Ethnic Identity and Development

Since 1991, there has been renewed debate in Ethiopia concerning the implication of the country’s past for the present polity. The long-standing debate was given an added impetus by Erteyes’ independence from Ethiopia and the threat of disintegration posed by the continuing struggle for self-determination by other ethnonational groups. Ethiopians scholars, always committed to the indivisibility and oneness of the Ethiopian state, blamed the country’s political troubles on nationalist scholars, accusing them of fabricating history and instigating people into taking up arms against the state. Viewing to protect Ethiopia from further disintegration, the Ethiopian elite called on leading scholars to challenge, expose, and discredit what they described as the politically motivated propaganda of irresponsible nationalists. In Contested Terrain, a team of historians and sociologists confront the scholarship of power that disses politically engaged scholarship in the name of academic freedom. They demonstrate that objectivity in scholarship should not mean neutralization in the face of injustice and exploitation. In eight chapters, they show that scholars can recover the experiences of the dispossessed, thereby underrepresented and voice to the powerless and downtrodden. They demonstrate that there is no contradiction between challenging prevailing dogmas and inherited orthodoxies in academia on the one hand and giving support to struggles aimed at ending exploitative practices and dismantling institutions of oppression on the other. Academic objectivity must not be a test for questioning the scholarly value of nationalistic scholarship solely on the basis of the scholar’s commitment to certain political causes. As an intellectual-entrepreneur, politically engaged scholarship should be judged on its own merits, not on the basis of its implications for the well-being of political entities. 

Sagalee Haara

Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of the Middle-East

This collection focuses on the making and unmaking of cross-border micro-regions in Africa. Its main emphasis is that micro-regions are not givens, but are constructed and reconstructed through social practice, political economy and by a variety of states, corporations and non-state actors. The region-builders are the focus—that is, those actors that build and make micro-regions and their associated rebuilding strategies. Key research questions are: for whom, for what purpose and with what consequences are micro-regions being made and unmade? There is also special emphasis on how people on the ground and local communities create their own region-building strategies and how they respond to the region-building strategies of others. The cases studies—by leading scholars of African studies and the result of extensive fieldwork—include a wide selection of micro-regions all over Africa, such as the Maputo Development Corridor, the Zambian Valley region, the Zambia-Malawi-Mozambique Growth Triangle, Walvis Bay, the Sierra Leone-Liberia border zone, cross-border micro-regions on the Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes region, North Africa, and more.

The International Journal of African Historical Studies

Africa Today

The Arab Revolutions that began in 2011 reignited interest in the question of theory and practice, imbuing it with a burning political urgency. In Revolution and Disenchantment Fadi A. Bardawil redefines for our present how an earlier generation of revolutionaries, the 1960s Arab New Left, addressed this question. Bardawil excavates the long-lost archive of the Marxist organization Socialist Lebanon and its main theorist, Waddah Charara, who articulated answers in their political practice to fundamental issues confronting revolutionaries worldwide: intellectuals as vectors of revolutionary theory, political organizations as mediators of theory and practice; and non-empirical attachments as impediments to revolutionary practice. Drawing on historical and ethnographic methods and moving beyond familiar reception narratives of Marxist thought in the postcolony, Bardawil engages in “fieldwork in theory” that analyzes how theory seduces intellectuals, cultivates sensibilities, and authorizes political practice. Throughout, Bardawil underscores the resonances and tensions between Arab intellectual traditions and Western critical theory and postcolonial theory, deftly placing intellectuals from those traditions into a much-needed conversation.

The Journal of Oromo Studies

Afro-regions

A transnational perspective allows the authors to investigate the diversity of consumer cultures and the interaction between them. They look at the genealogy of the modern consumer and the development of consumer cultures. 

This book presents data on Ugandan khat within the context of international debates on the drug, and the proposed ban in 2009. By telling of the story of khat, the book will serve as a vehicle for the analysis of social change, development priorities and shifting ethnic identities in Uganda over the last 80 years.

Revolution and Disenchantment

Book Review Index

This new volume examines the major changes effected by the socialist regime from the revolution of 1974 to its overthrow in 1991, and then into the current period which has been marked by moves towards local democracy and political devolution. North America: Ohio U Press; Ethiopia: Addis Ababa U Press.

Bilhhaan

Reframes the story of modern Ethiopia around the contributions of the Oromo people and the culturally fluid union of communities that shaped the nation’s politics and society.

Muslim-Christian Encounters in Africa

Top 100 Exotic Food Plants

This engaging collection of essays offers new insights into the multi-faceted and changing encounters of Muslims and Christians in Africa in the past and closer to the present.

Taking the Place of Food

Remapping Ethiopia

American Book Publishing Record

Bibliographic Index

This detailed ethnography follows trajectories the controversial stimulant khat takes from Kenya’s Nyambene Hills to consumers spread throughout the world, and highlights the great economic, social and cultural significance of this transnational commodity for those animating its’ social life.

The African Book Publishing Record

Contested Terrain

So in fact, the cultural or civilizational variable could not possibly be neglected in the explanation of certain phenomena on the global scene. Otherwise, how can one to explain the phenomenon of the alliance of Muslim countries with the international coalitions at the time of the Iraqi invasion to Kuwait? Or the Iran-Iraq conflict? Or the Moroccan-Algerian conflict on the question of the Moroccan Sahara, does it have cultural or civilizational dimensions? Not at all. In multi vocal states, from Lebanon to Pakistan and going through Lebanon, internal conflicts cannot be interpreted by the phenomena of culture or civilizational variables. An analysis of the global sphere, especially in consideration of several variables important as economic ones, namely, social, technical, as well as cultural and political. Order representation as well as that of disorder must incorporate all the dimensions possible to surpass the clichés and the pessimistic visions of the world which have been used to kick off the XXI century. This work is necessary in order to deconstruct the imagery that is being propagated by scholarly work, the media, decision-makers, and opinion leaders.

Climate Change and Migration
Captured at Sea

This book addresses the use and regulation of traditional drugs such as opium, ayahuasca, cocoa leaf, cannabis, khat and Salvia divinorum. The uses of these substances can often be found at the intersection of diverse areas of life, including politics, medicine, shamanism, religion, aesthetics, knowledge transmission, socialization, and celebration. The collection analyzes how some of these psychoactive drugs have been progressively incorporated and regulated in developed Western societies by both national legislation and by the United Nations Drug Conventions. It focuses mainly, but not only, on the debates in court cases around the world involving the claim of religious use and the legal definitions of "religion." It further touches upon issues of human rights and religious liberty as they relate to the consumption of drugs. While this collection emphasizes certain uses of psychoactive substances in different cultures and historical periods, it is also useful for thinking about the consumption of drugs in general in contemporary societies. The cultural and informal controls discussed here represent alternatives to the currently merely prohibitionist policies, which are linked to the spread of drugs and illegal markets. By addressing the drugs involved in the regulation of traditional drug use, this volume reflects on notions such as origin, place, authenticity, and tradition, thereby relating drug policy to broader social science debates.

Kenyan Khat

Drugs and Emperies introduces new research from a range of historiographers that re-evaluates the relationship between intoxicants and empires in the modern world. It re-examines controversies about such issues as the Asian opium trade or the sale of alcohol in Africa. It addresses new areas of research, including the impact of imperial drugs profits on American history, or the place of African states in the development of international regulations. The outcome is to provoke new perspectives on both drugs and empires.

Environmental Security Assessment and Management of Obsolete Pesticides in Southeast Europe

African Study Monographs

Many edible plants considered exotic in the Western world are actually quite mainstream in other cultures. While some of these plants are only encountered in ethnic food markets or during travels to foreign lands, many are now finding their way onto supermarket shelves. Top 100 Exotic Food Plants provides comprehensive coverage of tropical and semitropical food plants, reviewing scientific and technological information as well as their culinary uses. Wide-ranging in scope, this volume's coverage includes plants that produce fruits, vegetables, spices, culinary herbs, nuts, and extracts. A user-friendly format enables readers to easily locate information on botanical and agricultural aspects, economic and social importance, food uses, storage, preparation, and potential toxicity. The book also contains an introductory chapter that reviews important historical, economic, geopolitical, health, environmental, and ethical considerations associated with exotic food plants. Thoroughly referenced with more than 2000 literature citations, this book is enhanced by more than 200 drawings, many chosen from historical art of extraordinary quality. This timely volume also highlights previously obscure edible plants that have recently become prominent as a result of sensationalistic media reports stemming from their inherently entertaining or socially controversial natures. Some of these plants include the acai berry, kava, hemp, and opium poppy. A scholarly yet accessible presentation, the book is filled with numerous memorable, fascinating, and humorous facts, making it an entertaining and stimulating read that will appeal to a broad audience.

The Act of Living

This study tells the story of Bugandia's society, economy, and culture.

Ghana's New Christianity

Every 3rd issue is a quarterly compilation.

The Other Abyssinians

Khat, a harmless natural stimulant or a lethal epidemic sweeping through the international drugs trade? Khat is a natural substance that, in the Middle East, is as ubiquitous as coffee is in the West. It is hugely popular in some African and Arab populations. But critics contend that it is a seriously addictive stimulant that damages the cardiovascular system. In a groundbreaking study, the authors go behind the veil of the drug, questioning its availability and its effect on its Red Sea producers. Interwoven with case studies from Djibouti to Rome, The Khat Controversy goes deeper to explore contemporary issues of traditional drug use, globalization, ethnicity and culture. With its popularity escalating in London, Rome, Toronto and Copenhagen, Khat is fast becoming a problem in the West. The first study of this contested drug, The Khat Controversy provides a concise introduction to the issues surrounding khat usage and how such politicians should address them. The Khat Controversy: Stimulating the Debate on Drugs has received an honorable mention for the African Studies Association 2008 Mobile J. Herskovits Award

Aethiopica

The current volume, "Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of the Middle-East" brings together chapters on selected, unique medicinal plants of this region, known to man since biblical times. Written by wealth of botanists and scientists, this volume covers both domesticated crops and wild plants with great potential for cultivation. Some of these plants are well-known medicinally, such as opium poppy and khat, while others such as aphasmeron and citron have both ritual and medicinal uses. All have specific and valuable uses in modern society. As such, it is an important contribution to the growing field of medicinal and aromatic plants. This volume is intended to bring the latest research to the attention of the broad range of botanists, ethnopharmacists, biochemists, plant and animal physiologists and others who will benefit from the information gathered therein. Plants know no political boundaries, and bringing specific folklore to general medical awareness can only be for the benefit of all.

Consuming Cultures, Global Perspectives

Taking the Place of Food

The present work is a fine contribution to the broad field of environmental security in the context of risk assessment and management of obsolete pesticides for the region of Southeast Europe. The purpose of this book is to evaluate the existing knowledge of improper disposal of obsolete pesticides in the region, to estimate the associated impact on environmental health, and to develop recommendations to mitigate or eliminate threats posed to the environment, biodiversity and human life. The issues discussed in this book include: reviews of the transport and fate of pesticides and associated priority substances in different environments, analysis of the material and identification of the principal sources, emission routes and patterns of environmental pollution with pesticides; a recognition of the most suitable methods for environmental sampling analysis and sample preparation; an evaluation of the current methods and techniques for chemical and mass analysis of environmental and biological samples; and discussion of the metrological and quality aspects of trace analyses; a characterization of the environmental and health impacts of pesticide pollution, the health effects associated with acute and chronic exposure and the use of epidemiological data for risk assessment; a revision of the existing chemical safety regulations and strategies for protection and management of obsolete pesticide stocks; a survey of the international conventions, directives and standards concerning pesticide use.

Prohibition, Religious Freedom, and Human Rights: Regulating Traditional Drug Use

African Studies Review

Journal of Religion in Africa

Drugs in Africa

How is it possible for men to take a Libyan-flagged oil tanker hatchet and negotiate a huge pay out for the return of its crew and 2.2 million barrels of crude oil? In his gripping new book, Latun Dua answers this question by exploring the unprecedented upsurge in maritime piracy off the coast of Somalia in the twenty-first century. Taking the reader inside pirate communities in Somalia, onboard multinational container ships, and within in offices in London, Dua documents modern day pirate lords to tell long forgotten tales of trade and disputes over protection. In their increasingly technological world, maritime piracy represents not only an interruption, but an attempt to insert oneself within the world of the oceanic trade. Captured at Sea moves beyond the binaries of legal and illegal to illustrate how the seas continue to be key sites of global regulation, connectivity, and commerce today.

Qat in Yemen

Climate change and migration are major concerns in the MENA region, yet the empirical evidence on the impact of climate change and extreme weather events on migration remains limited. Information is broadly lacking on how households in vulnerable areas perceive changes in the climate, how they are affected by extreme weather events, whether they benefit from community and government programs to help them cope with the changing climate, and how these conditions influence the decision of household members to migrate, either temporarily or permanently. This introductory chapter summarizes briefly the main results of the study which relied on existing data as well as focus groups and new household surveys collected in 2011 in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Yemen. The results suggest that households do perceive important changes in the climate, and that many households are being affected by extreme weather events resulting in losses in income, crops, and livestock. The coping and adaptation strategies used by households to deal with weather shocks are diverse, but also limited, with most households not able to recover from such events. The empirical evidence on the impact of climate change on migration is not the main driver of migration flows, it does appear to contribute substantially to these flows, so that worsening climatic conditions are likely to exacerbate future migration flows.

Drugs and Empires

"Gifford knows his subject totally, has vast and wide-ranging sympathy for his subjects (though without being uncritical), and explores these themes with admirable intelligence. This book is simply the best thing out there."—Philip Jenkins "Gifford's is an incomprising, hard-nosed study. . . .[S]he can again look at the subject without at least a respectful nod in his direction."—Lamis Sennih In Ghana's New Christianity, Paul Gifford considers the explosion of Christianity in sub-Saharan Africa by focusing on one place: Greater Accra, Ghana. Gifford examines every dimension of these new churches and mega-churches, including their discourse, theological vision, worship, rituals, music, media involvement, use of the Bible, finances, and clientele. Ghana's new Christianity sets religious devotion into Ghana's political and economic situation and focuses on how fervent belief in success and wealth in the here and now can provide motivation to change in circumstances where it is so easy to despair. No other book brings forth the complex nature of Africa's new Christianity with such clarity or offers such a searching analysis of its power to tackle Africa's predicament.

Wolane

This cutting-edge volume is the first to address the burgeoning interest in drugs and Africa among scholars, policymakers, and the general public. It brings together an interdisciplinary group of...
leading academics and practitioners to explore the use, trade, production, and control of mind-altering substances on the continent

**The Khat Controversy**

**Political Power in Pre-colonial Buganda**

The Act of Living explores the relation between development and marginality in Ethiopia, one of the fastest growing economies in Africa. Replete with richly depicted characters and multi-layered narratives on history, everyday life and visions of the future, Marco Di Nunzio's ethnography of hustling and street life is an investigation of what is to live, hope and act in the face of the failing promises of development and change. Di Nunzio follows the life trajectories of two men, “Haile” and “Ibrahim,” as they grow up in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, enter street life to get by, and turn to the city's expanding economies of work and entrepreneurship to search for a better life. Apparently favourable circumstances of development have not helped them achieve social improvement. As their condition of marginality endures, the two men embark in restless attempts to transform living into a site for hope and possibility. By narrating Haile and Ibrahim's lives, The Act of Living explores how and why development continues to fail the poor, how marginality is understood and acted upon in a time of promise, and why poor people's claims for open-endedness can lead to better and more just alternative futures. Tying together anthropology, African studies, political science, and urban studies, Di Nunzio takes readers on a bold exploration of the meaning of existence, hope, marginality, and street life.

**Leaf of Allah**

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