

COURSES AND PROGRAMMES IN ETHIOPIAN AND ERITREAN STUDIES

AT UNIVERSITÄT HAMBURG



ETHIOPIAN AND ERITREAN STUDIES: WHY?

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE WITH PASSION

The crucial geographic position:

- Major area in the Horn of Africa
- Trade routes: Mediterranean–Red Sea–Indian Ocean
- A bridge between Asia and Africa

Unique civilization:

- Meeting place of peoples and cultures since the 1st millennium BCE
- The oldest Christian and Islamic civilizations in sub-Saharan Africa
- Repository of ancient history and legends
- Ethiopia is considered the only African state that was not colonized
- Decisive actors in the Red Sea politics

Extraordinary written traditions:

- Unique syllabic script, in use since two millennia: the c.200 graphemes are easy to learn!
- Home to one of the earliest Christian writing cultures in the world
- Rich late antique, pre-modern, and modern literatures
- Rich historical documentation
- Living manuscript culture



1 Script in a Gospel Book, Hangoda, Northern Ethiopia, 2 Priest holding a Gospel Book, Sebeja, Northern Ethiopia, 3 Street in Asmara, Eritrea, 4 Ethiopian scribe, Gwahterat, Northern Ethiopia, 5 Rock-hewn monolithic Church of St George, Lalibala, Ethiopia, 6 Market scene, Debarwa, Eritrea

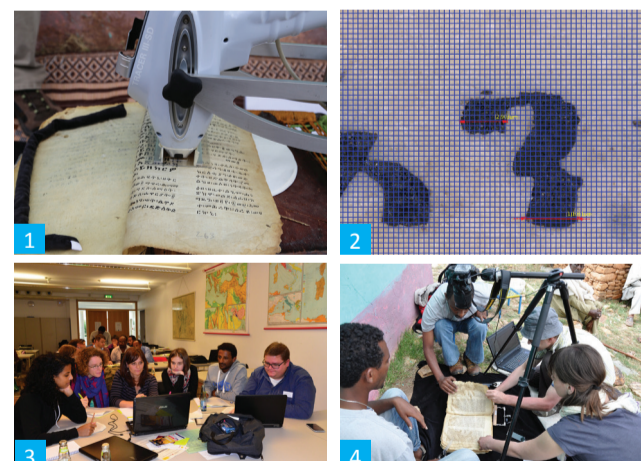
WHY UNIVERSITÄT HAMBURG?

AN ESTABLISHED TRADITION IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

- The only university in Germany where Amharic (lingua franca of present-day Ethiopia), Geez (Classical Ethiopic, still used in Church) and Tigrinya (lingua franca of present-day Eritrea) are regularly taught
- Courses in manuscript cultures, Geez and Amharic literatures, history, and methods of text analysis
- Integration of philological and linguistic studies, Semitic studies, religious studies, ancient, medieval, and modern history
- Dedicated teaching and research staff
- Contemporary issues introduced by guest professors from around the world
- Yearly Summer Schools for international students
- Partnerships with universities and institutions in Ethiopia and Eritrea

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- The *Hiob Ludolf Research Centre for Ethiopian and Eritrean Studies* at Universität Hamburg is a leading institution in its field
- The Cluster of Excellence *Understanding Written Artefacts* at Universität Hamburg offers additional opportunities of scientific enquiry



1 Spectrometry of inks with XRF analyser, 2 Microscope imaging for script analysis, 3 Cataloguing classroom exercise, 4 Field digitization

PRACTICE ORIENTATION AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Possibility of funded MA and PhD studies
- Student job and practical experience opportunities in research projects
- Skills in digital humanities
- Wide professional perspectives in an array of fields from education to development work to heritage preservation to digital editing

COURSES AND DEGREE PROGRAMMES

BA IN AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES: PROFILE MANUSCRIPT CULTURES

- Duration: 3 or 4 years / 180 or 240 credit points
 - Language of instruction: German (with some courses optionally in English)
- In addition to common courses in African linguistics, you will be introduced to manuscript cultures of Africa as well as to the history of Ethiopia and Eritrea. You will reach an intermediate level in Amharic and Geez and have a possibility to study Tigrinya.
- A stay in Ethiopia is part of the 4-year degree programme.

MA IN AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES: PROFILE ETHIOPIAN AND ERITREAN STUDIES

- Duration: 4 semesters / 120 credit points
 - Language of instruction: English
- You will deepen your knowledge of Ethiopian and Eritrean languages, literatures, and religions. You will obtain skills at text analysis, learn to work with catalogues, and with digital tools used in manuscript research.

MA IN MANUSCRIPT CULTURES

- Duration: 2 semesters / 60 credit points
 - Language of instruction: English
- The course promotes the analytical work with manuscripts (not limited to Ethiopia). You will learn to examine not only texts but also images, notes and diagrams transmitted in the manuscripts and gain insights into the scientific (physical, chemical) analysis of the materials used. You will learn to apply creative approaches to solving complex scholarly problems. One-year fellowships (800 €/month) are offered.

PHD DEGREE

- Open to all those with MA degree (from all corners of the world)
- Possible topics include most areas of Ethiopian and Eritrean studies

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