



AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE

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TITLE: ISSUES ON AGRARIAN CHANGE IN CONTEMPORARY ETHIOPIA

CONVENOR: LUCA MANTOVAN, UNIVERSITY OF DIRE DAWA, ETHIOPIA (lucamantovan76@gmail.com)

ABSTRACT: This panel aims at stimulating a broad reflection on agrarian change in contemporary Ethiopia among Ethiopian and international researchers of different disciplines. During the rapid growth and transformation of the Ethiopian economy of the last years, the agricultural sector has been developing with new and old, apparent or real contradictions. Economic neo-liberalism is promoted and controlled by the developmental state; alternative land policies are proposed on the basis of new questionable evidence and old dismissed arguments; innovative approaches to agricultural extension are designed even though farmers' income remains associated to political affiliation; cash crops are expanding while food price inflation is exacerbating to the benefit of traders; foreign direct investments overpassing customary right and grabbing vast tracts of land; industrialization proceeds but its inter-linkages with agriculture are weak and urban unemployment grows. This panel explores the diverse aspects of agrarian change in contemporary Ethiopia by calling for papers proposing general reflections or more specific analyses on topics such as

- Continuity and discontinuity in recent agrarian history;
- Neo-liberalism and developmental state;
- Socio-economic impact of rural development policies;
- Structure and interlocking of agricultural markets;
- Land tenure, land policies and land question;
- Industrialization and industry-agriculture relations;
- Rural class formation, rural outmigration and urban unemployment;
- Local governance and state-peasant interaction;
- Official development policies and peasant practice and adaptation;
- Livelihood systems and peasant institutions;

- Inequality, food-insecurity and poverty.

Contributions on these correlated topics, from any discipline, with any analytical approach and by young Ethiopian researchers are encouraged.

CONVENOR'S ACADEMIC PROFILE: Luca Mantovan is assistant professor at the Department of Economics of the University of Dire Dawa in Ethiopia. His research on Economic Development focuses on Eastern Africa and Middle East and is of an interdisciplinary character in so far as it tries to merge Economics, History and Anthropology.