



UCL

**“African Abolitionism: The Rise and Transformations of Anti-Slavery in Africa”
Research workshop and agenda setting
Addis Ababa University/Institute for Ethiopian Studies
03.10.2022**

Location: Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University, Siddist Kilo

PARTICIPANTS (10):

Takele Merid, Ahmed Hassen, Yonas Ashine, Yonas Seifu, Ameyu Godesso, Oljira Tujuba, Benedetta Rossi, Alexander Meckelburg, Bosha Bombe, Ayenew Mammo

1. **09:00-10:30:** ICES Panel – wrapping up discussions

SUMMARY DISCUSSION OF ICES PANEL

QUESTIONS:

What are the differences between slaves and other forms of unfree persons, such as *gäbbar*?

How/where/when did slaves disappear: socially, economically, politically since 1942?

What were the main abolitionist ideas and measures, who supported them, who opposed them, how were they implemented?

Sources and Methodology: what sources were used for the papers presented at ICES? How did researchers approach these sources (methodological approaches)?

a. **11.00-13.00:** BRIEF OVERVIEW AND PRESENTATION ON PAST AFRAB RESEARCH IN ETHIOPIA

Alexander Meckelburg:

Summary of themes and approaches to abolition in Ethiopia

Ethiopian AFRAB team :

Each researcher to summarise main research activities, results, obstacles, summary of findings and outputs

Lunch break around University Campus (offered by AFRAB)

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b. **14:00-16:00:** PRESENTATION OF NEW RESEARCH PROGRAMME (SEP 2022 – SEP 2023)

Alexander Meckelburg:
Freeing the slaves of the churches

Oljira Tujuba & Alexander Meckelburg:
Anti-Slavery and the (Protestant) Mission in Western Ethiopia

Yonas Ashine:
Between restoration and revolution: Servile subjects in urban Ethiopian households to the 1974 revolution and the difficult implementation of abolitionist ideas

Takele Merid:
From Slaves to *Gäbbar*: The continued struggle to end serfdom in Ethiopia in spite of abolition

Ahmed Hassen:
Islam and abolition in Ethiopia: The Case of Harar and the approaches of Islamic groups on the abolition of slavery

2. **16:30-17:30:** MOVING FORWARD – SOURCES & METHODOLOGY

Reminder of AFRAB research questions, methods, and ethics requirements and principles.

What are the main abolitionist discourses identified so far in the Ethiopian team? What are the genealogies of these discourses (eg: religious Christian, religious Islamic, Ethiopian official/imperial, Ethiopian intellectual/student movements, DERG, grassroots/ex-slaves, missionary, Italian colonial, etc. etc.)

How to approach sources critically (HANDOUT)

What sources are Ethiopian researchers working on? Which ones do they plan to examine in the coming months?

What excerpts of sources to use for the planned critical edition of sources on African abolitionism?

AFRAB next steps: Mombasa May 2023; Dar es Salaam Nov 2023

AFRAB exhibition on African abolitionism

