

## Editorial

Northeast Africa is a melting pot: diversity, a mélange of colorful cultures, long-staying heritage, stories of traditions, and beauty. That said, it is the site of outstanding problems, and challenges, including arbitrary use of power, a host of contentions and discriminatory practices of gender, violence, sidelining homegrown experiences, knowledge, and progressive cultural orders that strive to bring equality, equity, and social justice. *ITYOPIS: Northeast African Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, aims at shedding light on the locus of these pervasive and pressing issues that emanate from the economic, socio-political, and cultural orders.

Preoccupying itself with these issues, *ITYOPIS* has consecutively come out with two volumes, and three special issues, embracing scholars across the area and far beyond. However, there was no prospect due to managerial difficulties. After a long silence, the College of Social Sciences and Languages has taken up the responsibility of combining a new editorial team, giving a strong impetus for the team to call for papers and oversee the reviewing process afresh.

Still, the due process of the review of this volume is a long time coming, facing obstacles along the way. Although the editorial team has been determined to continue, using all means of communication, and refusing to give up on the reviewing process, it was not possible at a point when COVID-19 was high on the agenda, and fear had taken a grip on people. As if that were not enough, war broke out in Tigray, adding fuel to the fire. Life turned out to take a difficult route; this trying time has deeply affected us, thereby besetting the reviewing process. The tide has a

trajectory – we have to live with the atrocities; we have to bear the worrisome moments and harrowing experiences, and we have to adapt to the new normal.

There have been telephone shutdowns, internet blackouts, and intermittent power cut-offs, not to mention the recurring crisis and atrocities of the war. We had to face the fear that comes from the discourses of artillery encirclement and very possible random attack, and the real random shelling. These all abated in Mekelle though it has been recurrently happening in places outside and far beyond (within the confines of Tigray). In the face of it, our team has never given up. We have pinned our hope on changes for the better. We have used all the means of communication to continue. The team's effort has kept the ball rolling no matter how slow it has been.

Though we have been in the middle of war, now we have managed to finish the review process. In what follows are the five articles that have passed the review process. The first article titled *Current Trends in Tigrinya Punctuation* offers an enhancing analysis on developments in Tigrinya - Ethiopic (far better named as *Ge'ez*) punctuation. This article has located problems attendant to the *Ge'ez* punctuation.

The second article takes a look at Ethiopia's language policy which is believed to regulate language practice: the delivery of services to the citizenry; the study discloses the currents of resistance over the single use of Amharic as a federal working language. It reflects the blockade over the circuits of the interaction of the other languages in terms of service delivery at a federal level.

The third one presents *human capital development in the Ethiopian banking industry*, focusing on worldwide undercurrents. Accordingly, it points out that a human resources strategy marked by different aspects of constituent qualities that can inform the engagement of the banking sector is not available.

The fourth is on *gender differences in climate change perceptions, coping mechanisms, adaptation strategies, and adaptation barriers in the Central Zone of Tigray National Regional State*. It pinpoints that rainfall is decreasing and that a supernatural force and human activities adversely affect climate change negatively. It then presents the challenges of household heads (both females and males) as well as coping strategies they employ in the face of adversities.

The last one (in Amharic) explores a novel titled *Hade Zanta*, refuting misconceptions about its origin. Based on the textual evidence, the contents of the novel, and the spirit of the time during which the novel was composed, the article reveals the novel's cultural qualities are nurtured from Ethiopia.

Tesfaye Mesele Zinabu