Theme IV- Human and Social Development Research Thematic Area

Sub-theme 4.1: Society, Culture, Tourism and Development

Development and change research that address fundamental/theoretical as well as applied questions related to development and socio-cultural change is crucial for contemporary Ethiopia. Research on socio-cultural dynamics, and tourism development that result change are essential for the region. It is also vital to figure out the various interacting and mutually dependent fields. Accordingly, the following research areas focusing on society, culture tourism development and media are selected as top priority areas under subtheme I for 2024/25 Call for Proposals:

1.1 Indigenous Knowledge and Local Institutions for Societal Development

- Traditional medicinal practices and practitioners, (documentation, practices, preservation and utilization),
- Indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms and peace-building in eastern Ethiopia
- Indigenous education in augmenting children's socialization, intellectual and moral growth in eastern Ethiopia
- Comparative analysis of indigenous democracy and the western democratic systems.
- Local institutions in cementing intra and/or Inter-Ethnic interaction and integration in Eastern Ethiopia

1.2 Studies on Gadaa system

- Military organizations among the Hararge Oromo
- Women's in Gadaa System

1.4 Cultural products development, management and market linkages and employment opportunities

1.5 Media and journalism in advancing justice and accountability.

1.6 Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution

- Human-wild life conflict (investigation, impact and sustainable conversations) in Eastern Ethiopia
- Agricultural land scarcity and impact on wetland landscape in eastern Ethiopia

- Gender dimension of environmental scarcity and food security in eastern Ethiopia
- Religious heritages and peacebuilding in eastern Ethiopia
- Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in the contest of eastern Ethiopia
- Nexus between rural youth unemployment, resource scarcity and violence

1.7 Nation Building and Peaceful Coexistence

- Balance between ethno-cultural and national identity in Ethiopia's multicultural contexts
- Reconstruction of national narratives toward genuine Ethiopian patriotism
- Constitutional and legal rights
- Economic, social and cultural interactions for peace.
- Challenges to implementing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms
- Nexus between rural youth unemployment, resource scarcity and violence

Sub-theme 4.2: Educational Advancement and Quality Assurance

Wider theory-policy-practice gaps are observed in the contemporary cultural and educational endeavors of the country. Innovative projects that could significantly narrow down or eliminate the theory-policy practice gap and enhance quality of education from primary to university level. Therefore, the following are selected as top priority research areas for 2024/25 call for proposals.

2.1 Innovations in Teaching-Learning.

- Development of digital and other innovative technologies for STEM education and social sciences
- Improvement of students' attitudes and interest to basic sciences,
- Technology supported alternative learning approach in science classrooms like virtual labs in chemistry, physics, biology and other disciplines
- Technology-enhanced language learning
- Alternative innovative teaching-learning approaches appropriate to pastoral and Agro-Pastoral context in eastern Ethiopia
- Innovative approaches for integration of indigenous knowledge in modern education
- Innovative approaches in drug & alcohol abuse prevention & interventions in education

2.5 Adult and non-formal education

- Innovation, digital transformation and diversification of adult and non-formal education methods, and modalities
- Functional adult literacy, lifelong learning, adult curriculum and training

2.6 Analysis of Education Policies

- Performance, challenges and prospects in national examinations
- Policy, planning and potential reforms in English language teaching
- Equity and inclusive learning
- Multilingualism and plurilingualism
- Higher education institutions, schools, and community links to support children (with disabilities) and girls' literacy
- Learner diversity and inclusive practices
- Early childhood education

Sub-theme 4.3: Population, Gender, and Development

Under the impulse of globalization and world trade liberalization, private and public investments are quite often considered as valuable development tools to unleash development potentials of a given country. Also, it is widely acknowledged that urbanization is, quite often, considered as the engine of development and also serves as an indicator to state power. Nonetheless, the status of multidimensional challenges and opportunities of investment practices in eastern Ethiopia have been inadequately investigated and addressed so far. In addition, more than any other thing currently in eastern part of our country there is a widespread problem in many aspects. Assessing these issues from different angles is timely and professional responsibilities of HU. Specifically, there is widespread lawlessness among the youthful population. Moreover, there is a widespread illegal urban land occupation, religion-based conflicts and traffic accident in the region too. Thus, the following research areas are identified as top priority for 2024/25 Call for Proposal.

3.1 Nexus between conflict, development and security

3.2 Urbanization and Migration

3.3 Towards Smart city: Mapping comprehensive economic, social, and environmental profile of Maya city

3.4 Resource rights and Livelihood challenges in cities

3.5 Gender Base violence, Harmful traditional practices in Eastern Ethiopia

Sub-theme 4.4: Good Governance and the Rule of Law

In Ethiopia in general and in our region in particular, we are observing wider gaps between constitutional ideals and policy practices/implementation in Ethiopian law. Peacebuilding has also become a perennial challenge as a result of recurrent violence and security problems. Recent upheavals and, perhaps, ongoing conflicts as well as 'silent' contestations in different parts and inter/intra-regional border areas of the country bear witness to the causal power of these gaps and the ensuing poor governance and rule of law besides resource scarcity. There are also competing forces for local power control either legitimate or legitimate. Moreover, good governance and rule of law play crucial role in flourishing economy of the country and in maintaining the status quo in the society's day-to-day interaction. Accountability and transparency on the part of the government is a foundation for peace and stability. Any economic, social or political policies cannot indeed be attained without good governance. Rule of law is another building block in creating peace, secure and democratic society. Good governance will be established when all social institutions including the state itself are accountable to the law. We may hardly expect good governance without supremacy of the law. Evidently, research on the area of good governance and rule of law will be of excellent social and academic importance. Despite the wider scope of good governance and rule of law, the following are selected as top priority research areas for 2024/25 Call for Proposals.

4.1 Rule of law and administration of justice

4.2 Land law and conflict prevention

4.3 Transitional justice system and its implementation