



Call for Papers

Oromo Studies Association

2024 Annual Conference

August 2-4, 2024 (Specific time TBC)

Location: Minneapolis, MN, USA

Venue: University of Minnesota (TBA)

Persistent Conflicts and Concurrent Crises in Ethiopia: Implications for the Horn of Africa

The Oromo Studies Association (OSA) invites scholars, policymakers, activists and community leaders to its Annual Conference, a platform dedicated to a comprehensive analysis of the conflicts raging in Ethiopia, the regional implications, and the humanitarian crises in the Horn of Africa.

OSA is committed to engaged scholarship, embodying close to four decades of collaborative efforts by intellectuals and specialists. The association's scholars posit that solutions emerging from Oromia and Ethiopia have broader relevance in Africa, particularly in empowering youth, fostering inclusive and sustainable development, building democratic civic institutions, and establishing collaborative peacebuilding mechanisms. OSA's rich institutional memory and legacy offer a foundation for expanding these discussions.

The conference seeks to provide a thorough understanding of the conflicts and their wider implications, laying the groundwork for strategies to resolve conflicts and alleviate their adverse effects. It will offer a concise background, essential for grasping the multifaceted challenges faced by affected populations, especially the Oromo people and other communities, countries, nations, and nationalities in the Horn of Africa.

The conference theme calls for an in-depth examination of Ethiopia's multi-front conflicts. Papers are sought that delve into the intricate dynamics of the conflicts, spotlighting the socioeconomic ruin and the toll on civilian lives, with particular attention to the Oromo and other marginalized nations and nationalities in the Horn. The conference is dedicated to uncovering empirical evidence and offering theoretical perspectives that contribute to halting the strife and healing its socioeconomic wounds.

OSA provides a platform for supplying data and analysis that equip advocates for peace, accountability, and justice, especially those from marginalized communities.

Key Areas of Focus:

1. **Root Cause Analysis:** Examination of the conflicts' origins, exploring historical, political, ecological, socio-cultural, and geopolitical factors to identify options for sustainable resolution.
2. **Impact Assessment:** Detailed analysis of the conflicts' immediate and long-term effects on civilian life, including health, education, infrastructure, and economic stability.
3. **Advocacy Strategies:** Evaluation of advocacy strategies, including consensus-building, communication campaigns, and international support mobilization.
4. **Legal Accountability and Intervention:** Review of international legal frameworks including those intended to hold perpetrators accountable for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Appraisal of international intervention mechanisms established for the purposes of supporting victims, including the role of international courts and human rights organizations.

5. **Conflict Resolution and Humanitarian Crisis Management:** We welcome papers that examine the merits and limitations of structured and culture-oriented approaches to conflict resolution and the management of humanitarian crises. Both frameworks typically incorporate negotiation, mediation, and peacebuilding techniques, as well as mechanisms for delivering aid to affected populations. However, they differ in their methodologies and underlying philosophies and the conference invites a thorough exploration of these frameworks to reduce violence, protect the well-being of impacted individuals, and establish a foundation for lasting peace by addressing the root causes of conflict.

The conference welcomes a confluence of ideas and strategies, especially those framed to bring an end to the conflicts and address their broader implications, ensuring research and analysis conducted by marginalized groups is included and voices usually silenced participate in designing pathways to recovery and peace.

While the conference is open to various research areas, there will be priority given to efforts that address the above topics. The OSA welcomes both individual papers and panel proposals. Submission guidelines for each type are detailed below:

Submission Guidelines:

- **Individual Papers:** Submit an abstract detailing the paper's contribution to the theme, data/materials, methodology, and impact. Preference will be given to topics within the key focus areas. Include name, location, field of specialization, affiliation, brief bio (less than 200 words), email, WhatsApp contact number.
- **Panel Proposals and Roundtables:** OSA welcomes collaborative panel submissions and roundtable discussions aligned with the theme.
 - **Panels:** A panel should have four members. Include presentation titles, presenter details — including name, location, field of expertise, affiliation, brief bio (less than 200 words by each panelist) email, and WhatsApp number – along with a summary/abstract of each presentation. Identify a chair or discussant.
 - **Roundtables:** Submit a one-page group proposal with the moderator's name, topic relevance, and speakers' details, including names, locations, field of expertise, affiliation, brief bio (less than 200 words), email, WhatsApp number.

Note on conference modality:

- This is an **in-person** conference. If your paper is accepted but you cannot attend, we require that you *record and submit* your final presentation by July 15 at the latest to be included in the program.
- If you are planning to submit an abstract and will require a visa, please include this information in your submission.

Deadlines:

- Abstracts and topic submissions due by May 30, 2024
- Notification of selection by June 10, 2024
- Final paper/panel details due by June 30, 2024
- Final presentation recordings due by July 15, 2024

Contact:

For submissions or questions, contact the coordinating committee:

oromostudiesassociation@gmail.com

For more information visit our website:

<https://www.oromostudies.org>