

The 4th International Research Forum of African Studies, Kyoto University Role of African Area Studies for “African Crisis”

平成22年度京都大学全学経費による第四回国際共同研究

「アフリカ研究はアフリカの危機にどう対処するか」

Dr. Marco Bassi (African Studies Centre, University of Oxford)

“Primary Identity and the Composite Origin of the East-African Ethnic Groups Inputs from a Study of the Lower Omo Valley”

This presentation addresses the dynamics of group formation in East Africa, building on the notion of primary identity. The case of identity formation in the lower Omo Valley will be considered by presenting insights gained during the AHRC research project “Landscape, People and Parks: Environmental change in the Lower Omo valley, Southwestern Ethiopia” (University of Oxford). The current identities are the result of the 19th century large scale migrations and of internal adjustments and in the process of accessing the ecological niche generated by the regular flooding of the Omo River. Processes of identity re-definition are described in cataclysmic terms in oral tradition. The ‘cataclysms’ changed the demographic balance with the natural resources and the reciprocal relations of power, leading to the disappearance of some of the primary groups whose existence and prosperity were recorded by the early explorers or whose existence is acknowledged in oral traditions.

The research data show that the notion of ‘primary groups’, exercising coherent governance over a broad and sometimes scattered range of resources, needs to be complemented with the theoretical relevance of clusters, specific localities characterised by high interaction and the co-presence of different primary groups.

Dr. マルコ・バッシ 「東アフリカにおける民族集団の一次的アイデンティティと複合的起源：
オモ川下流地域での研究から」

Dr. Boku Tache Dida (Norwegian University of Life Sciences)

“Pastoralism under Stress Resources, Institutions and Poverty among the Borana Oromo in Southern Ethiopia”

The study examines pastoral production and poverty in Borana in southern Ethiopia; its main objective being to understand the manner in which external factors, such as government policy and the natural environment affect the pastoral resource base, how this in turn influences poverty and wealth, and how customary institutions respond to these influences. Furthermore, inconsistencies between government and local perspectives are interpreted with respect to differing views about development and integration, and associated conceptions of what poverty means. The study was conducted in four localities that each reflects different livelihood options and strategies.

The study employed participant observation, a household survey, key informant interviews, case studies, and discussions during an organized workshop. The household surveys covered 330 randomly selected households from four sites in the Yaballo and Dirre districts.

Persistent and increasing poverty in Borana is attributed to impacts of state land use policies over different historical periods; incompatible conceptions of poverty and differently envisaged alleviation strategies by development planners and pastoralists; decline in the rangelands, and associated livestock loss; internalization of these problems in a manner that aggravates vulnerability to poverty; and a decline in the capacity of the customary institutions to address poverty. Poverty drivers have different household impacts. While some households lose capacity to attain food security and self-reliance and thus drift into chronic poverty, others respond by diversifying livelihoods and herds.

Dr. ボク・タシェ・ディダ 「圧迫される牧畜：エチオピア南部のボラナ・オロモにおける資源、制度、貧困」

Identity on the Move / Pastoralism under Stress
Research on the group formation and livelihood change in Northeastern Africa



October 26, 2010 13:30-17:30

Meeting Room 332 on the 3rd floor of Inamori Foundation Memorial Hall

Kyoto University