

Setargew Kenaw Fantaw

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy, College of Social Sciences, Addis Ababa University
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, setargew.kenaw@gmail.com, setargew.kenaw@aau.edu.et

Phone: +256757773281

EDUCATION

- **Doctor of Philosophy, Cultural Anthropology**
University of Bayreuth, Germany
- **Master of Science, Philosophy of Science, Technology and Society**
University of Twente, The Netherlands
- **Master of Arts, Social Anthropology**
Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
- **Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy**
Addis Ababa University

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

- Nagel Fellowship, **Engaging African Realities**. Project title: Mahbar: Christian Fellowship and Reconciliation in Ethiopia, 2021-2023 – fieldwork, ethnographic based research using tools of Grounded Theology.
- Visiting Research Fellow, **African Studies Center, University of Leiden**, The Netherlands, January 6 to March 31, 2020.
- Gerti Hessling Prize nominee for 2013: Nominated by Cambridge University's *Journal of Modern African Studies* on behalf of Centre for African Studies, Cambridge University.
- Junior Fellow, **Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies**, University of Bayreuth, Germany, Oct. 2010 to Jan. 2013.
- Research fellowship from **Japan Society for the Promotion of Science**. Project: Cultural Translation of Mobile Phones in Developing Countries with Comparative Perspectives of the Japanese Experience, Host Institution: **Kyoto University**, Japan, Nov. 10, 2009 to Sept 10, 2010.
- "Senior Researcher Award" from Office of the Vice President for Graduate Studies and Research, **Addis Ababa University**, 2007.
- SIDA/Sarec Award, from the Swedish Government via Office of the Vice President for Graduate Studies and Research, **Addis Ababa University**, 2003.
- Research Award from **Norwegian Council for Higher Education's Programme for Development Research and Education**, Peasant Production and Development in Ethiopia, joint project of Institute of Development Research (Addis Ababa University) and Norwegian University of Technology and Science, 1993.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- **Research Fellow**, Makerere Institute of Social Research, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, July 2022 to present.
- **Teaching**, Taught several courses for graduate students in Departments of Philosophy, Sociology and Social Anthropology.
- **Researcher**, Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University **1992-2015**
- **Researcher**, Institute of Development and Policy Research (IDPR) **2015-2016**
- **Managing Editor**, *Ethiopian Journal of the Social Sciences and Humanities* **June 2003-July. 2004 Jan. 2007-Sept. 2008**
- **Editor-in-Chief**, *Ethiopian Journal of the Social Sciences and Humanities* **Jan. 2019-Nov. 2023**

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Technology-Culture Dialogue: Cultural and Socio-technical Appropriation of Mobile Phones in Ethiopia*. Leiden: LIT, 2016
- *Knowledge Production and Spiritual Entrepreneurship in Zar: A Study of Spirit Mediumship in Northeastern Ethiopia*. Saarbrücken, Germany: VDM Publishers, 2011.

Peer reviewed articles and book chapters (note that the publications carry only my first two names, viz. Setargew Kenaw)

- “Geez Qenie as a Critical Pedagogy,” with Yikunnoamlak Mezgebu (Proceedings of International Ethiopian Studies Conference, Addis Ababa University, forthcoming).
- “‘Please don’t take away my illness, my Lord’: Illness as a basis of power,” in *Healing in Ethiopia: Exploring the Interface between Medicine and Faith*. Addis Ababa: Addis Ababa University Press (final draft stage).
- “The rite of ‘footwashing’ at Abinet schools and its ethics of humility,” in *Ethnic Diversity and National Unity* (pp. 182-200). Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2021.
- (With Fasil Merawi) “Is there an Ethiopian Philosophy? Rereading the Hatetas of Zara Yaacob and Walda Hewat in the Context of Knowledge Production,” *Ethiopian Journal of the Social Sciences and Humanities*, Vol. 15, No. 1 (special issue), pp. 59-75, 2019.
- “Cultural Translation of Technologies in Ethiopia,” *Ethiopian Journal of the Social Sciences and Humanities*, Vol. 13, No. 2, pp. 109-144, 2017.
- “Spiritual Entrepreneurship in Zar: A Study on Spirit Mediumship and Religion.” *Ethiopian Journal of Religious Studies*, Vol. 1, No. 1. (Tsehai Publishers), 2017.
- “Der Spion, der mich liebte,” *Kulturaustausch* (Journal of International Perspectives), Vol. 4, 2015.
- “Cultural Translation of Mobile Telephones: Mediation of Constrained Communication among Ethiopian Married Couples,” *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, Vol. 50, No. 1, pp. 131-155, 2012.
- “Psychoanalyzing Historicists? The Enigmatic Popper,” *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*, Vol. 41, No. 2, pp. 315-332, 2010.

- “Shopping Centers as Black Boxes: A Reflection in Philosophy of Engineering Design,” in Svein Ege, Harald Aspen, Birhanu Teferra, and Shiferaw Bekele (eds.) *Proceedings of the Sixteenth International Conference of Ethiopian Studies* (Trondheim 2-6 July 2007), pp. 977-989, 2009.
- “Hubert Dreyfus’s Critique of Classical AI and its Rationalist Assumptions.” *Minds and Machines: Journal for Artificial Intelligence, Philosophy and Cognitive Science*, Vol. 18, No. 2, pp. 227-238, 2008.
- “Can Computers Think like Humans? Dreyfus’s Critique of Classical AI and its Rationalist Assumptions.” *Twente Student Review*, Vol. 1, No. 1 pp. 33-37, 2007.
- “Human Genetic Enhancement: Arguments For and Against Transhumanism; A Dialogue in Philosophy of Biomedical Technology.” *Ethiopian Journal of the Social Sciences and Humanities*, Vol. 4, No. 2, 2006.
- “The Social Construction of Technology: Media’s Role in ‘Disturbing’ the Stabilization of Finchaa’s Ethanol-Kerosene Blend (‘K-50’).” *Ethiopian Journal of Economics*, Vol. 10, No.2, 2006.
- (with T. Swierstra) “From an Autopsy of the Old Eugenics to the Challenges of the New Science of Genetics.” *Ethiopian Journal of the Social Sciences and Humanities*, Vol. 3, No. 1, 2005.
- “Schools of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church: A Quest for Fresh Methodology.” *Ethiopian Journal of the Social Sciences and Humanities*, Vol. 2, No. 1, July 2004. (Addis Ababa University), 2004.
- (with David Bridges and Amare Asgedom) “From ‘Deep Knowledge’ to ‘the Light of Reason’: Sources for Philosophy of Education in Ethiopia.” *Comparative Education*, Vol. 40, No. 4, 2004.
- “The Idea of a University and the Increasing Pressures of Utilitarianism: A Critical Reflection on Addis Ababa University.” *Ethiopian Journal of the Social Sciences and Humanities*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 2003.
- “The Mobilization of Deities in Spirit Possession: Reflections on the Syncretic Aspect of Zar,” in Baye Yimam, Richard Pankhurst, David Chapple, Yonas Admassu, Alula Pankhurst, and Birhanu Teferra (eds.) *Ethiopian studies at the end of the Second Millennium, Proceedings of the XIVth International Conference of Ethiopian Studies* (Nov. 6-11, 2000), pp.990-1003, 2002.
- “The Politics of Adjustment and the Economism of Current Political Rhetoric in Africa.” *Ethiopian Development Forum*, Vol. II, No. 2, 2001.
- “Educational Systems in Ethiopia: Philosophical Inquiry into its Aims and Objectives” in Bekele Gutema and Daniel Smith (eds.) *African Philosophy at the Threshold of the New Millennium: Papers of 7th Annual Conference of the International Society for African Philosophy and Studies* (ISAPS), Addis Ababa: Addis Ababa University Press, 2001.
- “Spirit Possession as a Center of Health Education: A Case Study of Zar from Central Ethiopia,” in Katsuyoshi Fukui, Eisei Kurimoto, and Masayoshi Shigeta, *Ethiopia in broader perspective: Proceedings of 13th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies*. (Kyoto, Japan, 12 - 17 December 1997) Kyoto: Shokado, 1997.

Publications in Newspapers, Magazines and Online Publishers

- “No more doublethink, please,” <https://ecadforum.com>, 02 Nov. 2018.
- “Why should universities be ideological strongholds?” *Addis Fortune*, 01 April 2017. <https://addisfortune.net/columns/why-should-universities-be-ideological-strongholds/>
- “Technologies: Not as neutral as they seem,” *Addis Fortune*, 28 September 2015. <https://addisfortune.net/columns/technologies-not-as-neutral-as-they-seem/>
- “‘Foreignising’ Ethiopia: Exotic and alien business branding.” *Consultancy Africa Intelligence*. <https://rb.gy/wx9m8g> April 16, 2013.
- “Black boxes or new marketing strategies: Malls in Addis Ababa.” *Consultancy Africa Intelligence*. <https://urlis.net/ki62omfw> March 18, 2013.
- “Passive imitations: Shadows of shadows taken for entertainment.” *Addis Tribune*, July 25 and August 01, 2003.
- “Sweetspeak: The lingua franca of capitalism; A reflection on its African expression.” *Addis Tribune*, October 03, 2003.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Geez Qenie as a Critical Pedagogy,” with Yikunnoamlak Mezgebu (International Ethiopian Studies Conference held from Sept. 28 to Oct. 01, 2022, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia).
- “Private commons? Questioning the idea of the moral economy and thinking of the economy of guilt,” *The Third National Workshop of Institute of Ethiopian Studies*, June 20, 2014, Addis Ababa.
- “Sharing mobile phones and social ties in Africa,” Hello, Hello Bamako: What is the Future of Mobile Telephones in West Africa, 1-7 October 2012, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.
- “Dislodging the idea of a university: An essay,” 13th Biennial Conference: International Network of Philosophers of Education. 15th -18th August, 2012, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- “Shopping centers as black boxes: A reflection in philosophy of engineering design,” Presented to the 16th International Conference of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, 2-6 July 2007, Trondheim, Norway.
- “The idea of a university and the increasing pressures of utilitarianism: A critical reflection on Addis Ababa University,” paper presented to the 15th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Hamburg (Germany), 21-25 July 2003.
- “Agencies of new 'oracular' ideology? A Popperian inquiry into the discourse of international financial institutions,” Karl Popper Centenary Congress, Vienna, July 3 to 7, 2002.
- “The mobilization of deities in spirit possession: Reflections on the syncretic aspect of zar,” paper presented to the 14th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa, November 6-11, 2000.
- “Spirit possession as a center of health education: A case study of zar from central Ethiopia,” paper presented to the 13th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Kyoto (Japan), 12 - 17 December 1997.
- “Educational innovations in post-Italian occupied Ethiopia.” A paper presented to Pan-African Educational Colloquium, Cape Town (South Africa), 1995.
- “Moral education in civics,” paper presented to the First National Symposium in Civic Education, Nazareth (Ethiopia), 1991.

INVITED LECTURES

- “My illness is my power”: A Philosophical Reflection on Divine Madness in the Context of Spirit Mediumship in Ethiopia, African Studies Centre, Leiden University, the Netherlands, 20 Feb. 2020.
- Science, medicine, and uncertainty, College of Health Sciences, Addis Ababa University, Oct. 2018.
- Illness as a basis of power, Mekelle University, May 19, 2017.
- Reflections on divine madness, Jimma University, Oct. 10, 2017.
- Electronic panopticon: Extent and levels of control over cyberspace, Assosa University, April 2016.
- Psychoanalyzing Historicism? The Enigmatic Popper, for faculty members and graduate students of philosophy, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan, Jan. 8, 2010.

SCRIPTS FOR DOCUMENTARY FILMS

- Two Film Scripts for Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University.
 - ***“Institute of Ethiopian Studies: Time Capsule of an Ancient Country”*** (A documentary directed by Meseret Argaw), 2004.
 - ***“Treasures at Risk: Appeal by Institute of Ethiopian Studies”*** (A documentary directed and narrated by Prof. Salem Mekuria), 2004.
- Scripts of Seven Ethnographic Films on Ethiopia: Prepared for Ethiopian Airlines in-flight entertainment (each a duration of 20 minutes). (Documentaries directed by Mr. Amnon Rubinstein, Fasil Dan Communications; narrated by W/o Elleni Mekuria), 2001.
 - ***“Ethiopian Airlines: Africa's gateway to the world”***
 - ***“Harar: An open - air museum”***
 - ***“Northwest Ethiopia: A journey through historic sites”***
 - ***“Ethiopia: A land of rich historical heritage”***
 - ***“Ethiopia: The mosaic of music tradition”***
 - ***“Folk dances of Ethiopia: Texts of marvelous cultures”***