



Book of Abstracts

The 3rd National Police Research Symposium

**Ethiopian Police University
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- ✚ To become center of excellence in police Training and Education in Africa by 2030
G.C

Our Mission

- ✓ Produce police leaders and professionals who have the required knowledge, skill and attitude by offering quality, relevant and adequate education and training.
- ✓ Conduct problem solving research and provide consultancy and community services.
- ✓ Provide capacity building assistance to the regional police training colleges and centers.
- ✓ Lead the formulation of national standards in police and assure its implementation.

Our Values

- Professionalism
- Integrity
- Respect for Diversity
- Respect for Right

An Analysis of the Dynamics of Power and Discourse Control Strategies in Police Interviews: The Case of Two Police Institutions in West Shoa Zone, Oromia Regional State

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Abstract

The central purpose of this research was to analyze the police witness interview discourses in Oromia Regional State, West Shoa Zone. Two police institutions, namely, Ambo town and Dire Inchini Woreda police institutions were the focus of the study. To attain the objectives, the research employed qualitative methodology. Data obtained from Ambo town and Dire Inchini police witness interviewers as well as from the selected respondents to the researcher's oral interviews were sources of the data for this study. Accordingly, the data were collected from eight police interviewers' interviews from both Ambo town and Dire Inchini police institutions and four respondents (two from each Woreda). Thirty four recordings (four hours recordings) were made. From these recordings, twenty two of them were selected for the research purpose, transcribed using Gail Jeferson's (1984) transcription conventions, translated into English and analyzed. Two instruments, Audio -taping of the police witness interactions (police – witness interview interactions) and interview were used as data collection tools. The data were analyzed qualitatively using Conversation Analysis (CA), Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), and Pragmatics. Results obtained from the analysis of the data indicated that there was a strong power asymmetry between the police interviewers and the witnesses. The asymmetry was slanted in favor of the police interviewers. This power asymmetry was revealed mainly through poor establishment of rapport at the opening phase of the interview. The interviewers' repeated interruptions of the witnesses' utterances, their controlling of the turn takings, commanding (ordering), positioning of themselves as persistent questions (using 'WH' questions, Yes/ No questions and other syntactically non – interrogatives) were used to control the discourses. The police interviewers had the first go to set the agenda for the subsequent discussions with the participants (interviewees/witnesses) in the study. This means the police interviewers were sources of the agenda for the interactions. The discursive roles given to the participants (the interviewers and the witnesses), the higher status given to the police interviewers institutionally and their relative knowledge influenced the dynamics of the interactions. Finally, it was recommended that police organizations must implement comprehensive trainings on language technicalities, fundamental interviewing to develop more effective interviewers the judicial procedure. Police interviewers need to establish a better rapport with the interviewees or witnesses before they go into the interview properly. People (the society) should be given awareness about police witness interviews through short term trainings. Police interviewers should give opportunities to the witnesses (interviewees) to narrate freely to express their feelings than constraining or interrupting them.

Keywords: *police, witness, discourse, police witness interview discourse; institutional talk, power, asymmetry*

An Appraisal of Security Sector Reform in Ethiopia: A Study on Amhara National Regional State Police Commission

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Abstract

A security sector that is not effective cannot deliver security, while a security sector is effective it improves both state and human security. The main objective of this study was to explore the current implementations, challenges, and possible way outs to improve the SSR in the Amhara Regional State Police Commission. The researcher employed qualitative research method with a case study research design. The data was collected from primary and secondary sources. The participants of this study were selected via purposive sampling. A total of 28 participants were included in the study. The findings of the study show that SSR is currently implemented in the Amhara Regional State Police Commission. But, it is not in a position to improve the professional independence and service delivery of the police force. The finding of the study also shows that the measures taken by the Commission and stakeholders to improve the reform programs are inadequate. The study also identified the major challenges that hampered the police reform program and these are political interference, lack of competent leadership, lack of human and material resources, and lack of strong oversight mechanisms. Lastly, the study suggested recommendations to improve the reform programs in general and service delivery of police in particular. Hence, recommendations are forwarded to the ANRS Police Commission, to police officers, to the ANRS Administrative and Security Affairs Bureau, and ANRS Council.

Key words: Security, security sector reform, Amhara Police

The Rights to Remain Silent under Ethiopian Legal Framework and Its Implementation: The Case of Bale Zone

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Abstract

The main purpose of criminal justice is to provide rehabilitation and correctional facility for those who have violated the rules and regulations of society and enable them to show attitudinal and behavioral changes. To this end, the whole process of detection, investigation, interrogation, prosecution, and punishment of offenders in the enforcement of the criminal law has to respect the human rights of suspected or accused persons. Among various human rights of accused and arrested person discussed under FDRE constitution, the main one is the right to remain silent and to be informed of the same. The main objective of this study is to assess the practical implementation of the right to remain silent and the right to be informed the same in Bale zone. To achieve this predetermined objective, the research employed both qualitative and quantitative research approaches. To describe the state of affairs as it prevails in the police station, the study was mainly descriptive and partially casual type of research. Among the 18 Woredas Bale Zone has, eight Woredas are randomly selected using lottery method. The research used both primary and secondary data. Police officers, judges, public prosecutors, and arrested persons were the major sources of primary data, whereas secondary data was collected from Bale Zone police stations, dead cases, published, and online sources. Both open-ended and close-ended questionnaire, interviews, FGD, observation, and document analysis were used as data collection instruments. The findings of this study revealed that the right to remain silent is not generally implemented in Bale Zone. There are many factors that hindered the implementation of this right in the study area.

Key words: *rights, remain silent, legal framework, criminal law*

The 2016 Mass Protest and the Response of Security Forces in ANRS, Ethiopia: Awi and West Gojjam Zones in Focus

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Abstract

This study attempts at examining security officials use of force and their accountability in connection with the 2016 mass protests unfolded in Amhara National Regional State (ANRS) in general and Awi and West Gojjam Zones in particular. Specifically, the study appraises the nature of the application of force and the consequent investigations to punish security forces who abused their discretion on the use of force. To address these objectives, the study employed mixed research approach with concurrent parallel design. Data for this research obtained both from primary and secondary data sources. The primary data sources were interviewees and respondents whereas the secondary data ascertained from published and unpublished materials. Regarding the data collection tools, the researcher used interview, questionnaire, and documents. To draw sample respondents for questionnaire, the researcher employed simple random sampling technique whereas key informants and informants selected through purposive and snowball sampling techniques respectively. The size of sample respondents determined using Cochran's formula, based on which a total of 384 respondents were taken. Based on the data gathered from all these sources, the study revealed that security forces committed arbitrary and extrajudicial killings and injuries against protest participants who were chiefly unarmed and or non-violent. The measures found excessive and arbitrary with several civilians risked their life and physical wellbeing. With few exception, the administrations at different levels of governance failed to investigate these extrajudicial and arbitrary killings and injuries in the process of punishing perpetrators of the misdeed before the civil- criminal laws. Here it is recommended to undertake independent investigation about the legality and legitimacy of murders, injuries, beatings and other forms of violence committed by the security forces.

Key Words: *Accountability, Force, Security Officials, Law, arbitrary and extrajudicial killings*

Crime and the Police in Ethiopia: A Critical Assessment of the Transition Nexus Crime

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Abstract

During a change, the rise of crime and violence (which can be linked to political, economic, and social factors) is a difficult phenomenon to analyze and comprehend. Exposing the underlying roots, reviewing other societies' views, and highlighting the contexts of policing activities are all ways of recognizing this. Henceforth, this paper tries to (a) review societies that have experienced transitions who might hold comparative lessons to understand crime and counter it, (b) highlight the contexts of crime and violence and challenges in addressing it, and (c) comment on the way forward. To achieve the above purposes the researcher utilized document analysis and interviews as methods of data collection. The analysis follows appropriate qualitative data analysis techniques. The link between political transition and crime is more complex where a myriad of inter-related issues can be identified as contexts. It is sound to claim that, in the Ethiopian context, the seeds of violence and conflict were bred long before the transition began, magnified in the period immediately before the shifts in political power occurred, and then became highly visible in the post-transition period. Among others, glaring socio-economic inequality, availability of weapons, the increased organization of some aspects of criminal activity, weakening of social cohesion and controls, reduced risks for punishment, mass amnesty for prisoners, a long-existing culture of violence as well as an increase in opportunities, targets, and motivation significantly contextualize the burgeoning conflict and violence in the country. Whereas, steps to counter crime and violence were taken too late because the full extent of the problem was underestimated as newly formed governments battled with the tasks of reform and institution building in the immediate post-transition period. Moreover, police's limited capacity and legitimacy have led to centralized and militarized responses to disorder and conflict. The continued use of the military for internal social order, while the police play insignificant role, undermines the police's authority, limits their ability to enforce the law in the future, and calls into question their impartiality in the eyes of the public. It will take a long time for the police to recover their reputation and their ability to uphold the law unless measures taken. This study has pinpointed measures police should take to support effective transition to democracy and rule of law.

Keywords: *Crime, Violence, Police, Transition, and Ethiopia*

Police Reform and Human Rights Protection in Ethiopia: The Case of Federal Police Crime Investigation Bureau

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Abstract

This thesis explored the available reforms in human rights protection in Ethiopia during criminal investigation process by focusing on Federal Crime Investigation Bureau from 2015-current ongoing reform processes. Purposive sampling technique, one of the sampling techniques in qualitative research method, was used to select interviewees. And by using semi-structured in-depth interview, observation and document analysis as instruments of data collection, the researcher investigated the ongoing reform processes on human rights protection during crime investigation. Accordingly, the findings of this study indicated that there are improvements (in terms of decreasing in the incidence of physical torture, allowing human rights experts and researchers to visit police stations, closing of some police stations where citizen's human rights were subjected for violations such as Meakelawi and Jail Ogaden), however, violations of human rights (such as denying right of speedy trial, lack of equality before the law, and compelling suspects to produce illegal confessions by putting them at dark places) are still continued during criminal investigation process. Finally, the study recommends that the government should re-evaluate police compliance in the process of sustaining police reform and police organization should give more focus to human rights promotion in allocating conducive environments such as human rights related complaints receiving mechanisms and mainstreaming human rights protection to its all departments in relation to Federal Crime Investigation Bureau. Furthermore, the government should set policy to liable police members who have been violating human rights in the case of Federal Crime Investigation Bureau.

Keywords: *Human Rights Protection, Crime Investigation, Police Reform, Crime Investigation Bureau*

Human Rights Protection in Pre-trial Criminal Investigation: The Case of Oromia Special Zone Surrounding Addis Ababa

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Abstract

This study examines the practical observance of human rights during criminal investigation in Oromia special zone surrounding Addis Ababa. A mixed research method was used to work against the weaknesses in both qualitative and quantitative research. For the quantitative data simple random sampling technique was used to draw representative sample from the target population. For the qualitative data purposive sampling technique was employed. Accordingly, data were collected from three sample police detention centers found in the Oromia special zone surrounding Addis Ababa. Data were collected both from primary and secondary sources. Primary data was obtained through interview, questionnaires, and personal observation whereas secondary data from different literature, government files, and legal documents are reviewed. Questionnaire was disseminated to 41 detained criminal suspects. Interview was made with 24 key informants from criminal suspects, investigating police and prosecutors, and head of police stations and Justice Office. The research mainly focused on implementation of the already guaranteed rights of persons deprived of liberty for suspicion of committed crime. To this end, conditions during detention and interrogation as well as treatments in police custody were widely examined. Though the Ethiopia legal system has clearly indicated how criminal investigation should be made and what rights should be respected in the process, they are not implemented well. The study identified that sometimes police were arresting individuals without evidence, criminal suspects were not brought to court in the specified time, absence of notification of rights, long pre-trial detentions, condition of detention in police custody are below the minimum standard and absence of external monitoring system. The major factors contributing to human rights violation during pre-trial criminal investigations are low level of education and lack of awareness on human rights, weak legal safeguards and absence of effective mechanisms for ensuring accountability of officials misuse their power, and lack of enough budgets to improve facilities in the detention center.

Keywords: *Criminal Suspect, Human Rights, Pre-trial Investigation*

Evaluating Challenges and Prospects of Community Policing to Prevent Crime in Dire Dawa Administration, Eastern Ethiopia

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Abstract

Community policing is, in essence, collaboration between the police and the community that identifies and solves community problems. The justification behind for the need of community policing strategy is that traditional crime-fighting tactics by police alone have limited impact on controlling crime. To prevent crimes, working with the public is effective, as the community knows where crime likely committed and when something suspicious is going. The aim of this study was to evaluate the challenges and prospects of community policing to prevent crime in Dire Dawa Administration. The researcher used qualitative research method. In-depth interviews, questionnaire, and legal and policy documents surveys were tools used. The result shows that low community-police partnership to prevention crime is due to mistrust, citizen's negligence, security concerns, lack of coordination among local arrangements, budget constraints, limited awareness about the philosophy and challenges related to local committee selection are identified as the major challenges to implement community policing strategy in the Administration. The study also revealed that local community policing committees, community policing officers are doing many voluntary services, better information flow between the local community policing committees, and police officers, structural reformation are prospects of community policing in the administration. Despite some improvements, in reality, due to many impediments for the implementation of community policing strategy, more efforts are required to make it effective. Therefore, optimizing positive contact between police officers and community members and awareness creation to the public that crime cannot be at least reduced or prevented without the involvement of the public and approval of budget are suggested to tackle the bottlenecks.

Key Words: *Community Policing, Challenges, Prospects, Crime Prevention,*

Assessment of work-related stress and its predictors in Ethiopian Federal Bureau of Investigation in Addis Ababa

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Abstract

Work-related stress is a reaction that occurs when the work weight progress towards becoming excessive. Therefore, unless properly managed stress leads to high employee turnover, decreased performance, illness, and absenteeism. Yet, little has been addressed work -related stress and its predictors in the study area. Therefore, the objective of this study was to assess stress prevalence and its predictors in study area. To that effect, a cross-sectional study design was conducted on 281 employees from Ethiopian Federal Bureau of Investigation by using stratified random sampling technique. Survey questionnaire scales were employed to collect data. Data were analyzed by percentage, Pearson correlation coefficients, simple linear regression, multiple linear regressions, independent t-test, and one way ANOVA statistical techniques. In the present study 13.9% of the respondents faced high stress where as 13.5% of the respondents face low stress and the rest 72.6% experienced moderate stress. There was no significant group difference among workers due to ages, gender, marital status, educational level, years of service, and police rank. This study concluded that factors such as role conflict, performance over utilization, role ambiguity, qualitative and quantitative role overload together predicted 39.6% of work related stress. This indicates that 60.4% of variation in stress explained by other factors so other additional research should be done to identify additional factors predicting stress. To prevent occupational stress among police, Ethiopian Federal Bureau of Investigation should develop strategies based on factors that will help to develop stress reduction management.

Keywords: *Work-related stress, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Predictors*

The Implementation of Restorative Justice in Ethiopian Public Universities: The case of Bahir Dar University

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Abstract

The role of university students in shaping the social-political and economic system of Ethiopia is very immense. The student movements during the imperial regime under the banner of “land to the tiller” has taken the feudal system to the grave and made peasants owner of the land. During the Derg regime, though the involvement of university students in backing the socialist ideology is high, they were also among the main actors to take the regime down. Even today, the role and influence of university students in the social-political and economic system of the country are high. However, sometimes the minds that have brought some fortune days to Ethiopians engaged in criminal activities. Though there are multiple causes for developing criminal behavior in universities; restorative justice (RJ) as an emerging approach to the criminal justice system is very important in schools to fill the loopholes that can be created by the formal criminal justice system. This study, by exploring the implementation of RJ in Bahir Dar University (BDU) has tried to shade the application of RJ in Ethiopian Public Universities. To assess the multiple social realities surrounding the implementation of RJ in BDU, the researcher has used a non-doctrinal qualitative research design in which interview is used as a data collection tool. The researcher found that though there are attempts to resort to RJ in BDU, unlike Western Universities, there is no separate organ or even office to make restorative justice formal and official. The understanding of the members of the university’s discipline committee about the concept of restorative justice is not more than the basics of the Alternative Dispute resolution mechanism. The researcher also found that victim-offender mediation and peer mediation are the types of RJ models applied in BDU. Though the concept of restorative justice depends on the principle of inclusiveness, the implementation of RJ in BDU lacks to include all segments of the university’s community in the process of restoring. Further, the researcher recommends that a formal RJ organ should be established and the composition of the members of this to be established organ should include representatives from all categories of the university’s community.

Keywords: Restorative Justice, Criminal justice, Bahir Dar University, Students, School.

Police Power in Ethiopia's Federal Setting: Who does what in the Criminal Laws and Justice Policy Enforcement?

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Abstract

This article seeks to explore the jurisdictional limits of the federal and state police powers in the enforcement of the criminal laws and policies of the country under the comprehensive and centralized criminal legislative power conferred upon the former on the one hand and the dual structure of the political federalism designed by the FDRE Constitution, on the other. To this end, whilst both the Federal Government and the States are empowered to establish and administer their own respective police forces, there is a marked overlap of powers in respect of the policing power of criminal laws and policies made by the former. Thus, the question "who does what in the prevention and investigation of crimes under the Ethiopian federal setting" has received a considerable attention in this piece. Although the constitutional and organizational set up of the police forces both at federal and state levels demonstrates a dualist model, more often than not, both tiers of police officers seem to be compelled to execute the same criminal laws, albeit few criminal legislations enacted by the States to be solely executed by the State police. This practice will provoke the question of jurisdiction, ownership, finance, and originality-delegation aspects of powers in exercising the criminal enforcement powers and functions. In doing the assignment of the criminal enforcement powers, the issue of intergovernmental police relations, both vertically (between the Federal and State Police) and horizontally (the inter-state) will be of paramount relevance in tandem with the normative underpinnings.

Keywords: *Police power, criminal laws, distribution of powers, dual federalism, FDRE constitution, intergovernmental police relations*

Resolving Lead Isotopic Ratio for Nuclear Forensics Signatures and Compositional Trace Elements of Ethiopian Endemic Medicinal Plants Using Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry

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Abstract

Nuclear forensic investigation often provides information regarding the geo-location, process history and production condition of an interdicted nuclear material. However, there are limited studies aimed at determining nuclear forensic signature of medicinal plants, which are normally geo-specific. The objective of this study was to resolve lead isotopic ratios for nuclear forensic signatures and compositional trace elements of Ethiopian endemic medicinal plants using inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry. The results of lead isotope ratios ($^{204}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$, $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ and $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$) did not show any significant spatial variability along the study areas. This indicates that the medicinal plants of this region are highly geo-specific. The medicinal plants from East Gojjam Zone could be clusters according to their Pb-Pb isotopic ratios which showed consistent linearity. The trace elemental compositions reported here according to their healing and curative properties as used by traditional healers. The values found were characteristic of Pb generated mainly from anthropogenic resources. These medicinal plants were selected for our investigation having in mind their extensive use in traditional medicine for various ailments by local physicians in the area from where these plants were collected.

Keywords: Nuclear forensic signatures, Medicinal plants, lead isotopic ratio technique