

## Ethiopia WIDE Bridge Research – Plan for three research fellow positions

31 August 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 intends 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 team is **seeking to recruit three fulltime research fellows** initially for 9-10 months during the bridging phase; we are hoping to start the project at the beginning of November though there may be a delay as we finalise funding negotiations. If you are suitably qualified and considering applying for one of these posts please register your interest with Alula Pankhurst ([alulap@gmail.com](mailto:alulap@gmail.com)), Sarah Vaughan ([vaughanresearch@gmail.com](mailto:vaughanresearch@gmail.com)), or Philippa Bevan ([pbevan@mokoro.co.uk](mailto:pbevan@mokoro.co.uk)) who will keep you updated about the start date and the application process.

### Profile

- Post-graduate degrees by research (PhD, MPhil) in social sciences *required*
- Training in, and use of, qualitative research methods *required*
- Willingness and flexibility to travel to and work in rural areas in Ethiopia for short periods *required*
- Experience of work in rural areas in Ethiopia *would be an advantage*
- Familiarity with qualitative analysis software *would be an advantage*
- Training in, and use, of quantitative methods *would be 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 research fellows will be 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 – from inception, design of the research questions and modules, training of the research officers to the data analysis, and write-up.

Alongside the current core team members, they will take lead roles in 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.

An important part of the roles of two of the three research fellows will be to act as focal persons linking with Ethiopian organisations for the duration of the project. This may include spending a proportion of their time in one or more organisation, so as to raise awareness of the WIDE research and findings and explore with the organisation's staff their relevance for the organisation's work. The third fellow will spend part of her/his time expanding links with the non-Ethiopian academic world. All three will be involved in helping to design the fourth round of the longitudinal survey (WIDE4).

Applications by both Ethiopian and non-Ethiopian researchers will be considered. All three fellows are expected to be based in Ethiopia fulltime during the project. Minimum salary US\$1,800 per month.