37th Annual Conference

OROMO STUDIES ASSOCIATION

# CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE:

## Authoritarianism and the Quest for Oromo Sovereignty

FOR REGISTRATION & MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE

**OSA WEBSITE**

In collaboration with

**OSFNA**

**JULY 29-30**

**PARALLEL SESSIONS**

In-person & Virtual

A.H. Stamp Student Union

(Atrium 1107)

3972 Campus Drive

College Park, MD

20742

**37th Annual Conference**
July 29-30, 2023
University of Maryland

# CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE:
## Authoritarianism and the Quest for Oromo Sovereignty

## IN-PERSON PROGRAM
(Scheduled in cooperation with Oromo Sports Federation in North America)

| Day One - Saturday, July 29, 2023 | |
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| Time (EDT) | Program Details |
| 8:30-9:00 AM | Registration- OSA Conference Committee |
| 9:00-9:10 AM | Blessing from Elders |
| 9:10-9:20 AM | Opening Remarks, OSA President Asebe Regassa |
| 9:20-9:30 AM | Opening Remarks, OSA Board Chair Kulani Jalata |
| 9:30-11:00 AM | **Roundtable Discussion:** Assessing the Achievements and Challenges of the Oromo Movement Toward Liberation, Statehood, and Sovereignty |
| | **Moderator**: Asafa Jalata |
| | **Presenters:** *Taha Abdi, Ibssa Gutama, Abbaa Caalaa Lataa, Mohammed Hassen, Lubee Biru, Asfaw Beyene* |
| 11:00-11:30 AM | **Featured Speaker:** Performance as Resistance to Authoritarianism<br>*Peri M. Klemm* (California State University Northridge) |
| | **Introduction**: Bonnie Holcomb |
| 11:30-12:45PM | **Panel:** The Praxis of Siinqee across Time and Space |
| | **Moderator**: Peri M. Klemm |
| | Stories of Being in the World Relationally<br>*Aagaa Ruda* (The Siinqee Institute) |
| | Tumsa Siinqee Across Time and Space<br>*Martha Kuwee Kumsa* (Wildrid Laurier University; The Siinqee Institute) |
| | Taking Siinqee Beyond Empires<br>*Anh Ngo* (Wildrid Laurier University; The Siinqee Institute) |
| 12:45-1:15PM | OSA Awards |
| 1:15-2:30 PM | Lunch |
| 2:30 PM | *OSA attendees leave the venue to join events hosted by OSFNA* |

## Day Two - Sunday, July 30, 2023

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| 9:00- 9:45 AM | **Panel:** Facing a Violent Empire: Resistance, Repression, and the Threat to National Self-Determination |
| | **Moderator**: Kebede Feda |
| | Decolonizing Religion: Putting the Oromo Orthodox Movement in the Context of Christian Movements in Colonial Africa<br>*Getahun Benti* ( Southern Illinois University) |
| | The Politics of Centralism, Nationalism and Sovereignty in Ethiopia<br>*Milkessa M. Gemechu (*Albion College) |
| | 'Do you know the bloodshed required to found this state?': The Trial and Execution of Lieutenant Mamo Mezemir According to Recently Discovered Imperial Ethiopia's Secret Court Files<br>*Etana H. Dinka* (James Madison University) |
| 9:45-10:15 AM | Discussion |
| 10:15-11:00 AM | **Panel:** Assertion of Sovereignty in the Face of Violence |
| | **Moderator**: Robera Tasissa |
| | The Contradiction between Civic Freedom and Sovereignty Freedom: Which Way Ethiopia?<br>Daniel Ayana (*Youngstown State University)* |
| | Patterns of Access and Exclusion in the Making of Peri-urban Spaces around Addis Ababa<br>Fikir Haile *(Queens University, Canada)* |
| | Exploring Oromo Proverbial Locutions: Their Orientation, Function and Equivalence with Other Proverbs<br>Zelalem Abera *(Writer and Novelist)* |
| 11-11:30 AM | Discussion |
| 11:30-12:30 | Lunch |
| 12:30-1:00 PM | **Featured Speaker**<br>Protest Music and the Aesthetics of Oromo Youth Activism<br>*Tatek Abebe* (Norwegian University of Science and Technology) |
| | **Introduction: Girma Tadesse** |
| 1:00-2:15 PM | **OSA-OSFNA Round Table Discussion**<br>Building Oromo Identity: Art, Sport, and Youth Activism |
| | **Moderator: Asebe Regassa** |
| | **Speakers:** *Hawi Wako, Wadi Ahmed, Ruka Ayele, John Tamirat, Ababee Eado, Lello Negera* |

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| 2:15-3:15 PM | **Panel**: Understanding the Impacts of Social and Environmental Injustices and Envisioning Workable Solutions: The Case of Karrayyu in Oromia |
| | **Moderator**: Mohammed Hassen |
| | The Complex Social Problems the Ethiopian Government Policies Have Created in the Karrayyu Pastoralist Community<br>*Roba Jilo* (Tufts University) |
| | Resolving Food Insecurity through Land Justice and Integrated Farming Systems: a Paradigm for the Karrayyu Oromo<br>*Oli Bachie* (University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources) |
| | Anthropogenic Water Pollution in the Awash Basin and Its Impact on the Karrayyu Oromo<br>*Geremew Amenu* (CSU Long Beach and Los Angeles County) |
| | High Fluoride in Soil and Water in the Rift Valley Region in Ethiopia: Case of Karrayyu Community<br>*Begna Dugassa* (Toronto Public Health) |
| 3:15-3:45 PM | Discussion |
| 3:45-4:00 PM | **Closing Remarks** |
| 3:45-3:55 PM | *Outgoing OSA President Asebe Regassa* |
| 3:55-4:00 PM | *OSA Board Chair Kulani Jalata* |
| 4:00-6:00 PM | OSA MEMBERS' ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING |