as researchers to do no harm and be safe while simultaneously reproducing and reinforcing security structures by their research engagement.

13:45 Wrap-up and Closure
Natalie Tarr & Sonja Merten

14:00 Lunch at Rollerhof offered by ZASB for all interested presenters (upon registration with Natalie Tarr: natalie.tarr@swisstph.ch until Wednesday, 15 March noon)