



OSA

OROMO STUDIES ASSOCIATION
WALDAA QORANNOO OROMOO

P.O Box 32391, Fridley, MN 55432
www.oromosudies.org

**THE 29TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE OROMO STUDIES
ASSOCIATION (OSA)
KORA 29^{FFAA} WALDAA QORANNOO OROMOO**

Venue: Howard University

*Ballroom, Blackburn Center, Howard University
2397 Sixth Street NW, Washington, DC 20059*

Dates: Saturday and Sunday, August 1st & 2nd, 2015

Time: 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM

**Theme: Expanding the Frontiers of Oromo Studies: Pathways into the
Future**

The Oromo Studies Association's past conferences have focused on the crucial themes of human rights, democracy, and national liberation – all generating important theoretical and macro-level discussions. This year, the OSA annual conference will focus on “*Expanding the Frontiers of Oromo Studies.*” Given that OSA's mission is to create a platform for the exploration of all issues concerning Oromo life, we sought to include a range of Oromo voices from academia, the arts and the world of community organizing and activism in order to reveal themes and issues that had been previously under theorized or neglected. We anticipate that this focus will lead to intergenerational discussions on identity, culture and community. This year, our panels emphasize social media, youth leadership, diaspora/homeland connection and disconnection, climate and environmental issues, global political economy and development, trauma and healing, the socio-political importance of the arts, Oromo activism, issues of gender and the complexities of faith/spirituality. Expanding Oromo studies to include a wider range of voices

and issues has the potential to provide new data as well as fresh perspectives on the Oromo which may lead to more robust discussions and increased scholarship in the future.

OSA is on social media: www.facebook.com/oromostudiesassociation. Official conference hashtag: [#OromoStudies2015 @OromoStudies](https://twitter.com/OromoStudies) on Twitter.

Keynote Speaker: John Markakis

Professor John Markakis brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Oromo Studies. He is a universally respected author and teacher, who was the first student to receive a PhD in Government and African Studies from Columbia University. Professor Markakis has taught at ten different universities in the United States, Europe and Africa, including at Addis Ababa University where he distinguished himself as a erudite thinker and much-loved professor because of his fairness, objectivity and popular, challenging and progressive ideas. He served as a research fellow at six universities in Europe, Africa and Japan. His teaching and fellowship credentials demonstrate his outstanding global reputation in the academic world.

Professor Markakis is a distinguished and versatile scholar who has written extensively on the political economy of African states, with a particular focus on Ethiopia. He has published three famous books on Ethiopia and four others on the Horn of Africa. He has also edited five collections on the Horn of Africa and prepared scientific reports on issues concerning state building, national integration, ethnicity, regional, religious and ethnic conflict, pastoralism, crossborder trade, regional security, and the arms trade in the Horn of Africa.

Dr. Markakis's profound knowledge and intimate familiarity of the Ethiopian state over several decades is on display in his most recent volume titled, "Ethiopia The Last Two Frontiers" (Oxford: James Currey 2011). In it, he systematically analyzes how the Ethiopian state has treated the Oromo and other conquered peoples. He also focuses on the frontier areas of Ethiopia located in the arid lowlands on the margins of the state, where there is strong resistance among the people to the process of integration that is just reaching them.

Known to be a most knowledgeable, objective and dispassionate scholar and analyst, Professor Markakis will bring a unique perspective about the Ethiopian state and his vision for democratic future for the Oromo and the other peoples in Ethiopia in the Horn of Africa. Professor John Markakis will add a broad dimension to the 2015 conference, which promises an unprecedented harvest of intellectual exchange on several crucial topics that will have huge impact on the future of the Oromo and other people in Northeast Africa.

Preliminary Daily Conference Schedule

Day 1: Saturday, August 1, 2015

<i>Time & Venue</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Facilitator</i>	<i>Presenters/Speakers</i>
8:00–9:00 AM Lobby	Registration	<i>Local organizing committee</i>	<i>Local Hospitality & Registration Group</i>
9:00 – 9:15 AM	Welcoming Ceremony		<i>Dr. Mohammed Hassan, OSA Board Chair Jarwar Mohammed</i>
9:20 –10:40AM	Panel Lessons from the Field: a Look at Oromo Organizations		Toltu Tufa <i>'Speak Oromo!' Exploring socio-psychological approach to intergenerational language maintenance</i> Steven Thomas, Wagner College <i>Oromo Film and Sandscape Communications</i> Tsehai Wodajo <i>Opportunities and Challenges of Running a Nonprofit Organization: The case of Resources for the Enrichment of African Lives</i> Jote Taddese <i>Partnership for Literacy: the Quest to Bring Knowledge and Capacity to Oromia</i>
10:45AM-12:00PM	Panel Crimes Against Humanity: Exploring Paths of Justice for the Oromo		Henok G. Gabisa <i>Historical Injustices against the Oromo: Comparative Exploration of Primary (legislative) and Secondary forms (memory, truth-telling and reconciliation) of Remedies</i> Garoma B. Wakessa <i>Horn of Africa (Ethiopia): Gross Violations of Human Rights and an intractable conflict, past & present</i>

			<p>Habtamu Dugo <i>Stealth Genocide by Government Policy: Famine and Forced Deportation in Oromia, Ethiopia</i></p> <p>Tesfaye Deressa <i>Cultural genocide: the past and present cases of Oromia</i></p>
12:00 pm – 1:00pm	Lunch (on your own)		
01:00-1:45 PM	Keynote Speaker	Introduced by: OSA President-Elect	Prof. Markakis
1:50-3:05 PM	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel Political Economy and Development</p>		<p>Dr. Getahun Benti <i>A History of Mining and Mining Towns in Oromia: The Case of Yubdo</i></p> <p>Henok G. Gabisa <i>Global Political Economy and the Interest of Oromo people: Laser-Beaming on Mining and Energy Laws in Oromia, Ethiopia</i></p> <p>Dr. Bichaka Fayissa <i>Transnational Land Transactions in Developing Countries: Lessons for the Horn of Africa</i></p> <p>Dr. Guluma Gameda <i>Developmental State, Economic Growth and Democracy in Ethiopia: Many Unanswered Questions</i></p> <p>Taye Nadi <i>The territories surrounding Finfinnee and the evil master plan</i></p>

<p>3:10-4:20 PM</p>	<p>Panel Exploring Cultural and Religious Practices in Oromo Society</p>		<p>Lubee Birru <i>Gubaa and Irreecha: an In Depth Examination</i></p> <p>Dr. Chikage Oba-Smidt <i>The Raaga, its social and historical roles among the Boorana in Southern Ethiopia</i></p> <p>Luba Balaay Makonniin Baallamii <i>Kiristaanummaa fi Oromoo Dur irraa hanga Ammaatti</i></p> <p>Dr. Jennifer Lancaster <i>The Role of Religion in Creating Social Capital Networks: An Oromo Case</i></p> <p>Feyera Negera Sobokssa <i>A Story of a Legendary Wise Oromo Woman who Fought for Her Right to Get Equal Access to Land Ownership</i></p>
<p>4:20 – 4:30 PM</p>	<p>Coffee Break - Lobby</p>		
<p>4:30-5:50 PM</p>	<p>Panel Human Rights of the Oromo: Shedding Light in Previously Hidden Areas of Concern</p>	<p>Chair/Organizer: Bonnie Holcomb</p>	<p>Felix Horne <i>The impact on the Oromo of Conditions in Ethiopia Revealed in Recent Human Rights Watch Reports</i></p> <p>Tsegaye Ararssa <i>Righting Wrongs: Pursuing Justice in Relation to Crimes of Political Violence</i></p> <p>Joanne Eisen <i>Planned Sexual Atrocities as a Tactic of Slow Genocide: Inferring Intent</i></p> <p>Bonnie Holcomb <i>Amnesty International Report October 2014 "Because I Am Oromo": Implications for Research</i></p>
<p>6:00PM-</p>	<p><i>Wine and Oromo Cultural Reception – Ground Floor Lobby</i></p>		

Day 2: Sunday, August 2, 2015

<p>9:30 – 9:45 AM</p>	<p>Oromo Blessing</p>		<p><i>Blessing from Elders</i></p>
<p>9:45 – 11:00 AM</p>	<p>Panel Climate Change, Environment and Ecology</p>		<p>Dr. Begna F. Dugassa <i>Understanding the Public Health Impacts of Climate Change and Fostering the Capacity of Oromo People to Mitigate those Problems</i></p> <p>Dr. Oli Bachie <i>Enhancing Food Security and Sustainability of Oromia through Integrated Cropping Systems</i></p> <p>Alemayehu Fayera Darima <i>The Role Oromo Indigenous Institutions of Environmental Rehabilitation</i></p> <p>Dr. Fantahun Diba <i>The Fate of Future of Pastoral Farming in a Changing Climate: The Case in Oromia Regional State</i></p> <p>Abenezer Kefeni <i>Natural resource Degradation and Water Resource Depletion: the case of Central and Western Oromia</i></p>
<p>11:05-12:20pm</p>	<p>Panel Oromo Art: Sites of Cultural and Political Resistance</p>	<p><i>Moderator:</i> <i>Dr. Zakia Posey</i></p>	<p>Dr. Shawn Mollenhauer <i>Music, Protest, and the Aesthetics of Power in Oromia</i></p> <p>Demitu Argo <i>Tribute to Nadhi Gammadaa: the life and lessons from his speech on Anole in 1991</i></p> <p>Yadesa Bojia <i>Oromo Art: The Next Frontier</i></p> <p>Soreti Kadir <i>The politics of poetry</i></p> <p>Nuraddin Aman <i>The Oromo manuscript tradition of south eastern Ethiopia</i></p>

12:25 – 1:45 PM	<p style="text-align: center;">Lunch and OSA Business Meeting <i>General Assembly Meeting: OSA members in Good Standing, Executive Committee and Board of Directors Reports, Election of Officers 2015-2016 Proposal by President-Elect</i></p>		
1:50 – 2:10 PM	<p style="text-align: center;">Awards Ceremony and Recognition of Guests and Sponsors</p>		
2:10 - 2:30pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Presentation</p>		<p>Tsegaye R Ararssa <i>The Figure and Figuration of the Oromo in the Constitutions of Ethiopia</i></p>
2:30 – 3:30 PM	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel Being and Becoming Oromo: Contemporary Narratives</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Moderator: Ayantu Tibeso</i></p>	<p>Dr. Zakia Posey <i>Oromummaa 2.0: The Contours of Transnational Oromo Identity among the Second Generation</i></p> <p>Soreti Kadir <i>The repositioning of the Oromo: who are we today and where do we stand tomorrow?</i></p> <p>Siyade Gemechisa <i>The Oromo Identity in Diaspora and the Necessity for Multiple Narratives</i></p> <p>Hawi Tilahune <i>“I am an Oromo:” The Discourse of Diasporic Agency and the Politics of Emplacement in the Netherlands</i></p>
3:30 –3:40 PM	<p style="text-align: center;">Coffee Break – Lobby</p>		

<p>3:40 – 5:20 PM</p>	<p>Panel Education, Technology and Leadership</p>		<p>Dr. Ezekiel Gebissa <i>Guarding Against Reification in Expanding the Frontiers of Oromo Studies</i> Dr. Asafa Jalata <i>Theorizing oromummaa</i> Cherer Shaffo <i>The role of Universities and Colleges in Oromia in expanding Oromo scholarship</i> Naa'ol Dhugaa <i>Gadaa: The Next Generation</i> Dibaba Amele <i>The need for building Social Solidarity and the vital roles the Oromo intellectuals can play</i></p>
<p>5:20 – 6:30 PM</p>	<p>Roundtable: The Future of Oromo Studies</p>	<p><i>Moderator: Dr. Ezekiel Gebissa</i></p>	<p><i>Members and guests invited to speak to future research and direction</i></p>
<p>6:30-7:20</p>	<p><i>OSA Executive Committee Meeting</i></p>		