

Professor Getnet Tadele's Biography

Getnet graduated from Addis Ababa University with a BA in Sociology and Social Administration in 1990, receiving cum laude honors. Largely because of this high academic performance, he was recruited to be Graduate Assistant at his alma mater in the Department of Sociology and Social Administration. In 1995, he 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. Getnet finished Graduate Diploma in Health Social Science in 1997, and a Masters in Medical Science (Health Social Science) in 1998. Upon completion of his postgraduate training, he returned home to continue with his teaching and research activities at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and began working as a Health Social Scientist at the Clinical Epidemiology Unit of Addis Ababa University. In late 2000, Getnet obtained a scholarship, which allowed him to join the PhD program at the Amsterdam School for Social Science Research, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands. He earned his doctoral degree in 2005 and is now a Professor at the Department of Sociology. He is also Honorary Professor at Jimma University, and Global Fellow at the Centre on Law and Social Transformation, University of Bergen.

He has been researching and publishing extensively on child rights, adolescent health, sexuality or sexual and reproductive health including HIV/AIDS, podoconiosis and aspirations of rural youth. He has published over 60 journal articles and chapters in books published by international publishers. He is first co-editor of a book entitled: *Vulnerabilities, Impacts and Responses to HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa*, by Palgrave Macmillan (2013). He has also published a book entitled: *Bleak Prospects: Young men, sexuality and HIV/AIDS in an Ethiopian town*. Leiden: African Studies Centre (Brill Academic Publishers) and first co-edited another book entitled: *Giving Back to the Community: Development Projects Implemented by Academics in Ethiopia*. Addis Ababa: Eclipse Printers

He has 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. Getnet has also attended over 85 workshops and conferences as presenter, resource person or discussant outside of Ethiopia- in Europe, Africa, Asia, USA and Latin America (almost all paid by the organizers). From April 2012-July 2013, he was on Sabbatical Leave and won an Erasmus Mundus Scholar Scholarship for 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. He was recipient of Erskine fellowship and taught at the Centre for Health Sciences, University of Canterbury, New Zealand. He also won a Fulbright scholarship and stayed at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), US, as a Fulbright Fellow. While staying in US as fulbrighter, he has given lectures and seminar at Yale University, University of Florida, Boston University, University of Illinois at Chicago and the International Centre for Research on Women. He was Visiting Professor at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands and University of Bergen, Norway, during his 2019/2020 Sabbatical Leave.

In recognition of his excellence in research, Getnet has won the AAU's 'Distinguished Research Award', for 2015/16 Academic Year. Further, the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences, in recognition

of his “impressive research record, outstanding contribution to his profession, his international stature as a scholar and his service to the community at large”, has selected him to become Fellow of the Academy at its General Assembly meeting held on 10th November 2018. In September 2019, he also received Higher Honor Laureate from Abyssinia Award for his contribution to research and he is founding member of Ethiopian Professors’ Council. Recently, he was elected as the President of Ethiopian Society of Sociologists, Social workers and Anthropologists (ESSSWA) and appointed as a Member of Board of Governors of Wolkite University by the Minister of Science and Higher Education. He is also board member of Ethiopian Higher Education Quality council.

Getnet had NUFU grant from Norway on *Gender, Generation and Social Mobilization: Challenges of Reproductive Health and Rights among Vulnerable groups in Ethiopia, Sudan and Tanzania* (2007-2012) and through this grant he had financially supported six MSc students from the school of nursing at Addis Ababa university working on Prevention of Mother-child transmission of HIV/AIDS and supervised and financially supported one student while working on his PhD. He 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, he 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 using the context of Podoconiosis*. This project was funded by NIH and is part of the Human Heredity and Health in Africa (H3 Africa), Ethical, Legal and Societal Issues (ELSI) Research program. In 2016, he received another three years grant from the Research Council of Norway on *Competing discourses impacting girls’ and women’s rights: The case of fertility control and safe abortion in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Zambia*. He was coordinator for Ethiopia, Tanzania and Zambia or ‘southern’ partner universities. In 2019, he (with other colleagues) has won another 5 years grant from Norway on Childhood and sustainable development and currently co-leading this project that is training 5 PhDs and more than 15 MA students in 5 years. He is also PI for Ethiopia on project entitled: *Social Sciences for Severe Stigmatizing Skin Diseases (S5 Foundation)* in Ethiopia, Sudan and Rwanda, four years project (2019-22) supported by the National Institute for Health Research, UK. This project is supporting 5 PhDs and two MA students and has employed a number of administrative staff. In 2021, he won another grant on Maternal Health from the Research Council of Norway and currently recruiting PhD students. Since 2009, he has been working with IDS at University of Sussex, UK and has won a number of competitive small grants that resulted in five publications (see his CV for publications).

Throughout his academic career, he has been reviewing articles submitted for publication in a range of journals. To be specific, he has reviewed once or twice or more times articles submitted to the Ethiopian Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities, Ethiopian Journal of Development Research, Institute of Ethiopian Studies Journal, Ethiopian Journal of Health Development, Ethiopian Medical Journal, Eastern Africa Social Science Research Review, Culture, Health and sexuality, Journal of sociology and anthropology (horizon research publishing). He is also a member of Advisory board of Medicine, Anthropology and Theory- open access peer reviewed Journal. In 2015, he was appointed as a member of WOTRO’s International Advisory Committee on SRHR (see attached letter of appointment from WOTRO). He is Associate Editor of Ethiopian Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities, member of Advisory Board of

Ethiopian Journal of Development Studies and member of International Scientific Advisor Board of research project entitled: An integrated approach to unraveling susceptibility of tuberculosis in Africa. He is also editor of Current Research Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities. He is also working as Vice Chair of Africa Ethics Working Group (AEWG), an entity initially appointed 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 in major part by the Stanley Center for Psychiatric Genomics at the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT, USA.

He has served as Graduate Program Coordinator and chair of his Department from 2008-2010 and 2010-2012 respectively. He is also a member of AAU's Senate Standing Committee for Research and Publication and member of Staff Affairs and Promotion Committee at the College of Social Sciences and a number of other Department, College and University wide committees (see attached letters of testimony for all the above services). He has demonstrated an outstanding record of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, course coordination, curriculum development, participating in course reviews and have a proven record of successful undergraduate and postgraduate supervision at MA and PhD levels in Ethiopia and other countries.

The WHO's definition of health tells us that good health cannot be achieved through the efforts of medical personnel alone. Probing into complex and intractable issues of health and health systems research requires not only medical doctors and public health professionals but also social scientists. This means that there is the need to create or strengthen the field of social science and health (like medical sociology, medical anthropology, medical psychology, medical history, medical geography). Until recently (before launching of the merged MA sociology program/curriculum), he used to anchor the most popular health and wellbeing stream MA sociology program which at one point 20 out of 22 students chose as their first area of interest 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 enabled students to understand the interface of social science and health and multi-cultural and intercultural health systems in a country in which more than 70 ethnic and cultural groups exist. Graduates of this stream and other students who graduated with some basic knowledge of health social science are immensely contributing to the understanding of health from a social science perspective and many of them have progressed in different settings, including academia and the public, NGO and community sector in Ethiopia.

For more than two decades, he has been intensively engaged in consultancy services for various government organizations, multilateral and bilateral organizations, local and international NGOs based in Ethiopia and foreign universities and organizations including among others: Ethiopian Ministry of women and children, Ethiopian Ministry of Health, UNFPA, WHO, UNIADS, 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, and EURO Health Group (Denmark). Please kindly refer his CV for many of published and unpublished empirical research reports he did for these organizations (see attached letters of testimony).

In addition to contributing to the production of knowledge on uncharted territories, many of his academic and consultancy research projects have led to improvement of policy and practice.

Besides teaching and research (academic) accomplishments, he has a strong and sustained commitment to social justice issues and a long standing involvement in community development projects. He came from an extremely humble (poor) background and have been involved in community development projects in his rural village and helped his community in building a 48 meter steel bridge over a big river, two elementary schools, three high schools and a preparatory school (see attached recognition certificates). To inspire others and share challenges and lessons, he has 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 a book entitled: *Giving back to the community: Development projects implemented by academics in Ethiopia* (2016) and he is first co-editor of this book and co-authored introduction and conclusion. By doing so, he has contributed not only to community development but also to the production of knowledge on how to do it. In recognition of his community service, People to People (P2P USA) has selected him as a winner of 2016 “Exemplary Community Service award”. He received this award on 17th of September 2016 in Virginia, USA. Further, the Azena community, Woreda and Zonal officials have named one elementary school after him and received recognition certificate from Amhara Regional Government. He also received Yusuf Badri Civic Engagement International Prize from Ahfad University for Women in Sudan on December 12, 2018. He is currently raising money to build another high school in remote low land area and to upgrade/expand an elementary school into high school.

He also participated in mobilizing two rounds of huge resources to mitigate the impacts of COVID 19 lock down and preventive efforts.

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

See the following links to see the picture of some of (not all) the community projects. ,

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0Bzs4iaAX2MrCQy1ZTkM4d3YxLW8>,
<http://www.azena.info/AzenaInPics3.html>, <http://www.azena.info/AzenaInPics4.html>,
<https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipN69HoEdmdiguxQnF7UsWcLgFwZe8su17QoFsjvr8111CCoNpNDAHHyClhqnQu5hw?key=YI9BM0x0ekdCa2JCbFNmMXdCYnlxSzVJbENhbUtR>,
https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipPxQ1btyXBDU0e9JPQ-sIcynq0NByMKUJdjzQhXSmRdDQ6rHCdmfUAR0TBZ21RwuA/photo/AF1QipN_1E9pme5UDVu3leDOpa3yDcZ-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://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&sfns

<https://www.facebook.com/123960474361367/posts/4154206234670084/?app=fbl>,

<https://youtu.be/GtaQLVCnRNs> (listen from 24-28 minutes), <https://youtu.be/aFMZizGutdQ>)