

Getnet Tadele's Biography

I graduated from Addis Ababa University (AAU) in 1990 with a BA in Sociology and Social Administration with *cum laude* honors. Subsequently, largely because of this high academic performance, I was recruited to be Graduate Assistant at my alma mater in the Department of Sociology and Social Administration. In 1995, I secured a scholarship from AUSAID and enrolled at the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CCEB), Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Newcastle, Australia. I received a Graduate Diploma in Health Social Science in 1997, and a Masters in Medical Science (Health Social Science) in 1998. Upon completion of my postgraduate training, I returned home to continue with my teaching and research activities at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Addis Ababa University and began working as a Health Social Scientist at the Clinical Epidemiology Unit. In late 2000, I obtained a scholarship, which allowed me to join the PhD program at the Amsterdam School for Social Science Research, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. I earned my PhD degree in 2005 and am now a full professor in the Department of Sociology of AAU. I am also an honorary professor at Jimma University Adjunct Professor at Bahirdar University and a Global Fellow at the Centre on Law and Social Transformation, University of Bergen, Norway.

I have researched and published on podocooniasis, scabies, child rights, adolescent health, sexuality and sexual and reproductive health and rights, including HIV/AIDS, and aspirations of rural youth, with a total of over 60 journal articles and chapters in books published by international publishers. I am the first co-editor of the book *Vulnerabilities, Impacts and Responses to HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa*, by Palgrave Macmillan (2013). I also published a book entitled: *Bleak Prospects: Young Men, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS in an Ethiopian Town*. Leiden: African Studies Centre (Brill Academic Publishers, 2006) and am the first co-editor of the book *Giving Back to the Community: Development Projects Implemented by Academics in Ethiopia*. Addis Ababa: Eclipse Printers, 2016, further described below.

I received a number of fellowships, academic grants and visiting professorships and taught and/or researched in Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana, Netherlands, UK, US, Australia, New Zealand and Norway. I also attended over 90 workshops and conferences as presenter, resource person or discussant in Europe, Africa, Asia, USA and Latin America. (almost all invited and paid by the organizers). From April 2012-July 2013, I was on sabbatical leave and won an Erasmus Mundus Scholar Scholarship of the European Master of Science Program in International Health and taught at the Royal Tropical Institute of the Netherlands, Free University (VU) and Centre for International Health, University of Bergen, Norway. I was the recipient of an Erskine Fellowship and taught at the Centre for Health Sciences, University of Canterbury, New Zealand. I also won a Fulbright Scholarship and stayed at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), US, as a Fulbright Fellow (2013). During that time I gave lectures and seminar at Yale University, the University of Florida, Boston University, the University of Illinois at Chicago and the International Centre for Research on Women. I was a Visiting Professor at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands and University of Bergen, Norway, during my 2019/2020 sabbatical leave. Recently, I was a visiting professor for two months (March-April 2022) at the University of Bergen, Norway.

In recognition of my excellence in research, I was awarded the AAU Distinguished Research Award, for the 2015/16 academic year. Further, the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences, in recognition of my “impressive research record, outstanding contribution to his profession, his international stature as a scholar and his service to the community at large”, selected me to become a Fellow of the Academy at its General Assembly meeting held on 10th November 2018. In September 2019, I received the Higher Honor Laureate from Abyssinia Award for my contribution to research. In 2021, I was elected as the President of the Ethiopian Society of Sociologists, Social Workers and Anthropologists and was appointed by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education as a Deputy Chair of the Board of Governors of Wolkite University. I am also a board member of Ethiopian Higher Education Quality Council and a founding member of the Ethiopian Professors’ Council.. In September 2021, I received the Good Person of the Year award **from Yebego Sew Award** for my contribution to social science research

I received a NUFU grant from Norway for research on gender, generation and social mobilization: Challenges of reproductive health and rights among vulnerable groups in Ethiopia, Sudan and Tanzania (2007-2012). Through this grant I financially supported six MSc students in the School of Nursing at Addis Ababa University working on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS and supervised and financially supported one student working on his PhD. I was also co-PI (responsible for Ethiopia) on a NOW/WOTRO (Netherlands)-sponsored project entitled Creating Opportunities: Economic Empowerment, Political Positioning and Participation of Sex Workers in Ethiopia and Kenya. From 2014-18, I led (as PI) a team of local and international researchers on a project entitled Enhancing Ethiopian Youths' Literacy about the Gene x Environment Contributions to Health in the Context of Podoconiosis. This project was funded by NIH (US) and is part of the Human Heredity and Health in Africa (H3 Africa) Ethical, Legal and Societal Issues (ELSI) research program. In 2016, I received another three-year grant from the Research Council of Norway for research on competing discourses impacting girls’ and women’s rights: The case of fertility control and safe abortion in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Zambia. I was coordinator for Ethiopia, Tanzania and Zambia. or ‘southern’ partner universities. In 2019, I (with other colleagues) was awarded another 5 years grant from Norway on childhood and sustainable development; currently I am co-leading this project, which is training 5 PhDs and more than 15 MA students. I am also the PI for Ethiopia on the project entitled: Social Sciences for Severe Stigmatizing Skin Conditions (S5 Foundation) in Ethiopia, Sudan and Rwanda, a four year project (2019-22) supported by the National Institute for Health Research, UK. This project focuses mainly on scabies and podoconiosis and is supporting 5 PhDs, one post doc and two MA students and has employed a number of public engagement officers and administrative staff. In 2021, I was awarded a grant for maternal health research from the Research Council of Norway and am currently supervising PhD students. Since 2009, I been working with IDS at the University of Sussex, UK and was awarded a number of competitive small grants that resulted in five publications (see my CV for publications: www.azena.info).

Throughout my academic career, I have been serving as reviewer, editor and advisory board member of various local and international journals. In 2015, I was appointed as a member of

WOTRO's International Advisory Committee on SRHR. Currently I am the Associate Editor of Ethiopian Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities, a member of the Advisory Board of the Ethiopian Journal of Development Studies and a member of the International Scientific Advisory Board of research project An Integrated Approach to Unraveling Susceptibility of Tuberculosis in Africa. I am also the editor of Current Research Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities. Currently I am the vice chair of the Africa Ethics Working Group (AEWG), an entity initially formed by the Oxford Initiative in Global Neuropsychiatric GenEthics (NeuroGenE) to respond to questions relating to ethical issues in the NeuroGAP/DEV Consortium. The Consortium is part of the Stanley Center Global Genomic Collections Initiative (SGGCI) <https://www.broadinstitute.org/stanley>, which is funded mostly by the Stanley Center for Psychiatric Genomics at the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT, USA. In January 2023, I was appointed to the NIHR's Global Health Policy and Systems Research (HPSR) Funding Committee, which reviews the NIHR Global HPSR applications and make funding recommendations to the Department of Health and Social Care. I am also a member of the External Advisory Group of the multi-country study focusing on developing evidence-based approaches to responding to the needs of people who are homeless and have severe mental illness (**HOPE**).

I served as Graduate Program Coordinator and chair of sociology Department from 2008-2010 and 2010-2012, respectively. I am also a member of AAU's Senate Standing Committee for Research and Publication, member of the Staff Affairs and Promotion Committee at the College of Social Sciences and a number of other department, college and university committees. I have demonstrated an outstanding record of teaching at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, participated in course coordination, curriculum development, and participated in course reviews and have a proven record of successful undergraduate and postgraduate students at AAU and universities in other countries.

Recognizing the need for a broadly based social science approach to studying human health, as defined by WHO, I launched and anchored the popular health and wellbeing stream in the MA sociology program, which used to attract a large proportion of entering sociology students. when they were given the chance to select from three streams (urban-industrial sociology, rural-agricultural sociology and health and wellbeing). The courses within this stream enable students to understand the interface of social science and health and multi-cultural and intercultural health systems in a country with more than 70 ethnic and cultural groups. Graduates of this stream and other students who graduated with basic knowledge of health social science are immensely contributing to the understanding of health issues from a social science perspective

and many of them have progressed in different settings, including academia, the public and community sectors, and NGOs in Ethiopia.

For three decades, I have been engaged in consultancy services for various government organizations, multilateral and bilateral organizations, and local and international NGOs based in Ethiopia and foreign universities and organizations, including among others the Ethiopian Ministry of Women and Children, Ministry of Health, UNFPA, WHO, UNAIDS, UNISCO, Italian Development Cooperation, Population Council, FHI360, Mary Stops, Forum for Sustainable Child Development, African Network Against Child Abuse and Neglect, IDS at the University of Sussex, the Royal Tropical Institute of the Netherlands, Maastricht School of Management, Schorer International, Stop AIDS Now Amsterdam, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, University of Sussex, University of Amsterdam, University of Bergen and the EURO Health Group (Denmark).

In addition to contributing to contributing to furthering knowledge on social and public health issues, many of my academic and consultancy research projects have led to improvement of policy and practice

Besides my teaching and research accomplishments, I have a strong and sustained commitment to social justice issues and a long standing involvement in community development projects. I grew up in a poor rural setting and have been involved in community development projects in my village and helped my community to build a 48 meter steel bridge over the Ayo River, two elementary schools, four high schools and a high school library). I also participated in mobilizing two rounds of financial support to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 lock down and promote preventive efforts in Ethiopia.

To inspire others and share challenges and lessons, I have written an article entitled: *Bridging gaps and building opportunities: Reflections on my experience of engaging in community development in Azena*. This article was published in the book by Getnet Tadele et al. (eds.) *Giving Back to the Community: Development Projects Implemented by Academics in Ethiopia* (2016). By doing so, I have contributed not only to community development but also disseminated information crucial to developing and managing such projects. In recognition of my community service, People to People (P2P USA) selected me as a winner of the 2016 Exemplary Community Service Award. Moreover, Azena community, District (*Woreda*) and Zonal officials named one junior elementary school and a high school after me and received dozens of recognition certificates from Woreda, Zonal and Regional Governments. I also received Yusuf Badri Civic Engagement International Prize from Ahfad University for Women in Sudan, on December 12, 2018.

Currently, there is a high school under construction and I am raising money for another school to be launched next year

See the following links to see the picture of some of (not all) the community projects. ,
<https://bit.ly/3FYVSMv>

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0Bzs4iaAX2MrCQy1ZTkM4d3YxLW8>,

<http://www.azena.info/AzenaInPics3.html>, <http://www.azena.info/AzenaInPics4.html>,

https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipN69HoEdmdiguxQnF7UsWcLgFwZe8su17QoFsivr8l1ICCoNpND_AHHyClhqnuQu5hw?key=YI9BM0x0ekdCa2JCbFNmMXdCYnlxSzVJbENhbUtR,

https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipPxQ1btyXBDU0e9JPO-slcyng0NByMKUJdjzQhXSmRdDQ6rHCdmfUAR0TBZ21RwuA/photo/AF1QipN_IE9pmc5UDVu3leDOpa3yDcZ-Gtf_uerRE0Lz?key=VVNRdVpxT1JTOXpaSkZEazJWTDNHR245ZV9TU0x3,
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/5SLaD8KkG4CGSWpX6>

Here are also some of the links to listen or read media (broadcast and social media) coverage of these projects.

<https://youtu.be/eRW09wSbhV0>

<https://youtu.be/JnlbY8d7-JY>

https://youtu.be/Y_LPdzWQRNo

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0bfP4ZEweCGP2zhCW8s8bKkfkYBzdfzQYEWvsG8xJBarUe1bUAUFgTADZEJQmXfUtl&id=100004358294728

<https://www.facebook.com/380156499467073/posts/pfbid0tjv7ACkQfcpXvQdnx6U3KuVDpJdimRGfp6LqpegsJXMzFanfPVWbGX24r3BWNz1Al/?sfnsn=mo>

https://youtu.be/Y_LPdzWQRNo (Here is also 26 minutes interview with Amhara TV)

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3179865578795443&id=106469466135085,

<https://www.facebook.com/106469466135085/posts/4183908151724509/>

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1083175558756847&id=437739043300505&sfnsn=mo <https://www.facebook.com/123960474361367/posts/4154206234670084/?app=fbl>,
<https://youtu.be/GtaQLVCnRNs> (listen from 24-28 minutes),
<https://youtu.be/JnIbY8d7-JY>

Here is 4 minutes Amhara TV news

<https://youtu.be/eRW09wSbhV0>

Of many coverages by individuals, institutions, and media outlets, you may consider reading this

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0bfP4ZEweCGP2zhCW8s8bKkfkYBZdfzQYEWvsG8xJBarUe1bUAUFgTADZEJQmXfUtl&id=100004358294728

And this one

<https://www.facebook.com/380156499467073/posts/pfbid0tjv7ACkQfcpXvQdnx6U3KuVDpJdi mRGfp6LqpeqsJXMzFanfPVWbGX24r3BWNz1Al/?sfnsn=mo>

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid03Zr1civYawGAGZXNoEQnLDRNpGgnK5bRDb6WS46hjMXE5c4Y6q9ni1sscYqvLKL2l&id=100063465559932&sfnsn=mo&mibextid=5hvk5

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid05bnw3c39DwDnciWE8jAVbWEvamH8F6EHqaikkcvwFC4yXcGVk7EuM43xyL8cVvkwI&id=100063502166743&sfnsn=mo&mibextid=5hvk5

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid027ub9BSaHURJNsYE63dHf7PLMUjKXNARw46kc5QgnAchuFZADaAjuE6KfUVCKRC2rl&id=100063465559932&mibextid=Nif5ozb

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02M9YqqnCFh5HtyGfSsVh5fTKDKFvQHD7WowPEZzWCqfUB45tqbJfUVVh1bC5RrFtil&id=100016845701954&sfnsn=mo&mibextid=5hvk5e

Here is also 26 minutes interview with Amhara TV

https://youtu.be/Y_LPdzWQRNo

Finally, "A picture is worth a thousand words"

<https://bit.ly/3FYVSMv>

Here is 4 minutes news coverage in Amharic by Amhara media corporation.

<https://youtu.be/jzCDmfJKQGA>

Here is also 5 minutes news coverage in Agewegna

<https://fb.watch/ij6iL5RRf2/?mibextid=5hvk5e>

and brief article by Ayehu Guagsa communications office Facebook page

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid08cX4XTuEJiANMz8kLrLn62LWCFrBXJ1cs5enJ8MxKZn43rbhSr5GFA1AftAggEMul&id=100063465559932&mibextid=Nif5ozb

Finally, "a picture is worth 1000 words" and here is the link to see pictures of the event.

https://pieethiopia-my.sharepoint.com/personal/piee_pieethiopia_onmicrosoft_com/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?ga=1&id=%2Fpersonal%2Fpiee%5Fpieethiopia%5Fonmicrosoft%5Fcom%2FDocuments%2FPhoto%20Camera%2FAmbela%20and%20School%20Visit%2FAmbela%20High%20School%20Library%20Opening%2D%20January%2023%2C%202023

Because of these and many other contributions, the community asked me (or rather put on immense pressure) to represent them in the Federal Parliament and I won the sit by overwhelming majority vote and I am currently working as a member of the Federal parliament while carrying out my academic duties as well. In the parliament, I am working as a member of parliament's standing committee for health, social development, culture and sport affairs and as vice chair of parliamentary friendship committee to EU and Western Europe

Overall, throughout my career, I have worked with people from diverse backgrounds and has developed a strong network of prominent contacts in Africa, Europe, Asia and North and South America. I have demonstrated my academic, interpersonal and networking skills throughout my work experience and look forward to applying my academic and many other problem-solving skills to the betterment of society. Through the transformative power of education, I journeyed from small country boy farmer, shepherd and petty trader from rural tiny village across the Ayo river to scholar on the world stage and change agent—a recipient of many grants, fellowships/visiting professorships, honors and awards.

With my best regards

Getnet Tadele, PhD

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-President of Ethiopian Society of Sociologists, Social Workers and Anthropologists (ESSWA)

-Vice Chair of Board of Governors of Wolkite University

-Fellow of Ethiopian Academy of Sciences

-Associate Editor- Ethiopian Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities

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