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**Research project: Documentation of Bayso (Cushitic) and Haro (Omotic): two Afroasiatic endangered languages of the Abbaya Lake in the Ethiopian Rift Valley**  
([www.dobes.mpi.nl](http://www.dobes.mpi.nl)), University of Hamburg,  
funded by the Volkswagen Stiftung ([www.volkswagenstiftung.de](http://www.volkswagenstiftung.de))

**Supervisor:** Prof. Dr. Thomas Widlok, University of Cologne, Dept. for African Studies

**Cultural memory, cultural practices and ethnic identity among a minority group at Lake Abbaya, Ethiopia:**

Within the framework of language and culture endangerment, this PhD project deals with a case that shows how cultural change among former hippopotamus hunters from Gidiccho Island in Lake Abbaya (Ethiopia) determines their inevitable decline as an ethnic group. While other cases demonstrate the intensification of traditions in times of ongoing change (cp. Piot 1999: 23f, 173), and while language groups in Ethiopia have the right to claim political recognition (see Dereje and Meron 2015), this research investigates particular reasons and practices explaining why the Haro people seek no distinction to the surrounding more dominant ethnic neighbors. Results will provide a recent case study for minority studies in Ethiopia (see also Pankhurst and Freeman 2001), and offers a contrasting light to culture heritage studies as well as to indigenous rights movements.

**Publications:**

**Articles:**

Braukmann, Fabienne (with Susanne Epple and Graziano Savà).

In preparation. Overcoming Layers of Marginalization. Adaptive strategies of the Bayso and the Haro people of Lake Abbaya, Southern Ethiopia. *Journal Nilo-Ethiopian Studies 21, Special Issue 'From periphery to mainstream? Recent observations on status and status changes of so-called minority groups in Ethiopia.'*

Braukmann, Fabienne.

2012a. Marginalised hunters? Political and cultural challenges among the Haro of Lake Abaya (southern Ethiopia). *Paideuma* 58: 181-196.

### **Book Chapters:**

Braukmann, Fabienne (with Susanne Epple).

2014. "External designation versus self-identification: the case of the Bayso and Haro people on Gidiccho Island, Lake Abbaya." In: Susanne Epple (ed.), *Creating and crossing boundaries in Ethiopia. Dynamics of social categorization and differentiation*. Münster: LIT Verlag, pp. 245-265.

### **Books:**

2012b. *Nilpferdjäger, Weber, Salzhändler. Wirtschaftliche Strategien und soziale Organisation der Haro Südäthiopiens im Wandel* (Master Thesis, with an English summary). Kölner Ethnologische Beiträge. Heft 41. Köln: Institut für Ethnologie, Universität zu Köln.

### **Book Reviews:**

forthcoming. Girke, Felix (Hrsg.). 2014. Ethiopian images of self and other. Schriften des Zentrums für Interdisziplinäre Regionalstudien, Band 2. Universitätsverlag Halle-Wittenberg. In: *ITYOPIS – Northeast African Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities (NEAJ)*.