

CURRICULUM VITAE OF GETAHUN BENTI

I. PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of History
Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
Department of History, Mailcode 4519
Carbondale, IL 62901
E-mail: benti@siu.edu

II. EDUCATION

Ph.D., African History, Michigan State University (MSU), 2000
M.A., African History, Addis Ababa University (AAU), 1988
B.A., History, AAU, 1982

III. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professor, July 2018-
Associate Professor, 2007-2018
Assistant Professor, SIUC, 2001 – Spring 2007
Lecturer, SIUC, 2000-01
Visiting Assistant Professor, African Diaspora Research Project/ Urban Affairs
Programs at MSU, Spring 2000
Research and Teaching Assistant, MSU, 1991-2000
Coordinator of Freshman Program, Asmara University (AU), Eritrea, 1988-1991
Senior lecturer, AU, 1988-1991
Lecturer and graduate student, AAU, 1984-1988
Assistant lecturer, AU, 1982-1984

IV. RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

A. Interests and Specialties:

Urbanization, migration; nationalism, ethnicity
Comparative colonialism

B. Current Projects:

C. Grants Applied for:

ORDA Faculty Seed Grant, 2005

D. Grants Received:

The Rockefeller Foundation African Dissertation Internship Award, MSU, 1995-97
Robert L. Green Fellowship, MSU, 1993
Robert L. Green Fellowship, MSU, 1994

E. Honors and Awards

The Oromo Studies Association Distinguished Scholar Award, 2019

F. Papers and Presentations at Professional Meetings:

"Shashamanne: Foundation and Early Growth up to the Italian Occupation," paper presented at the Annual Seminar of the Department of History, Addis Ababa University, July 1987

"The Overurbanization of a Metropolis: A Preliminary Survey of Migration to Addis Ababa, 1941-1974," paper presented at the XIIth International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Michigan State University, East Lansing, 1994

"Some Notes on the Study of Migration in Pre-1974 Ethiopia," paper presented at the Annual Seminar of the Department of History, Addis Ababa University, March 1997

"Intrusions on Oromumma (Oromoness) and the Struggle of the Oromo People for Freedom," presented at African Studies Association Conference, Philadelphia, November 1999

"Some Factors Limiting the Migration of Oromos to Addis Ababa," presented at the 13th Annual Conference of the Oromo Studies Association, Atlanta, July 1999

"The Burdens of Overgrowth: Addis Ababa's Major Problems, 1941-1974," presented at the 15th Annual Conference of the Oromo Studies Association, Minneapolis, July 2001

"A Blind without a Cane, a Nation without a City: Oromo Nationalism in a Historical Perspective and the Struggle for Addis Ababa," presented at the 16th Annual Conference of the Oromo Studies Association, Washington, D.C., July 2002

"Transcending Politics and Ethnicity: How Addis Ababans Live Together," presented at the African Studies Association Conference, Washington, D.C., December 2003

"From Sham Federalism to Institutionalized Colonialism: TPLF's 'Ministry of Federal Affairs and the Exploitation of Oromia'" presented at the 18th Annual Conference of Oromo Studies Association, Atlanta, July 2004

"The Road to Addis Ababa (Ethiopia): A Tale of Two Migrants," presented at the African Studies Association Conference, New Orleans, November 2004

"Migration, Disease and the State of Public Health Service in Addis Ababa, 1941-1974," presented at the African Studies Association Conference, Washington, D.C., November 2005

"Revisiting Sources of History: The Oromo in the Accounts of Foreigners" presented at the African Studies Association, San Francisco, November 2006. (I am organizer and chair of the panel.)

"The Darfur Conflict: Problems and Prospects of Peace-Making," presented at the Black History Month Symposium organized in honor Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, February 2008

"Majority' Within Majority: The Demographics of Major Urban Areas in Oromia and Oromo-Minority Relations," presented at the 22nd Conference of the Oromo Studies Association, Minneapolis, August, 2008

"The Oromo in a Multiethnic Addis Ababa," presented at the 22nd Conference of the Oromo Studies Association, Atlanta, August, 2009

"The Dynamics of Urban Growth and Development in Ethiopia, 1887-1974," presented at the African Studies Association, New Orleans, November, 2009

"Urban Growth in Oromia during the Italian Occupation, 1936-1941," presented at the 22nd Conference of the Oromo Studies Association, Washington, D.C., August, 2010 (International/major field)

"Gentrification and the Changing Face of Addis Ababa" presented at the 26nd Conference of the Oromo Studies Association, Minneapolis, August, 2012 (International/major field)

"From City Grabbing to Land Grabbing, to Grabbing All: Perpetual Challenges Facing the Oromo Nation" presented at the 28nd Conference of the Oromo Studies Association, Washington, D.C., August, 2014 (International/major field), panel organizer and chair.

"The Demographics and Settlement Patterns of Towns in Oromia: From Menilek to Haile Sellassie" presented at the African Studies Association 57th Annual Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, November 20-23, 2014 (International/major field), panel organizer and chair.

"A History of Mining and Mining Towns in Oromia: The Case of Yubdo" presented at the 29th Conference of the Oromo Studies Association, Washington, D.C., August, 2014 (International/major field).

"Urban Growth in Ethiopia during the Italian Occupation, 1936-1941, with Special Emphasis on Towns in Oromia" presented at the African Studies Association 58th Annual Conference, San Diego, California, November 19-22, 2015 (International/major field)

“The Grab, the Plan and the Oromo Protest: A Historical Perspective” presented at the symposium on “The Addis Ababa Master Plan and Land Grabbing” organized by the Oromo Studies Association, January 16, 2016, Washington D.C.

“Building Institutions: The Case of the Oromo in Ethiopia and the Diaspora” African Studies Association 60th Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois, November 16-18, 2017 (Roundtable, International/major field)

“Land, Politics and the Targeting of Oromo Towns” presented at the 33rd Conference of the Oromo Studies Association, Finfinnee, Ethiopia, July 1919

“When Compromises and Sacrifices Fail to Work: Making a Case for the Independence of Oromia”, 36th Conference of the Oromo Studies Association, Virtual August 2021

“Finfinnee and Oromia: The dilemma of land grabbing and resource exploitation”, with Milkessa M. Gemechu, 36th Conference of the Oromo Studies Association, Washington, D.C., August 2022

G. Other:

- i. Supervised Graduate Research Assistant, Fall 2004
Supervised Undergraduate Research Assistant, 2003-04 and 2005-06, 2006-
TA Orientation on “Cultural Sensitivities”, Fall 2004
TA Orientation on “Teaching Responsibilities”, Fall 2005
TA Orientation on “Grading”, Fall 2006, 2007, 2008
TA Orientation on “Leading Discussions”, Fall 2010
TA Orientation on “Leading Discussions”, Fall 2013
TA Orientation on “Leading Discussions”, Fall 2014
TA Orientation on “Leading Discussions”, Fall 2015
Organized TA Orientation, 2021

ii. Papers in Proceedings

"Shashamanne: Foundation and Early Growth up to the Italian Occupation", Proceedings of the Fourth Seminar of the Department of History. Department of History, Addis Ababa University (July 1987): 27-42

“The Overurbanization of a Metropolis: A Preliminary Survey of Migration to Addis Ababa, 1941-1974,” in *New Trends in Ethiopian Studies: Papers of the 12th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Michigan State University, 5-10 September 1994*, Vol. I. Harold G. Marcus, ed. Lawrenceville, N.J.: Red Sea Press, 1994: 515-531.

“Some Notes on the Study of Migration in Pre-1974 Ethiopia,” Proceedings of History Department Seminar, Addis Ababa University (1997).

“A Blind without a Cane, a Nation without a City: Oromo Nationalism in a Historical Perspective and the Struggle for Addis Ababa”, compiled by Ezekiel Gebissa, Proceedings of the 16th Conference of the Oromo Studies Association, Howard University, Washington D.C., 2003.

“‘Majority’ Within Majority: The Demographics of Major Urban Areas in Oromia and Oromo-Minority Relations,” presented at the 22nd Conference of the Oromo Studies Association, Minneapolis, August, 2008.

“The Oromo in a Multiethnic Addis Ababa,” presented at the 23rd Conference of the Oromo Studies Association, Atlanta, August, 2009.

“Urban Growth in Oromia during the Italian Occupation, 1936-1941,” presented at the 24th Conference of the Oromo Studies Association, Washington, D.C., August 2010.

“Gentrification and Changing Face of Addis Ababa” presented at the 22nd Conference of the Oromo Studies Association, Minneapolis, August 2012.

“From City Grabbing to Land Grabbing, to Grabbing All: Perpetual Challenges Facing the Oromo Nation” Washington, D.C., August 2014.

“A History of Mining and Mining Towns in Oromia: The Case of Yubdo” presented at the 29th Conference of the Oromo Studies Association, Washington, D.C., August 2015, panel organizer and chair.

“Land, Politics and the Targeting of Oromo Towns” Proceedings of the 16th Conference of the Oromo Studies Association, Finfinnee, Ethiopia, July 1919

iii. M.A. Thesis

"A History of Shashamanne: From Its Foundation to 1974", M.A. Thesis, Addis Ababa University, Department of History, June 1988

iv. Languages

1. Oromo (mother tongue, write and speak fluently)
2. Amharic (official language, write and speak fluently)
3. English (language of instruction, write and speak fluently)
4. Tigrinya (writing, reading, and understanding)
5. Italian (reading and understanding)

V. PUBLICATIONS AND CREATIVE WORKS

A. Books:

Urban Growth in Ethiopia, 1887-1974: From the Foundation of Finfinnee to the Demise of the First Imperial Era. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, Lexington Books, 2017.

Addis Ababa: Migration and the Making of a Multi-Ethnic Metropolis, 1941-1974. Trenton, N.J.: The Red Sea/ Africa World Press, 2007.

B. Articles in Professional Journals:

"A Blind without a Cane, a Nation without a City: The Oromo Struggle for Addis Ababa," Journal of Northeast African Studies, Vol. 9, No. 3. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, 2007.

"Intrusions on Oromuma (Oromoness) and the Oromo People's Struggle for Freedom," Journal of Oromo Studies, Vol. 9, Nos. 1 & 2 (July 2002): 73-93.

"An Overview of Some Factors Limiting the Migration of Oromo to Addis Ababa," Journal of Oromo Studies, Vol. 8, Nos. 1 & 2 (July 2001): 155-172.

C. Creative Contributions:

D. Chapters in Professional Books:

"African Resistance to German Colonialism and its Legacies: 1884–1913," in Ruth Simms Hamilton (ed.), Routes of Passage: Rethinking the African Diaspora, Vol. I, Part I, African Diaspora Research Project (ADRP) Series. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, 2007.

"Redefining Collective Identity in the Struggle for State and National Identity in Ethiopia and Israel: The Case of Ethiopian Jews (Beta Israel)," in Ruth Simms Hamilton (ed.), Routes of Passage: Rethinking the African Diaspora, Vol. I, Part II, African Diaspora Research Project (ADRP) Series. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, 2007.

"A Blind without a Cane, a Nation without a City: The Oromo Struggle for Addis Ababa," Republished in a book edited by Ezekiel Gebissa, Contested Terrain: Essays on Oromo Studies, Ethiopianist Discourse, and Politically Engaged Scholarship. Trenton, NJ: The Red Sea press, Inc, 2009; Updated and republished by Lutheran University Press, Minneapolis, MN, 2014.

E. Book Reviews:

Peter Garretson. A History of Addis Ababa from its Foundation in 1886 to 1910 for Journal of Northeast African Studies, Vol. 7, No. 2 (New Series) 2000: 143-145.

Asafa Jalata. *Fighting Against the Injustice of State and Globalization: Comparing the African-American and Oromo Movements for Journal of Oromo Studies*, Vol. 11, Nos. 1 and 2, July 2004: 75-78.

Seyoum Hameso and Mohammed Hassen, eds. *Arrested Development in Ethiopia: Essays on Underdevelopment, Democracy and Self-Determination.* Trenton, NJ: Red Sea Press, 2006. Reviewed for the *Journal of Oromo Studies*, Vol. 14, No. 2 (July 2007): 157-161.

Tim Judah. *Bikila: Ethiopia's Barefoot Olympian.* London: Reportage Press, 2008. Reviewed for *International Journal of Ethiopian Studies* Vol. 5, No. 1 (Spring/Summer 2010): 133-135.

Kumsa Boro, *Kumsa Boro: Jiruu fi Jirrenya/ Life and Times.* Trenton, NJ: The Red Sea Press, Inc., 2009. Reviewed *Northeast African Studies*, Michigan State University, African Studies Center.

Vivian Bickford-Smith, *The Emergence of the South African Metropolis: Cities and Identities in the Twentieth Century.* Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2016. Reviewed for the *Journal of African History*.

F. Other:

VI. TEACHING EXPERIENCE

A. Teaching Interests and Specialties (Courses Taught)

Core Curriculum

History of World Civilizations
Twentieth Century World History

Undergraduate History Courses

1. Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Africa to 1800
Africa Since 1800
Southern Africa, c.1800 to the End of Apartheid
Africa since 1945: The Challenge of Nation Building
Comparative Slavery
History of World Civilizations
Twentieth Century World History
World History to 1500
World History Since 1500
Africa in Crisis
Changes and Continuities in African Traditions, 1880s-1980s
Historical Research and Writing
World Wars in Africa
The Cold War

The US and Africa: From the Cold War to the War on Terrorism (for Honors Program)

2. Michigan State University, Spring 2000

The US and the World: Integrative Studies in Arts and Humanities
Global Diversity and Interdependence

3. The Universities of Asmara and Addis Ababa, 1982-1991

Introduction to the History of Ethiopia and the Horn
Ancient Ethiopia up to 1270
History of Medieval Ethiopia and the Horn
History of Ethiopia and the Horn, 1896-1974
Precolonial Africa I
Precolonial Africa II
Precolonial Africa to WWI
Africa since WWI to 1945
Africa since WWII to 1960
The Capitalist World Since 1873
History of the Modern Middle East

Graduate Courses Taught (at SIUC):

Colloquium in African History
Seminar in African History

B. Teaching and Training Grants:

RRUI grant for research and development support to minority faculty, SIUC, Summer 2006
Dean's Office – research support (\$1000.00), summer 2009

C. Teaching Awards and Honors:

George S. and Gladys W. Queen Award for Excellence in History Teaching, 2005
Oromo Studies Association, Distinguished Scholar Award, 2019

D. Current Graduate Faculty Status

Graduate II

E. Number of Master's and Ph.D. Committees on which you have served:

7 M.A. Committees
6 Ph.D. Committees

F. Names of Students who have completed Master's Thesis and Doctoral Dissertation under your Direction.

James L. Smith – completed masters, spring 2004
 Branden McCullough – completed masters, Spring 2005
 Branden McCullough - currently under my direction for his Ph.D., ABD,
 December 2011
 Cyrelene Amoah - completed Ph.D., May 2011
 Jeffrey Hanson – Masters
 Bradley Lockwood, Completed Masters, Summer 2007
 Fatuma Boru Guyo - currently under my direction for her Ph.D. completed
 PhD, May 2015
 Dennis McDonald - currently under my direction for her Ph.D. ABD,
 December 2011
 Tracy McCoy - PhD, dropped
 Isacko Yattani, completed PhD, May 2022

G. Other

Mentor of 3 Writing Fellows – Cyrelene Amoah, Francesca Gamber, and Bruce Stewart, Spring 2006

6 Ph.D. Prelim Exams – reader and oral examiner

External Examiner for two Masters Theses at Addis Ababa University,
 Department of History, July 2009

Getachew Badada, “A History of Asala Town”, MA Thesis, Addis Ababa
 University, Department of History, July 2010

Tesfaye Tolasa, “A History of Written Afaan Oromo Literature”, MA Thesis,
 Addis Ababa University, Department of History, July 2010

Mentor of a Writing Fellow – David Kemp, Fall 2019

VII. UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

A. Department Committees:

Member, Policy Committee, Fall 2004-Spring 2006
 Member, Core Curriculum Committee, 2004-2007
 Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, Fall 2002-Spring 2004, Fall 2017-
 Spring 2019
 Member, Department Salary Committee, Spring 2003-Spring 2004
 Middle Eastern/Islamic History Search Committee, 2005
 Member Graduate Studies Committee, fall 2006- Spring 2017, Fall 2018-Present
 Member Teaching and Curriculum, Fall 2006-2008

Member Library and Instructional Materials Committee, Fall 2006-2007
 Member South Asia/British Empire Search Committee, Spring 2007
 Member Lecturer Search Committee, Summer 2008
 Member Lecturer Search Committee, Summer 2009
 Member Advisory Committee on Merit Pay, fall 2011-2014, Fall 2017-Present
 Member Lecturer Search Committee, Summer 2012
 Member, Policy Committee, Fall 2019-
 Director, Graduate Studies 2020-

B. College and University Committees and Councils

Cross-listed, Black American Studies, SIUC
 Member of University Discipline Committee, AU, 1988 -1991
 Freshman Program Coordinator, AU, 1988 -1991
 Member of Curriculum and Promotions Committee, AU, 1988 - 1991
 Member of University Senate, AU, 1982-1984
 Member, Black History Month Committee, 2007
 Member, CoLA Council, Fall 2007-Spring 2009
 Member, CoLA Associate Dean Search Committee, Fall 2007
 Member, Tenure and Promotion Committee, for Karen Baertsch, Linguistics
 Department, Fall 2012
 Member, CoLA Grievance Committee, 2013
 Member, Search Committee for TT Assistant Professor, Linguistics Department,
 2014
 Member, Faculty Senate Election Committee, 2015
 Member, Chancellor's Diversity Council, Fall 2016-Spring 2017
 Member, CoLA Council, Fall 2019-2020
 Member, CoLA Scholarship Committee, 2019
 Member, CoLA Tenure and Promotion Committee, 2019, 2021, 2022
 Member, University Outstanding Thesis Award Committee, Spring 2019
Member Judicial Review Board, Spring 2022-

C. Other

Co-coordinator, History Workshop, Fall 2001 – Spring 2002
 Organizer, History Workshop, Fall 2002-Spring 2004

VIII. PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

A. Membership in Professional Associations

African Studies Association
 Oromo Studies Association

B. Offices Held and Honors Awarded in Professional Associations

Treasurer - Oromo Studies Association, 1998-2004

Member, Board of Directors – Oromo Studies Association, 2010-2013, Fall 2019-

C. Consultantships:

D. Evaluation of Manuscripts for Journals and Book Publishers and of Grant Proposals for Agencies:

Contributing Editor, Journal of Oromo Studies, 2005 –2020

"OLF and TPLF: Major Issues and Outcomes of a Decade of Negotiations since 1991" reviewed for the Journal of Oromo Studies, Vol. 10, Nos. 1 and 2, July 2003.

"Shaykh Bakri Saphalo (1895-1980): A Prolific Scholar and Great Oromo Nationalist" reviewed for the Journal of Oromo Studies, Vol. 10, Nos. 1 and 2, July 2003.

"Pan-Oromo Confederations in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries" reviewed for the Journal of Oromo Studies, Vol. 15, Nos. 1, March 2008.

"The Expansion of Addis Ababa and Its Impact on the Surrounding Areas: A Preliminary Study of the Nefas Silk Lafto District" reviewed for the Journal of Oromo Studies, Vol. 15, Nos. 2, March 2008.

"When Religion Becomes Deficient: A Historio-Critical Evaluation of the Genocide in Rwanda and the Role of External Forces", reviewed for the Journal of Peace and Change, June 2008.

"External Legitimacy, Authoritarianism, and State Terrorism: The Triple Enemies of Peace and Development in Ethiopia" reviewed for Journal of Political and Military Sociology, June 2008.

"Questioning the integration of the informal sector: the case of waste management/collectors" or African Studies Quarterly, University of Florida, Gainesville, May 2009.

"MCIA Cultural Intelligence for Military Operations: Ethiopia Cultural Field Guide: The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia" reviewed for Cultural Research Program, Advanced Analytics and Cultural Research Division, Science Applications International Corporation, SAIC, July 2010

"Culture Explorer, Ethiopia" a part of Social Studies Explorer Series for 4th and 5th grades readers written by Barbara A. Somerville and to be published by Cherry Lake Publishing, Chicago reviewer and content advisor), 2010.

"Urban Development and the Making of Frontiers in/from Addis Ababa/Finfinne, Ethiopia", Reviewed for the *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 2022

"The Oromo Society's Conception of Law in the Context of the Oromo Worldview " Reviewed for *Cogent Social Sciences*, 2022.

IX. COMMUNITY SERVICE

Radio Interviews

Interview with VOA Oromo language program on:

Thanksgiving (2009, 2014)

The “state of the Oromo Studies Association” (2022)