



Call for Papers:  
**Oromo Studies Association  
2024 Mid-Year Conference**

**Dates:**

**Week 1, Saturday and Sunday, April 13 &14, 11:00AM to 3:00PM EST  
Week 2, Saturday and Sunday, April 20 &21, 11:00AM to 3:00PM EST**

**Venue: Virtual Meeting Zoom Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82977694414>

## **Assessing the Role of Oromo Civic Organizations (OCOs) in Nation Building**

The 2024 Oromo Studies Association (OSA) Mid-Year Conference will focus on the role of OCOs in the Oromo struggle for national self-determination. The Oromo struggle has been going on since the Abyssinia colonization in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The formation of the first OCO, the Macha Tulama Self-Help Association, in the 1960s laid the foundation for the creation of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) in the early 1970s. After the OLF officially launched an armed struggle to liberate Oromia, the first Oromo diaspora groups, the Unions of Oromos in North America and Europe, enhanced the popularity and legitimacy of the OLF among Oromo and others. The OSA was established in 1986 as a multidisciplinary research institute to promote the understanding of Oromo causes and the Oromo struggle, including evidence-based refutations of false narratives about the history of the Oromo.

Oromo nation-building is defined here to mean organizing processes where Oromummaa<sup>1</sup> is prioritized and uplifted. This is not limited to nation-state politics and borders but includes efforts where Oromo peoples and the future of Oromia are at the forefront, through scientific knowledges and artistic creations alongside governing structures. Nation building is seen as contributing to larger processes of self-determination. Here it is to be examined as a mechanism for ensuring the peace and stability of the Oromo and the region. Over the past three decades, a wide array of community, religious, professional, cultural, artistic, advocacy, and self-help organizations have emerged. These groups have contributed to the Oromo struggle for self-determination in different areas, including religion, culture, arts, land stewardship, etc. These groups have played a measurable role in the reinvigoration and awareness of Oromo institutions, such as the Gadaa system, the Siinqee institution, the celebration of Ireechaa, and the practice of Waaqefannaa, among others.

The conference organizers call on presenters to identify, document, and examine the role of OCOs in the Oromo struggle for national self-determination, including its efficiency and effectiveness. We are also pleased to welcome scholars and experts from around the world to compare the role of civic organizations in nation building, with a particular focus on nations facing challenges similar to those of the Oromo people. Case studies and contextualization are welcome. For example, given that Ethiopia recently defaulted on its debt, the conference welcomes research into the socio-economic impact of Ethiopia's inability to pay its debt on the Oromo people. Participants are encouraged to bring historical and recent evidence as well as data from comparable experiences in neighboring countries and beyond.

### ***OSA invites submissions from interested researchers in the following areas:***

#### **1. Case Studies of Oromo Civic Organizations and Challenges Faced, for example:**

---

<sup>1</sup> Oromummaa (Oromo culture and nationalism) described as an ideology of human liberation includes the vision of an Oromo democratic state and the principles of multinational democracy in order to be emancipatory, revolutionary, democratic and inclusive (see Jalata, Asafa, "The Concept of Oromummaa and Identity Formation in Contemporary Oromo Society" (2007). Sociology Publications and Other Works. [https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk\\_socopubs/10](https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_socopubs/10))

- Civic groups who have advocated to protect human rights and advance justice and diplomacy.
  - Artists who have championed the Oromo struggle for freedom and liberation through the arts.
  - Self-help organizations that have provided financial support to victims of violent displacement.
  - Religious and women’s groups who have promoted Oromo culture and identity.
  - Oromo youth who have celebrated and shared their culture, including through sports.
  - Professional associations who have engaged in diverse research and provided services.
  - Oromo journalists, bloggers, and columnists who have brought awareness of the desire for self-determination through blogs, radio, media networks, and publications, among countless others<sup>2</sup>.
  - Global experiences on the roles of civic organizations in national Self-Determination
2. **Assessment of the Dynamic Role of Civic Organizations as the Battleground for Societal Stability:**
    - Papers are sought that offer empirical/theoretical research on civic organizations and their current impact.
    - Addressing the political economy of civic organizations in Ethiopia, Africa, and globally
    - Identifying principles of Oromummaa in the rise and management of Oromo civic organizations
    - Criteria for evaluating leadership and accountability in political actors including in Oromia.
    - Civic organizations employment of contemporary technology
    - Assessing effectiveness in advancing the welfare of the Oromo people
    - Roadmap for effective engagement with international organizations
    - Identifying benchmarks for effective operation of civic organizations
  3. **The Oromo protest and the myths that followed:** Papers are sought to highlight the successes and challenges of the Youth (*Qeerroo* and *Qarree*) movement, covering, but not limited to, the following topics:
    - Success stories beyond the youth movement
    - How and why was the transition hijacked, and what were the main actors of the hijacking?
    - The challenges the youth faced after the myths, and the transition from peaceful to armed struggle.
  4. **Political and economic implications of Ethiopia's debt default on the Oromo people:** Papers are invited to analyze the short and long-term economic and political impact of Ethiopia's debt default on the Oromo people and covering, but not limited to, the following topics:
    - The causes of state failures and their economic and political impact
    - Comparison of Ethiopia's default with other defaulting countries
    - How the current default affects Ethiopia's debt relief request under the G20 common framework

*Other research areas will be accepted, but priority will be given to the above topics.*

### Submission Guidelines:

*OSA accepts both individual papers and panel proposals.*

- **Guidelines for individual conference papers:** Those interested in presenting their papers are invited to submit an abstract of their topic, stating its contribution to the conference theme, supportive data/materials, methodology, and impact. The selection committee will prioritize articles within the above-mentioned areas and place papers with related topics into panels.
- **Guidelines for panel proposals and roundtables:** OSA welcomes submissions for panels in which the presenters have agreed to collaborate and roundtable discussions on issues related to the theme.
  - ✓ A **Panel** is a collection of papers on a similar theme organized by a chair and often presented with the review of a discussant. To submit a panel proposal, include 1) the titles of each presentation, 2) the

---

<sup>2</sup> Some examples of key contributors to the Oromo struggle for national self-determination or nation building include (in alphabetical order): Arraata Biyooleessa, Ayyaantuu, Bakkalch, Bariisaa, Biiftuu Bilisaa, Birmaduu, Burqaa, Daandii, Hegeree News Network, Kello Media, Kichuu, Kindling Point, Kush Media, Oromia Advocacy, Oromia Media, Oromo Commentary, Oromo Media Network, Oromo News Network, Oromittiti, Radio Moqadisho, Sagalee Billisumma Oromoo, Seyfe Nabalbal, Shambo Media, Urjii etc.

short bios of the presenters, and 3) a summary/abstract of each presentation. Please identify a chair or a discussant.

- ✓ A **Roundtable** is a group of experts on a topic who offer their analyses in a shared platform, usually presided over by a moderator who manages a question-and-answer session. For a roundtable, OSA invites submission of a one-page summary of the group proposal, which provides 1) the name of the moderator, 2) the importance and relevance of the topic, and 3) names and details of the speakers, including their short bios.

### Deadlines (**New revised timeline**)

Research abstracts and panel or roundtable topic submission by **February 10, 2024**,

Selected applicants will be informed by **February 20, 2024**

Final research paper/panel details submission by **March 15, 2024**

Selected applicants will be informed by **March 31, 2024**

### Contact:

For submissions or questions, feel free to contact the coordinating committee:

[oromostudiesassociation@gmail.com](mailto:oromostudiesassociation@gmail.com)

Or find more information on our website: <https://www.oromostudies.org>