

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Information

Name: Mohammed Dejen Assen (PhD)
Place of Birth: Ethiopia
Date of Birth: September 3, 1978
Nationality: Ethiopian
Gender: Male
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Language Skills: Amharic (Native) and English (Fluent)

Educational Background

2012 - 2016 **PhD in Federalism & Governance Studies**, College of Law and Governance Studies, Addis Ababa University (obtained in July 2016).
Dissertation Title: *Contested Secularism in Ethiopia: The Contention between Muslims and the Government*
Supervisors: Prof. Dereje Feyissa and Prof. Terje Ostebo

2007 - 2009 **MA in Federalism & Governance Studies**, Addis Ababa University (obtained in July 2009)
Thesis Title: *The Quest for Self-Determination in Regional States of Ethiopia: The Case of the Yem People*
Advisor: Dr. Getachew Assefa

1996 - 2000 **BA in History**, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

2007 - 2012 **LLB in Law**, Mekelle University, Ethiopia

1992 - 1996 High School, Borena Senior Secondary School, Wollo, Ethiopia

1984 - 1992 Elementary and Junior Secondary School, Wollo, Ethiopia

Professional Career/Employment History

- Since July 2016 **Assistant Professor** at College of Law & Governance Studies, Center for Federalism & Governance Studies, Addis Ababa University
- Oct. 2010 - June 2016 **Lecturer** at Center for Federalism & Governance Studies, Addis Ababa University
- Feb. 2005 - Sep. 2010 **Lecturer** at Entoto Technical & Vocational, Education & Training College, Addis Ababa
- July 2000 - June 2005 **Teacher & Department Head** at Soyama Senior Secondary School, Southern Nations Nationalities and People's Regional State

Courses Taught

- Introduction to Federalism, Addis Ababa University (Undergraduate LLB Program)
- Federalism, Diversity and the Regulation of Conflicts, Addis Ababa University (MA)
- Comparative Survey of Constitutional Systems, Addis Ababa University (MA)
- Federalism and Human Rights, Addis Ababa University (MA)
- State Constitutions and Local Governance, Addis Ababa University (MA)

Extra-Curricula Activities

- Since 2015 Member of Academic Commission, College of Law and Governance Studies, Addis Ababa University
- 2010 – 2013 MA Program Coordinator, Center for Federalism & Governance Studies, Addis Ababa University
- Since 2010 Member of Discipline Committee, College of Law and Governance Studies, Addis Ababa University
- 2010-2012 Academic Commission Member & Secretary, Center for Federalism & Governance Studies, Addis Ababa University
- 1992-2004 Department Head, Soyama Senior Secondary School, SNNPRS

Publications

1. ***Ethnic Federalism as a New State-building Approach in Post-1991 Ethiopia: Its Pitfalls and the Way Forward***, in Abadir Ibrahim & Kokebe Wolde (eds.) (2022) *Between Failure and Redemption: The Future of the Ethiopian Social Contract*. Northwestern Roberta Buffett Institute for Global Affairs and Northwestern University Libraries, Evanston.
2. ***Neglect, Control and Co-optation: Major features of Ethiopian Youth policy since 1991***. CMI Working Paper, Number 3, July 2021.
3. ***Religion and the Secular State Order: The Ethiopian Experience***; in *Religion, Law and Security in Africa*; Green MC, Gunn TJ, and Hill M (eds.) (2018): AFRICAN SUN MeDIA, Stellenbosch. Pp. 205-222.
4. ***Ethiopia's Ahabash Path for Religious Moderation and Countering Extremism: Pitfalls and Discontents***, in *Journal for the Study of Religions of Africa and Its Diaspora*, Meron Zeleke and Klute, Georg (eds.) (2017), Vol. 3, Issue 1. 17 pp.
5. ***Religious Tolerance in Ethiopia: Reality and Rhetoric***, in *Religious Pluralism, Heritage and Social Development in Africa*, edited by Pieter Coertzen, M. Christian Green and Len Hansen (eds.) (2017), SUN MeDIA Press. 3-19 pp.
6. ***Contested Secularism in Ethiopia: The Freedom to Public Manifestation of Faith***, in *Religious Freedom and Religious Pluralism in Africa: Prospects and Limitations*, edited by Pieter Coertzen, M. Christian Green and Len Hansen (2016), ACLARS, SUN MeDIA. 415-436 pp.
7. ***Religion and the Secular State Order: The Ethiopian Experience*** (2016). Central Printing Press, Addis Ababa University. 74-93 pp.
8. ***Contested Secularism in Ethiopia: The Contention between Muslims and the Government***, PhD Dissertation, Addis Ababa University (2016). 376 pp.
9. ***Secularism and Politicized Faith in Ethiopia***. Student Essay Competition Winner at IPSS (2015). Online: www.tanaforum.org. 15 pp.
10. ***The Quest for Self-Determination in the Regional States of Ethiopia: The Case of the Yem People*** (2011). Published by VDM Verlag.
11. ***Education and Language Policy of Ethiopia: Past and Present*** (2011). Published by VDM Verlag.

12. *The Use of Mother-Tongue in Education: The Case of Afaan Oromo in Oromo Nationality Zone of Amhara National Regional State*, in *Ethiopian Federalism, Principle, Process and Practice*, Alem Habtu (ed.) (2010), Addis Ababa University Press. 23 pp.

Conference Presentations

1. *The Role of Traditional and Religious Conflict Management Institutions in Peacebuilding in Ethiopia*. Paper presented at Adama Conference organized by the Ministry of Peace of Ethiopia held from 24 - 25 April 2021.
2. *Accommodating Diversity through Federalism: The Ethiopian Experience*. Paper presented at Accra (Ghana) Conference organized by UNESCO, 10-11 October 2019.
3. *Accommodating Local Governments in the Ethiopian Federation: Theory and Practice*. Presented at the University of Bern, Switzerland on 23 July 2019.
4. *The Role and Status of Local Government in the Ethiopian Federation: Constitutional Design and Practice*. Paper presented at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland on 2 July 2019.
5. *Secularism in Ethiopia – Still a Contested Terrain for Muslims? Which Model(s) of Secularism is Appropriate?* Paper presented at Bilalul Habesh Center, Addis Ababa, 10 January 2019.
6. *Does Secularism Matter? An Assessment of the Nature of State-Religion Relations in Ethiopia*. ECAS 2019 Conference held in Edinburgh, 10-14 June 2019.
7. *Ethnicization of Politics and Governance in Ethiopia: Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Peace*. African Studies Center, University of Leiden. 20 December 2019.
8. *State-Religion Interactions in Ethiopia: Tensions and Conflicts*. Paper presented at a conference held in Adama from 1-6 October 2018; Legal and Human Rights Policy Forum on Sustaining Political Reforms, Democratization and Human Rights in Ethiopia: Informing the Next Steps.
9. *The Constitutional Right to Freedom of Religion and Secularism in Ethiopia: From Theory to Practice*. Paper presented on Constitutional and Public Law Symposium at Addis Ababa University from 22-23 June 2018.

10. *The Constitutional Right to Freedom of Religion and Secularism in Ethiopia: Fine-tuning the balance between the Right and Imposing Legitimate Restrictions*. Paper presented at a conference in Mekelle, Tigray, held from 6-11 November 2017; Legal and Human Rights Policy Dialogue Forum.
11. *Religion and the Secular State: A Case Study on Ethiopia*. Paper Presented at ACLARS in Rabat, Morocco, May 14-16, 2017.
12. *The Interaction between Islam and State in Ethiopia*, Paper presented at the Conference held at Jimma University organized by the Frederick Ebert Stiftung, July 15, 2016.
13. *Religious Tolerance in Ethiopia: Rhetoric & Reality*, Paper presented at ACLARS held in Addis Ababa, May 21-22, 2016.
14. *Ethiopia's Ahabash Path to Religious Moderation and Countering Extremism: Pitfalls and Discontents*, Paper presented at the Conference organized by BIGSAS in Addis Ababa, May 16, 2016.
15. *Religion and the Secular State Order: The Ethiopian Experience*. Paper presented at the First Graduate Conference, Institute of Peace and Security Studies (IPSS), Addis Ababa University, June 1, 2016.
16. *Contested Secularism in Ethiopia: The Freedom to Public Manifestation of Faith*, Paper Presented at ACLARS in Windhoek, May 22-24, 2015.
17. *Religious Fundamentalism – A Challenge to the Secular State Order in Ethiopia*. Paper Presented in Addis Ababa organized by the Ethiopian House of Federation, January 20, 2013.

Fellowships and Research Awards

1. African Peacebuilding Network Individual Research Grant (APN-IRG, 2020) of 2020, from July to December 2020.
2. EU-H2020 (Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Actions Research Fellowship) from July 2019 to September 2020 hosted at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland.
3. Thematic Research Grant from Addis Ababa University, from September 2019 to June 2021.
4. Civil Society Scholars Award (CSSA) from Open Society Foundations (London) from October 2018 to January 2019 hosted at the University of Leiden, the Netherlands.

5. Visiting Research Fellowship at the University of Leiden (the Netherlands) from October to December 2018.
6. Joint Research and Academic Exchange Fellowship between the University of Leiden (the Netherlands) and Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), hosted at the University of Leiden from September to November 2012.
7. Individual Research Grant from Addis Ababa University, 2011.

Consultancy Services Provided

1. Administrative Boundary and Identity Issues Commission and Addis Ababa University: Research project on “የኢትዮጵያ ፌዴራል ሥርዓት አወቃቀርና ራስን በራስ የማስተዳደር መብት ጥያቄዎችና መፍትሄዎቻቸው”, from June 2020 to June 2021 (an ongoing project).
2. FDRE House of the Federation: Research project on: “*Promoting National Unity and Ensuring Sustainable Peace in Ethiopia: Powers, Functions and Challenges of the House of the Federation*” from October 2020 - April 2021.
3. Addis Ababa University Thematic Research: Research project on *Reconsidering State-Building Approach in Federal Ethiopia: In Search for Our Common Interest and Outlook*, from October 2018 - June 2021 (an ongoing project).
4. Christian Michelson Institute and Forum of Social Studies (FSS): Project titled on – **the Politics of Youth Intervention in Africa - “Youth-Government Interactions in Ethiopia since 1991”**, Working Paper (an ongoing project)
5. UNICEF Ethiopia and FDRE Ministry of Education: *Conflict Context Analysis in Pastoralist and Semi-Pastoralist Areas of Ethiopia*, conducted from November to June 2013.
6. Addis Ababa University: *Federalism and Ethnic Conflict Management in Ethiopia with special emphasis on Guji-Sidama Conflict in Wondo Genet*, from October 2011 to June 2011.
7. UNESCO (Ghana): Research report on the *Accommodation of Diversity through Ethnic Federalism emphasizing on the Ethiopian Experience*, from September to October 2019.

8. Center for Human Rights: Policy Dialogue on the issue of *Secularism and Government Intervention in Religious Affairs in Ethiopia*, held at Mekelle from 6-9 November 2017.
9. Center for Human Rights: Academic Policy Forum on issues of *fine-tuning the balance between government restriction and freedom of religion in Ethiopia*, held at Adama from 5-8, 2018.
10. Ethiopian Red Cross Society, Center of Capacity Development for Humanitarian Services: Preparation of training manual and delivering training for experts and government officials of Somali National Regional State on *International Principles related to the Protection of Migration and Refugees*, January to March 2019.
11. Emerge Consultancy and Training Ltd. Preparing a book entitled “መሪነት በኢትዮጵያ፡ ተግዳሮቶችና መልካም አጋጣሚዎች”, from January to February 2010.
12. House of Federation, Council of Constitutional Inquiry: Preparing training manual and conveying training for its members on *Federalism and Constitutional Adjudication in Ethiopia*, from May to June 2018.
13. House of Federation: Conducting research on *The Challenges of Religious Fundamentalism in Ethiopia*, from November to December 2016.
14. Frederick Ebert Stiftung: Research report on *State-Religion Interaction in Ethiopia with particular emphasis on Islam*, from October to November 2016.
15. Frederick Ebert Stiftung: Research report on *the Constitutional Principles of Fundamental Religious Freedom: From Theory to Practice*, from May to June 2018.
16. FDRE Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council: *The Legal Personality of Mejlis: Some Recommendations*, “ስለ ኢትዮጵያ እስልምና ጉዳዮች ጠቅላይ ምክር ቤት (መጀሊስ) ህጋዊ ሰውነት የቀረበ ምክራ-ሀሳብ”, from December 2019 to January 2020.

Referees

1. Asnake Kefale (Prof.)
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