

## Ethiopia WIDE3-4 Bridge Research – Advertisement for one international research fellowship 2017/18

18 October 2017

Ethiopia WIDE is an ongoing longitudinal study of twenty rural communities which began in 1994 (WIDE1). Subsequent rounds of fieldwork were carried out in 2003 (WIDE2) and in three stages between early 2010 and late 2013 (WIDE3). The communities have been viewed as complex and open social systems on trajectories through time. The data have been made, interpreted and analysed using case-based techniques from sociology and social anthropology. The research has produced a number of reports and papers and most recently, a book '*Change and transformation in 20 rural communities in Ethiopia: Selected aspects and implications for policy*', printed in Addis Ababa in January 2017, with an international edition to be published by Tsehai publishers in the US in 2018. More information as well as the research data and products can be found at [www.ethiopiawide.net](http://www.ethiopiawide.net).

With the encouragement of the Ethiopian government and international development partners, the research team plans to take WIDE forward, hoping, over the medium to long term, to institutionalise the WIDE approach to research for policymaking in Ethiopia. In a first phase in this process, the team will carry out a 'bridging phase' between WIDE3 and a planned WIDE4 that will involve focused research in four of the communities and linking up with the National Planning Commission, the Ethiopian Development Research Institute and a number of Ethiopian regional universities.

The bridging project has four main phases spread over 10 months: inception (1 month); fieldwork and database (3 months); analysis and writing (4 months); dissemination (2 months). The research team will consist of four senior researchers, three research fellows, and eight fieldwork research officers who will all work closely together. The team is now **seeking to recruit one international research fellow**, to work alongside two fulltime Ethiopian research fellows and the rest of the team, for a total of 9 months during the 10-month bridging phase. The work will be full-time for 8 months from December 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 to the end of July 2018; the timing of the fellow's contribution of one month's work during the dissemination phase in August/September will be individually negotiated.

This is an exciting opportunity to help strengthen the processes of international dissemination of research findings, and national institutionalisation of WIDE, as it moves towards an anticipated fourth round of research. The fellow will also have the opportunity to develop her or his own research products and publications in relation to the project, and to be involved in the WIDE academic panel at the 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Ethiopian Studies to be held in Mekelle, Ethiopia, in early October 2018.

The fellowship will be based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the offices of Pankhurst Development Research Consultants (PDRC) and will involve occasional travel within the country. The fellowship is valued at US\$ 24,300 and agreed travel expenses will be paid. Qualified candidates should send a CV, with a 2-page letter explaining why you are interested in this position, and why we should consider your application to [vaughanresearch@gmail.com](mailto:vaughanresearch@gmail.com), no later than Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November. Successful candidates will be invited for interview in London or via skype in the period 7-9 November 2017.

### Profile

- Post-graduate degree by research (PhD, MPhil) in social sciences *required*
- Training in, and use of, qualitative research methods *required*
- Willingness to use complexity-informed case-based empirical methods *required*
- Willingness and flexibility to travel to and work in rural areas in Ethiopia for short periods *required*
- Familiarity with qualitative analysis software *would be an advantage*

- Training in, and use, of quantitative methods *would be an advantage*
- Familiarity with research dissemination and academic publication processes also *an advantage*

### Role

The bridging phase will allow us to take initial steps to ensure continuity in the development of the methodology for further phases of the research. The international research fellow will work with two Ethiopian research fellows (also now being recruited) as fulltime members of the core research team, alongside the current members (Dr Philippa Bevan, Catherine Dom, Dr Sarah Vaughan and Dr Alula Pankhurst). They will be trained in the methodology through intensive sessions with Philippa Bevan, who led on that aspect thus far, as well as ‘on the job’ throughout the project phases.

The research fellow will take a lead role in the analysis and write-up of key research outputs of the bridging phase – including community-focused reports as well as comparative papers on key policy issues, and discussion briefs to facilitate debate about the findings of the research. They will also be encouraged to provide new ideas, and to develop personal research projects using the data and they will be involved in helping to design the fourth round of the longitudinal survey (WIDE4).

### Detailed activities

Involvement in all aspects of the development of the WIDE bridging phase: including, preliminary creative workshop; methods workshop and training; development, refinement and revision of fieldwork modules; working with the fieldwork research officers; preparation of community notes and reports; construction of the database; comparative analysis of issues arising from research findings; collaboration with a core team member in the preparation of one final issues paper, one policy brief, and the associated peer review and dissemination mechanisms.

Gaining familiarity with the WIDE approach, methodology, and key findings, so as to be able to act as an advocate or educator with academic and other stakeholders as agreed.

Liaison with international academic networks and relevant journals, internationally and (in co-ordination with the Ethiopian research fellows) in Ethiopia.

### Skills

Ability to communicate well in English, and with excellent written English.

Ability to work at all levels of seniority: with an understanding of communities but also with the ability to communicate effectively with senior policy makers and academics.

Ability to work effectively as part of a team, and to contribute to shared electronic platforms (using Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and data management tools).

An efficient and professional approach to research and research management: strong self-motivation; the ability to work both independently and as part of a team, and to manage research officers, and relations with partners.

Familiarity with the Ethiopian research environment would be desirable. Familiarity with Amharic or another Ethiopian language would be an advantage but is not required.