

CURRICULUM VITAE

Terje Østebø

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KEY QUALIFICATIONS

Østebø is a Scholar of Religion (PhD) with extensive field-work and research experience from Ethiopia. Research interest and focus include Islamic reform, Salafism, Islamic cultures, inter-religious relations in Ethiopia, as well as ethnic identity, religion and politics and public representations of religion. Østebø also holds an interest in Sufism in Africa, particularly with reference to the dynamic relationship between Islamic reform and Sufism.

He has a broad experience with teaching, both in Norway and abroad. Such teaching includes Islam in Ethiopia (both from historical and contemporary perspectives), Ethiopian history, contemporary Ethiopian society & politics, as well as religion and politics on the Horn of Africa. He also has extensive experience with teaching courses on Islam and Muslim cultures in East Africa, Christian-Muslim relations in East Africa, Christianity in contemporary Africa, as well as African Traditional Religions. The teaching has been carried out within the discipline of Religious Studies and in cross-disciplinary settings.

He has substantial experience with relief- and development work. He has been engaged as an advisor, and has moreover varied experience with administration of relief- and development projects. He is fluent in Oromo and has good knowledge of Amharic.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Florida

Assistant Professor, Center for African Studies &
Department of Religion

2010 – present

NLA University College, Bergen

Assistant Professor, Department of Intercultural studies.

2008 – 2010

Södertörn University College, Stockholm

Visiting lecturer, Department of the Study of Religions.

Spring 2008

NLA University College, Bergen

Lecturer (part-time), Department of Intercultural studies.

2003-2004

EDUCATION

Degrees

Stockholm University, Stockholm

PhD, History of Religions. 2009

Dissertation Title: *Localizing Salafism: Religious Change among Oromo Muslims in Bale, Ethiopia*.

Supervisors: Dr. David Westerlund and Dr. David Thurfjell (co-supervisor).

Committee: Dr. Anne Bang, Dr. Tekeste Negash, Dr. Per-Arne Berglie.

Norwegian School of Theology, Oslo

Master in Theology. 1998

Thesis Title: *Towards a New Identity? A Study of the Situation for Ethiopian Muslims in a Historical Perspective*.

Supervisor: Tormod Engelsen.

University of Bergen, Bergen

Candidatus Magisterii. 1994

Cross-disciplinary degree: Comparative Politics, History, Christian Religion.

Others

Joint Language School, Addis Ababa

Studies in Oromo and Amharic. Fall 1999

University of Oslo, Oslo

Practical-pedagogical studies. 1998-1999

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem

Studies in Modern Hebrew. Summer 1992

PUBLICATIONS

Book & Reports

Muslim Ethiopia: Transforming Identities and New Representations (co-edited with Patrick Desplat), Forthcoming, New York: Palgrave-Macmillan.

Localising Salafism: Religious Change among Oromo Muslims in Bale, Ethiopia, Leiden: Brill, 2012

Islamism in the Horn of Africa: Assessing Ideology, Actors, and Objectives, Report no. 2, International Law and Policy Institute, 2010.

Localising Salafism: Religious Change among Oromo Muslims in Bale, Ethiopia, PhD dissertation, Stockholm: Stockholm University, 2008.

Aadaa Raiytuu: Eeba, Faaruu fi Mammaksa (“*The Culture of Raytu: Blessings, Songs and Proverbs*”), (editor), Raytu: Raytu Community Development Project, 2005.

A History of Islam and Inter-religious Relations in Bale, Ethiopia, Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell International, 2005.

Journal Articles & Book-chapters

“Islam and State Relations in Ethiopia: From Containment to the Production of a ‘Governmental Islam’”, forthcoming in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.

“Islamic Militancy in Africa”, *Africa Security Brief* no 23, Washington DC: Africa Center for Strategic Studies.

“Muslims in Ethiopia: The Christian Legacy, Identity Politics and Islamic Reformism” (co-authored with Patrick Desplat), forthcoming in *Muslim Ethiopia: Transforming Identities and New Representations*, New York: Palgrave-Macmillan.

“Being Young, Being Muslim in Contemporary Bale”, forthcoming in *Muslim Ethiopia: Transforming Identities and New Representations*, New York: Palgrave-Macmillan.

“Postscript”, forthcoming in *Muslim Ethiopia: Transforming Identities and New Representations*, New York: Palgrave-Macmillan.

“Revolutionary Democracy and Religious Plurality: Islam and Christianity in Post-Derg Ethiopia” (co-authored with Jörg Haustein), in *Journal of East African Studies*, 5, 2, 2011.

“Islam and Politics: The EPRDF, the 2005 elections and Muslim institutions in Bale”, in Kjetil Tronvoll and Tobias Hagmann (eds.): *Contested Power: Traditional Authority and Elections in Ethiopia*, Leiden: Brill, 2011.

“Local Reformers and the Search for Change: The Emergence of Salafism in Bale, Ethiopia”, in *Africa*, 81, 4, 2011.

“Ahmed Gran” (co-authored with Hussein Ahmed), entry to the *Encyclopedia of Islam Three*, Part 2011-3. Leiden: Brill, 2011.

“Religious Change and Islam: The Emergence of the Salafi Movement in Bale, Ethiopia”, in Harald Aspen, Birhanu Teferra, Shiferaw Bekele, and Svein Ege (eds.): *Research in Ethiopian Studies*, Viesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2010.

“Une économie salafite de la prière dans la région du Balé en Éthiopie”, in Jean-Louis Triaud and Leonardo A. Villalón, (eds.): *L’économie morale et les mutations de l’islam en Afrique subsaharienne. (Moral Economy and Transformations of Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa)*. Special issue of *Afrique Contemporaine*, 231, 2009.

“Growth and Fragmentation: The Salafi Movement in Contemporary Bale, Ethiopia”, in Roel Meijer (ed.): *Global Salafism: Islam's New Religious Movement*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2009.

“Ethiopia – On the Borders of Christianity”, in Stig J. Hansen, Atle Mesøy and Tuncay Kardas (eds.): *Borders of Civilisation: Exploring Samuel Huntington’s Faultlines from Al-Andalus to the Virtual Ummah*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2009.

“The Question of Becoming: Islamic Reform Movements in Contemporary Ethiopia”, in *Journal of Religion in Africa*, 38, 4, 2008.

“Christian-Muslim Relations in Ethiopia”, in Anne N. Kubai and Tarakegn Adebo (eds.): *Striving in Faith: Christians and Muslims in Africa*, Uppsala: Life & Peace Institute, 2008.

The Question of Becoming: Islamic Reform Movements in Contemporary Ethiopia, Working Paper No. 8, Bergen: Christian Michelsen Institute, 2007.

“A History of Islam in Bale: An Outline”, in Henrik Petersen (ed.): *Stories from Bale: Religious development & Evangelical Christianity*, Addis Ababa 2005.

“Fra religion til religiøs ideologi” (From Religion to Religious Ideology), in *Kirke og Kultur*, 1, 2005.

“Islam og islamisme i Afrika” (Islam and Islamism in Africa), in Brynjulf Hoaas and Dagfinn Solheim (eds.): *Budskap2004 – Årsskrift for Fjellhaug Misjonsskole*, Oslo: Fjellhaug Skoler, 2004.

“Kirken, konteksten og islam – noen refleksjoner fra Bale, Etiopia” (The Church, the Context and Islam: Reflections from Bale, Ethiopia), in *Norsk Tidsskrift for Misjon*, 57, 2, 2003.

“På vei mot en ny identitet; en analyse av dagens situasjon for etiopiske muslimer” (Towards a New Identity: An Analysis of the Contemporary Situation for Muslims in Ethiopia), in *Norsk Tidsskrift for Misjon*, 53, 1, 1999.

“Kristendom versus Islam i Etiopia” (“Christianity vs. Islam in Ethiopia”), in *Ung Teologi*, 30, 3, 1998.

“Creating a New Identity; the Position of Ethiopian Muslims in a Contemporary Perspective”, in *Swedish Missiological Themes*, 6, 3, 1998.

Review Articles

“Review: Timothy D. Fernyhough, *Serfs, Slaves and Shifta: Modes of Production and Resistance in Pre-Revolutionary Ethiopia*”, in *African Studies Quarterly*, 13, 1-2, 2012.

“Review: Janet McIntosh, *The Edge of Islam: Power, Personhood, and Ethnoreligious Boundaries on the Kenya Coast*”, in *African Studies Quarterly*, 12, 3, 2011.

“Review: Haggai Erlich, *Islam & Christianity in the Horn of Africa: Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan*”, in *Journal of Northeast African Studies*, 11, 2, 2011.

“Review: Haggai Erlich, *Saudi Arabia & Ethiopia: Islam, Christianity & Politics Entwined*”, in *Journal of Religion in Africa*, 37, 4, 2007.

“Review: Bernt T. Oftestad: Den norske statsreligion: Fra øvrighetskirke til demokratisk statskirke” (“The Norwegian State-religion: From an Authoritarian Church to a Democratic State-church”) in *Ung Teologi*, 30, 4, 1998.

Work in Progress

Islam & Ethno-Nationalism in the Horn of Africa, book manuscript.

“The Emergence and Historical Trajectory of African Salafism”, journal article.

“African Salafism: Post-colonialism, Modernization, and Politics”, journal article.

“The revenge of the *Jinn*: Salafism and Perceptions of Change in Contemporary Bale (Ethiopia)”, journal article.

“Northeast Africa and the Arabian Peninsula: Educational connections, interactions and Exchange”, journal article (together with Hassan Muhammad, Addis Ababa University).

”Religious Leaders as Agents of Social Change: The Case of Female Genital Cutting and Muslim Leaders in Ethiopia”, journal article (Together with Marit Tolo Østebø)

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS / PROFESSIONAL TALKS

“Ethiopian Salafism: The Role of Actors, Locality, and Outside Connections”, paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago, 16-19 November, 2012.

“African Salafism: The Role of Actors, Locality, and Outside Connections”, paper presented at the *European Association for the Study of Religion's Annual Conference*, Södertörn University College, Stockholm, 23-26 August 2012.

“Religion and Ethno-nationalism in the Horn of Africa: The Case of the Oromo Struggle in Bale, Ethiopia”, paper (invited) presented at plenary-session for the *Oromo Studies Association Annual Meeting*, University of Minnesota, 14 June 2012.

“Religious Radicalization in the Horn of Africa”, lecture (invited) given at the Rift Valley Institute's Horn of Africa Course, Kilifi (Kenya), 18 June 2012.

“Major Religious Traditions in the Horn of Africa”, lecture (invited) given at the Rift Valley Institute's Horn of Africa Course, Kilifi (Kenya), 18 June 2012.

“Understanding the Recent Conflicts between the Muslim Community and the Ethiopian State”, presentation (invited) for EU's Deputy Ambassadors, Addis Ababa, 12 June 2012.

“Islam and the Ethiopian State: Current Trends and Tensions”, presentation (invited) for the Human Rights and Democracy Sub-group of the Diplomatic Community, Addis Ababa, 14 June 2012.

“Being Young, Being Muslim in Contemporary Ethiopia”, paper presented at *Africa at the Crossroad – 21st Annual African/African Diaspora Conference*, Sacramento State University, 26 April 2012.

"Islam-State Relations in Ethiopia: From Containment to the Production of “Governmental Islam”, paper presented at the Islam in Africa Working group, University of Florida, 6 December 2011.

“Islam, Politics, and the Ethiopian State”, paper (invited) presented at the Center for African Studies, University of California – Berkeley, 7 October 2011.

“The revenge of the *Jinn*: Salafism and Perceptions of Change in Contemporary Bale (Ethiopia)”, paper (invited) presented at the conference *Approaches to the Qur’an in sub-Saharan Africa*, Textile Museum of Canada (org. by The Institute of Ismaili Studies & University of York), Toronto, 20-21 May 2011.

“Oromumma and Umma: Oromo Ethno-nationalism in Ethiopia”, paper presented at the 28th *Annual Conference of the American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies*, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA, 8-9 April 2011.

“Oromo Ethno-nationalism in Ethiopia”, paper presented at the Islam in Africa Working Group, Center for African Studies, UF, 22 February 2011.

“Youth, Islam, and Ethno-nationalism in contemporary Bale”, paper presented at the workshop *Transforming Identities and New Representations of Islam in Contemporary Ethiopia*, University of Bergen, 22-23 September 2010.

“The EPRDF Democracy: Views from the Muslim Communities”, presentation (invited) at the seminar *Ethiopia: A Pre-election Round-table*, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London 17 March 2010.

“Islamic Reform in Africa”, presentation (invited) at the Center for African Studies, University of Florida, Gainesville, 1 February 2010.

“Ethiopian Salafism: Contemporary Trends and Discourses among the Salafis in Bale, Ethiopia”, paper presented at the 17th *International Conference of Ethiopian Studies*, Addis Ababa 1-5 November 2009.

“Oromumma and Umma? The Questions of Islamic Reform and Ethno-nationalism in Contemporary Bale, Ethiopia”, paper presented at the 3rd *European Conference on African Studies*, Leipzig 4-7 June 2009.

“The Salafi Movement in Bale, Ethiopia”, paper presented at workshop *Radicalization and Reform of Islam in Africa: Knowledge and Institutionalization in a Global Context*, University of Bergen/Unifob-Global, Bergen 18-19 September 2008.

“The Early Emergence of Salafism in Bale, Ethiopia”, paper (invited) presented at a seminar at the Center for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, University of Bergen, Bergen 23 November 2008.

“Debating Da’wa: The Salafi Movement in Contemporary Bale, Ethiopia”, paper presented at the conference *Salafism as a Transnational Movement*, Nijmegen, The Netherlands 28-30 September 2007.

“Religious Change and Islam: The Emergence of the Salafi Movement in Bale, Ethiopia”, paper presented at the *16th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies*, Trondheim 2-6 July 2007.

“Islam, Ethnicity, and Politics: Islamic Reform-movements in Contemporary Ethiopia”, paper presented at the conference *Religions at the Borders: New Challenges in the Study of Religion*, Södertörn University College, Stockholm 19-22 April 2007.

“Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations in Ethiopia: Lessons from the Past and Prospects for the Future”, presentation (invited) at the Holy Trinity Theological College (Ethiopian Orthodox Church), Addis Ababa 22 March 2005.

“Islam as a Religious Ideology”, paper presented at the seminar *Religion as a Contribution to Conflict and Reconciliation: With Emphasis on Islam and the West*, during “Bergen International Week “, Bergen 23 September 2004.

ORGANISATION OF ACADEMIC EVENTS

Main organizer of the symposium: *Militant Islam in Africa: Fears and Realities*, University of Florida, 23-34 March 2012.

Organizer (with Patrick Desplat, University of Cologne) of the workshop, *Transforming Identities and New Representations of Islam in Contemporary Ethiopia*, University of Bergen, 22-23 September 2010.

Member of Organizing Committee: *The Nordic Horn of Africa Conference*, Oslo 31 October – 1 November 2008.

Convener and Chair (with Dr. Hussein Ahmed, Addis Ababa University) of the panel “Islam in Ethiopia” at the *16th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies*, Trondheim 2-6 July 2007.

Convener and Organizer (with Dr. Bård Mæland) of the Seminar *Religion as a Contribution to Conflict and Reconciliation: With Emphasis on Islam and the West*, at “Bergen International Week “ sponsored by the United Nation Association in Norway and NLA University College, Bergen 23 September 2004.