

The 68th Kyoto University African Studies Seminar (KUASS)

LECTURE TITLE 1

“Reconsidering area studies in Africa: The Ethiopian experience”

This paper deals with area studies in Africa particularly focusing on the research activities of the department of social anthropology (SOAN) at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. The department started an MA program in social anthropology 1991 and a PhD program in 2010. SOAN's graduate programs have been closely associated with international partnership aimed at enhancing the quality of anthropological education and research. Graduate research activities of the department have a strong ethnographic orientation and a wide range of regional and thematic coverage. In its two decades journey, the graduate programs have passed through the period of successes and challenges. This study explores the history of the graduate programs, SOAN's engagement in international partnership, enrolment and graduation trends, thematic areas and regional coverage of graduates' research activities in the last 11 years (2006-2016).



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Date: Friday 26 May 2017

Time: 13:00-15:00

Venue: Seminar Room #318, Inamori Foundation
Memorial Hall (3F), Kyoto University

LECTURE TITLE 2

“Smallholders responses to food insecurity: The case of the Gamo Highlands, Southern Ethiopia”

Enhancing food security among smallholder farmers has been the major area of development intervention in Ethiopia. Thousands of development agents (DAs) have been assisting farmers to adopt new technologies and inputs to maximize productivity. Despite long term efforts, however, still millions of people engaged in small scale farming are exposed to food insecurity. This study explores smallholders' responses to food insecurity focusing on small scale farmers in the Gamo highlands, south western Ethiopia. The findings reveal that smallholders are not passive receivers of technologies and inputs (e.g., fertilizers and best seeds) promoted by government and development agencies. They make decisions considering their own circumstances, sometimes challenging the dominant discourses and practices. Smallholders' adopt and widely cultivate bashkala (an alien 'crop' imported from an unknown place), despite the anti-bashkala campaign launched by district agriculture office. This paper discusses smallholders' responses to food insecurity putting bashkala at the center of the argument.



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