

# Humanities and Social Science Research in Ethiopia: Trajectories and Trends

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# Conclusions

- The longevity of Ethiopian studies, particularly in the sphere of the humanities and more specifically in the fields of languages and history;
- The broadening of scholarly investigation to include the Cushitic and Omotic south as well as the Semitic north;
- The growing prominence of Ethiopian scholars in the various disciplines;
- The tentative beginnings of social and environmental history and the increasing relevance of oral literature;



# Conclusions (contd.)

- The remarkable advance made in anthropological research in recent decades;
- The recent inclusion of a training component in the mandate of research institutes;
- The conduct of some useful policy-relevant research and dialogue by independent think tanks; and
- The need for more policy-oriented educational research.

# Prospects/Challenges

- Greater attention to social, gender and environmental history;
- Strengthening the National Archives so that it would execute its mandate of facilitating historical research to the full;
- Ensuring that the transformation of research institutes into training centres is not achieved at the expense of research and does not entail the risk of duplication;
- Checking the noticeable decline in faculty research and in the quality of graduate and post-graduate research;
- Wider dissemination of research results, particularly theses and dissertations;
- Awareness of the importance of the publication of reader-friendly policy briefs;
- The need for greater research into the state of Ethiopian performing arts;



# Prospects/Challenges (contd.)

- The need to address some of the critical issues in Ethiopian education, notably those of quality, equity, efficiency and medium of instruction;
- The greater mainstreaming of Ethiopian studies into the general Africanist discourse;
- The facilitation of professional associations so that they can realize their full potential;
- Continued engagement of the public and the government through policy-oriented research; and
- Greater interaction between independent think tanks and government, with EAS playing a bridging role.



- Thank You!