



Call for Paper Proposals for the Conference:

Cultures of Democracy

University of Gondar/Ethiopia

7-8 April 2017

Ethiopia is one of the world's richest countries in terms of civilization, history and culture. This wealth includes democratic traditions in various Ethiopian societies that date back to time immemorial. The basic democratic principles of self-government, equality, representation, voice, open debate, consensus as well as participation in agenda setting and decision-making have been practiced as traditional cultures on local levels. Incorporating these principles on a national level in a multi-ethnic country is an ongoing process. Hence, discussions about democratic cultures, processes and institutions shall not cease. While the West has to look to ancient Greece for inspiration, Ethiopia can draw on Indigenous epistemologies as well as external understandings of democratic systems. This is reflected in one of the most progressive constitutions that has incorporated the Declaration of Human Rights but also secures national sovereignty. Paper proposals are invited to focus on the following topics, but are not restricted to these areas:

- Democracy in theory: recent academic debates
- Institutions: federalism, justice and rule of law
- Democracy and development
- Gender equality
- Democratic principles and values
- Democratic structures: elections, party system, civil society
- International institutions, aid regimes, sovereignty
- Media, communication, internet, social media

Please send abstracts of no more than 300 words and a short biographical info to the organizers Ato Yared Debebe and Dr. Sonja John (University of Gondar, Department of Civics and Ethical Studies) at culturesofdemocracy2017@gmail.com.

The deadline for paper abstract submission is 15 January 2017. Speakers will be notified of their acceptance by 30 January 2017.

The conference is a cooperation of the University of Gondar and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.