

Curriculum Vitae



NAME

Sarah Julia Vaughan BA MSc PhD

Consultant social scientist, author, analyst

Principal, The Policy Practice

NATIONALITY

British passport holder

LANGUAGES

English (mother tongue): fluent written and spoken

French: good written and spoken

Amharic: good spoken

Italian: basic/functional written and spoken

Modern Greek, Tigrigna: basic/functional spoken

SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE

Consultant social scientist, author, analyst with long experience in Ethiopia and the Horn. Adaptable skills in research design, programme management, policymaker advice and liaison.

Principal at The Policy Practice and Director of Rasselas Projects Limited, with freelance research consultancy since 1995 for clients including FCDO/FCO/DFID, the World Bank, the EU, UN agencies, Chatham House, ODI and the Rift Valley Institute. Formerly Advisor on Conflict Analysis to the Minister of Federal Affairs, Government of Ethiopia (2004-2008), and Honorary Fellow in Politics and International Relations at the University of Edinburgh (2001-2021). Co-author of *Understanding Ethiopia's Tigray War* (Hurst, 2023).

COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

Ethiopia (extensive, including Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, Somali Region, Southern Region and Tigray), Somaliland, Eritrea, Horn of Africa region, United Kingdom, Netherlands

EXPERTISE

- Factors in the political economy of development: power and policy; state and natural resources; economic rents or networks; land, pastoralism, and politicized ethnicity
 - Conflict and security sector policy and capacity; strategies of conflict 'transformation'
 - Nationalist, religious and transnational influences on political competition/insurgency
 - Federal multilevel governance; economic and service roles of 'developmental states'
 - Interaction of 'new' institutions of democratization with wider socio-political cultures
 - State-society relations: 'transitional justice'; post-'liberation'; post-Marxist reform
 - The theorisation of power; interaction and interests in political status group formation
 - Research methods, policy and ethics in contested or polarized political environments
-

QUALIFICATIONS

2003 PhD 'Ethnicity and Power in Ethiopia', Department of Politics, University of Edinburgh, 1995-2002; Social Science Faculty Studentship

1994 MSc in African Studies (awarded with distinction), Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh, 1993-1994

1986 BA (Hons) 2:1 in Literae Humaniores (Latin & Ancient Greek Literature & Philosophy), St Anne's College, Oxford University, 1982-1986; three-year College Genner 'Exhibition' Scholarship

EMPLOYMENT / SELECTED ASSIGNMENTS

Academic and university positions

Honorary Fellow, University of Edinburgh, School of Social & Political Science, Politics and International Relations (PIR) Subject Area, 2001 to 2021: contribution to UG & PG dissertation supervision and examination, guest lecturer, doctoral supervision and methods training, advice on research partners including AU, UN Economic Commission for Africa

Advisory Board Member, new graduate programme development: Masters in Public Policy and Masters in Public Administration, and CPD, Academy of Government, School of Social & Political Science, University of Edinburgh, 2009/10 and 2010/11

Programme Director, MSc in Environment & Development, School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh, March 2009 – January 2010 (part-time): responsible for all aspects of the co-ordination, management and quality of this inter-disciplinary MSc, including student admissions and induction, cross-college liaison, core course marking, thesis supervision and assessment, exam board preparation, student pastoral care and research methods training

Consultant, Review of potential governmental, NGO and international practitioner markets for CPD and tailored training, Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh June–August 2009, funded by the School of Social & Political Science, Knowledge Transfer Fund

Manager, Edinburgh International Development Centre, University of Edinburgh, September–November 2008: responsible for all aspects of the establishment phase of this new cross-college centre

Associate Director for Academic Affairs, graduate Institute of Federal Studies, Addis Ababa University, October 2007 - June 2008 (part-time): responsible for research and curriculum development, teaching quality, knowledge transfer, international and public engagement, delivery of core course on 'Conflict', and the development of a programme to Enhance Federal Governance in Ethiopia. Senior Associate seconded to AAU by the Forum of Federations, Ottawa (November 2007 – April 2008); ongoing doctoral supervision.

Member of the Advisory Board to the Office of the Addis Ababa University President on the establishment of new graduate Institutes in Federal Studies, Peace & Security Studies, and Human Rights, October 2005 – September 2007

Academic teaching

2026 Guest Lecturer, 'Africa in International Relations' Boston College, Massachusetts

2026 Seminar lecturer, 'Ethiopia: Accountability, Justice, and the Limits of the Pretoria Agreement,' Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

2026 Seminar facilitator, 'Ethiopia and the Horn', January 2026, University of Paris Condorcet Campus

2025 Lecturer, courses on 'Theories of Politics and Conflict,' and 'Fieldwork Trainings,' for an Intensive pre-PhD Programme in Political Anthropology, February–April 2025, at the University of Mekelle, Ethiopia, in collaboration with the University of Paris, Panthéon-Sorbonne, France, under the COPE Conflict and Politics in Ethiopia) Programme.

2010–2021 (as Honorary Fellow) PhD & MSc thesis supervisor, University of Edinburgh, PIR/Graduate School of Social & Political Studies; Specialist Seminars, Research Methods in Contested Political Environments: Elite Interviewing, Ethics, Fieldwork Methods, PhD-track core course Theory & Practice (2012/13/14/15).

2008/09 Lecturer, MSc core course Society & Development, University of Edinburgh, School of Geosciences

2008/09 Guest Lecturer on Somalia, MSc course Africa in International Politics, University of Edinburgh, School of Social & Political Studies

2007/08 Convenor & Lecturer MA core course Federalism, Diversity & the Regulation of Conflict, Addis Ababa University, Institute of Federal Studies

2002/03 Convenor MSc Reading Group in Social Theory, Stirling University, Department of Sociology & Social Work

2001/02 Convenor & Lecturer BA Honours and MSc courses in African Politics, University of Edinburgh, Department of Politics and Centre of African Studies, including supervision of seminar tutors

1998/99 Co-Lecturer BA Freshman course on Ethiopian Politics & Government, AAU, Department of Political Science & International Relations

1995/96 & 1996/97 Tutor, BA Honours and MSc courses in African History, Africa in International Politics, African Politics, University of Edinburgh, UK, Departments of Politics, History, and Centre of African Studies

Professional and research consultancy

Team Leader, The Policy Practice on a study of the 'Political Economy Analysis of the Ethiopian Context' for an EU Member State, to inform their Country Strategy planning, with a focus on governance, conflict, socio-economic development and diplomacy/geopolitics, July-November 2025.

Resource person, 'Economy and Politics of the Horn of Africa' Series of Virtual Discussions for the UN DPPA-DPO/East Africa/Horn of Africa, October-November 2024.

Resource person, 'East Africa Strategic Horizons: Partnerships and Priorities' Wilton Park, 13-15 March 2024.

Expert witness, Joint Session of the Foreign Affairs, Development and Human Rights and committees of the Parliament of the European Union, 13 February 2024. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2lckbvNqswM>

Chair and facilitator 'Roundtable on Responding to conflict in Northern Ethiopia', Chatham House, London, December 2023.

Political Advisor, UN multilateral agency, June-October 2023.

Project Convenor, 'Documenting War Crimes, Empowering Survivors: Exploratory Seminars on Rape and Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls, in Tigray, Ethiopia,' Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies, Harvard University, April-May 2023.

Team Leader, Political Economy Analysis for the Ethiopian Strategy Review Process, Department of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Republic of Ireland, December 2022 – April 2023.

Political Advisor, UN multilateral agency, August-October 2022.

Trainer, Social Impact, 'Contemporary Political Challenges' module of a training course for USAID Ethiopia, seminars October 2022.

Discussant, 'Roundtable on relations between Ethiopian and Sudan', Chatham House, London, February 2022.

Team Leader, Partecip GmbH, 'Conflict Analysis to inform Country Programming in Fragile and Conflict Affected Countries; CAS-Ethiopia' for the European Union, External Action Service, November 2021-June 2022; Ethiopia team seminars March 2022, HQ briefings June 2022.

Conflict & Political Economy Analyst, Ethiopia Scoping Study for Children's Investment Fund Foundation, CIFF, July-September 2021.

Team Leader, The Policy Practice, 'Horn Research Facility' providing political economy analysis and advice to the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, FCDO, on the transition in Ethiopia. Written and oral briefings and analysis on politics and conflict in Oromia, Amhara and at federal level; on Horn regional dynamics, security sector actors, elections and service delivery capacity. September 2020 - April 2021.

Analyst, Rift Valley Institute, remote rapid analysis for humanitarian partners working in Tigray, Northern Ethiopia, December 2020.

Reviewer, McKinsey, 'Development of Portfolio and Organisational Strategy for Metals and Engineering Corporation – the future Ethiopia Engineering Group, Political Economy Analysis', August-September 2020.

Team Leader, World Bank, 'Rapid Assessment of Wereda Institution for Allocation and Planning, for Human Development and Service Delivery,' based on new empirical work on local government capabilities in Afar, Oromia, Tigray and Somali Regional States, exploring issues influencing Ethiopia's low Human Capacity Index, September 2019 - June 2020.

Co-investigator, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, research on Ethiopian parliamentary systems in collaboration with the Forum for Social Studies, Addis Ababa, under SOAS' "People and Parliaments" research programme, June 2019-2020.

Consultant, Development Associates Incorporated, Europe (DAI Europe), Institutional Assessment, for Climate Smart Mainstreaming in the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), analysis and advice for a team based in the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture, funded by the European Union, July-September 2019.

Team member, The Policy Practice (Principal) Somaliland: Political Economy Analysis of the Berbera Corridor, follow up work for DFID, Horn of Africa Prosperity Fund, leading on the Ethiopia analysis and regional consultations, March – June 2019.

Research lead, University of Manchester/Future Dams study of the socio-economic and political impact of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), with fieldwork in Amhara, Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz regional states, funded by DFID's Global Challenge Fund on Dams, held by University of Manchester, November 2018 – September 2019.

Regional research lead and national advisory group member, Danish Refugee Council and Overseas Development Institute, National and Regional Studies of refugee and host community relations in Ethiopia for UNICEF "New Ways of Working" with particular focus on Benishangul Gumuz Region, February-September 2018 (fieldwork August-September 2018).

Core team member - policy & research analysis & design, Mokoro Ltd, 'Ethiopia WIDE', longitudinal multi-sectoral research programme tracking changes in 20 communities at micro level over two decades, www.ethiopiawide.net, transitional phase WIDEIII to WIDEIV, August 2015-August 2017, funded by UK DFID, Ireland Aid, Swedish Sida: government liaison and presentation of policy implications. Bridging phase November 2017 – March 2019.

Expert, Rift Valley Institute, Political Economy Training Course for DFID Ethiopia, reviewing "Risks and opportunities in contemporary Ethiopia," Addis Ababa, March 2018.

Reviewer, Oxford University, Young Lives, Ethiopia Country Closing Report, February 2018

Expert Advisor, Netherlands Institute for Multi-party Democracy, ad hoc advisor on the development of a national programme of capacity building for Ethiopia's federal and regional parliaments and political parties, from October 2017

Team Leader, CARE International, Context Analysis for Ethiopia Country Presence Review, June-August 2017, identification of social, economic and political national trends, with a particular focus on gender (with Dr Sehin Teferra, CEO Setaweet); phase II October 2017

Team member, The Policy Practice (Associate) Somaliland: Political Economy Analysis of the Berbera Corridor, leading on Phase I Geopolitical Context, Phase II(a) Ethio-Somaliland Cross Border Trade Dynamics, Phase II(b) Ethiopian Government Intentions and Interests, August 2016 – April 2017.

Lead Analyst, HMG, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Democratic Governance Fund, political economy analysis to inform partnerships and programming in Ethiopia, May 2016 – March 2017.

Political Economy Advisor, Development Associates International (DAI) Europe, UK DFID-funded project in Ethiopia on Tax, Audit and Transparency (TAUT), inception June-September 2015, and periodically over programme, 2015-2016.

Political Economy Advisor, GRM International, Evaluation of UK DFID-funded project in Ethiopia on Land Investment for Transformation (LIFT) implemented by DAI, inception June 2015, and periodically over five-year programme, projected 2015-2020.

Research Consultant, HMG FCO, periodic research briefings on practice and partnerships in Ethiopia, October 2014 – December 2015.

Lead Analyst & Research Design, UK Department for International Development, for a study Understanding the role(s) of the public sector in Ethiopia's Economic Transformation, inception work July – October 2014; national and sub-national empirical research phases September 2014 – December 2015, focusing on: Transport & Logistics, Utilities & Power, Manufacturing Industry, Finance, and Agricultural Linkages.

Facilitator, Design & Co-ordination Advisor, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), seminar on Political Settlement and the Developmental State, Hilton Addis Ababa March 24-5 2015, jointly organised by ODI, Netherlands Development Co-operation, and the Ethiopian International Institute for Peace and Development (EIIPD).

Lead Analyst & Research Design, UK DFID, study of the Political Economy of Urbanisation in Ethiopia, with a focus on Addis Ababa and surroundings, January-February 2015.

Design, Quality & Political Economy Advisor, UK DFID, on a study of the Context Analysis for Payment By Results Approaches in Ethiopia, October-December 2014, and Author of related policy brief 'Not A Magic Bullet? Lessons from PbR in Ethiopia', January 2015.

Author, ODI The Political Settlement and the Developmental State in Ethiopia' presentation for a seminar on Inclusive Development in Africa, co-organised by ODI, the Netherlands Development Co-operation Knowledge Platform, and OSSREA, UNECA Addis Ababa, 13-14 May 2014.

Author, World Bank Ethiopia Country Office, 'Policy Brief no.6: Models and Realities of Transformation', review and synthesis of lessons arising from research under the project Long-Term Perspectives on Development Impacts in Ethiopia, WIDE (wellbeing and illbeing dynamics in Ethiopia), for the World Bank-managed, Joint Governance Assessment Management (J-GAM) Trust Fund, November 2013 – April 2014.

Lead Research Consultant, UK DFID, Design and Preparation of a Study of political practice and local governance dynamics in Ethiopia, including case study work in Tigray, Southern Region, Oromia, Amhara and Addis Ababa, April 2012 – December 2013.

Team Leader & Author, ADE Brussels, Ethiopia: Country Level Study for the EU and Member States' Delegations to Ethiopia, and ad hoc political economy advice and analysis for the Delegate and Commission in Brussels, January – December 2013.

Senior Conflict Research & Analysis Advisor, Adam Smith International, Inception Work, Programme for Security and Justice in Ethiopia's Somali Region under UK DFID's Peace and Development Programme, Jijiga, May 2013.

Team Leader, Triple Line Consulting, Review of UNDP's Joint Donor Democratic Institutions Programme, and Scoping of Options for Future Programming in Governance in Ethiopia, Triple Line Consulting, London, January – March 2013, for DFID and the Ethiopian Ministry of Finance & Economic Development, MOFED.

Quality Support Reviewer, Research Project on Long-Term Perspectives on Development Impacts in Ethiopia, WIDE, funded by the World Bank Joint Governance Assessment and Measurement Fund, and UK DFID for Mokoro Ltd, Oxford, November 2009 – April 2014.

Consultant, World Bank Ethiopia Country Office, Social Impact Appraisal of the Ethiopia Public Sector Capacity Building Programme (PSCAP) 2003-2009, including visits to Gambella, Tigray and Southern Region (revisiting a previous appraisal conducted 2004, see below) March-December 2012.

Consultant, World Bank Ethiopia Country Office, Study Understanding Ethiopia's Transformation – the Government of Ethiopia's Vision and Strategies for Development, for the Country Partnership Strategy development process, March-June 2012.

Consultant, UK DFID, Governance for Growth Programme Scoping Team member, preparation of a Political Economy Analysis of Land Issues in Ethiopia, March-April 2012.

Advisory reviewer, theidgroup Ltd, Bristol, Political Economy Analysis for the multi-donor Ethiopia Civil Society Support Programme (CSSP), for the British Council, theidgroup and INTRAC CSSP Consortium, November-December 2011

Research Consultant, UK DFID & HMG FCO, Study of the Prospects for Peace and Peace-building in Ethiopia's Somali Region, and its regional and Diaspora implications, Addis Ababa, Ethiopian Somali Region, London & Nairobi, April – December 2011

Consultant, World Bank Ethiopia Country Office, preparation of a Literature Review, Concept Note and Research Protocols to inform Economic and Sector Work on Decentralisation and Service Delivery in Ethiopia, February – September 2011, supervision and training of research team, October & December 2011, Review of research analysis and findings, February-April 2012, Preparation of synthesis report, August-November 2012

Advisory reviewer, UK DFID & HMG FCO, Studies of federalism & leadership in Ethiopia, May-June 2011

Research Consultant, Overseas Development Institute (ODI) Africa Power and Politics Programme (APPP), London, Business and Politics Research Stream, study of Economic Development and Private Enterprise in Ethiopia, with particular respect to Ethiopia's endowment-owned companies, November 2010 – July 2011

Lead Consultant, UK DFID, Understanding the Landscape of Governance and Politics in Ethiopia: study of underlying norms and cultures, rules of the political game, institutions and actors in centre-periphery relations in Ethiopia, with a particular focus on Afar, Gambella and Somali States, and selected zones of Oromia and the Southern People's Regional State, July-November 2010, for DFID-Ethiopia's Peace & Development Programme Inception work

Specialist Trainer, consultant to Edinburgh Research and Innovation for a Washington DC-based client, responsible to devise, design and deliver tailor-made courses commissioned on the Politics of the Horn of Africa and Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa, for senior US policy-makers and practitioners, Stuttgart, April-July 2010

Research consultant, HMG FCO / British Embassy Addis Ababa, study of the dynamics of politics and insurgency in Ethiopia's Somali Region, in the context of the wider politics of the Horn and Somali Diaspora, January-July 2009

Strategic Planning Consultant, InterAfrica Group, Addis Ababa, strategic plan to address the evolving political and legislative environment for this Horn of Africa regional NGO specialized in governance, advocacy and analysis, August 2008 – April 2009

Advisor seconded to the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ministry of Federal Affairs, Addis Ababa, co-ordination and management of a project of Research & Capacity Building in Federalism & Conflict Analysis. Responsible for all aspects of the design, development and implementation of research protocols,

conflict database and project office; for liaison with the Minister of Federal Affairs and Regional State Governments; for the conduct and documentation of empirical research; for training and capacity building; and for refinement and consensus-building around policy recommendations. Research project budget of UK£1.1million funded by the UK DFID, Development Co-operation Ireland, the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), Netherlands Development Co-operation and the Royal Norwegian Embassy. Employed as Consultant by the International Organisation for Migration, June 2004 - August 2008 (November 2007 – August 2008 part-time)

Consultant Author, Concept paper on 'Civic and Ethnic Nationalism' for Project on Constitutionalism and Human Security in the Horn of Africa, InterAfrica Group, August 2008

Research Consultant & Co-Author (political issues), Joint Political and Economic Analysis of the Situation in Ethiopia post-Elections, for Sida / Donor Assistance Group, January 2006

Commentator on a Study of Voice and Accountability in Ethiopia, for UK DFID, February 2006

Consultant Author, Issues Papers for pre-election Public Policy Debates on 'Federalism & Decentralisation' and 'Human Rights & Governance' in Ethiopia, for InterAfrica Group, January 2005

Research Consultant & Author, Social Appraisal of the Ethiopian Public Service Delivery Capacity Building Programme (PSCAP), for World Bank, Ethiopia Country Office, February-August 2004

Research Consultant & Author, Ethiopia: A Situation Analysis and Trend Assessment, for UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Protection Information Section / Writenet, <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/406d299c4.pdf> November-December 2003

Consultant, Needs Assessment and Project Design for support to FDRE MoFA re conflict analysis and institutional development, for UK DFID, June-August 2003

Manager/Co-Author, study of Political Developments in Ethiopia, 1991-2001, funded by UK DFID, Sida, Royal Netherlands Embassy to Ethiopia, and Ireland Aid: self-designed investigation providing academic and policy analysis of the political context for poverty reduction (PRSP), drawing on new research in seven of Ethiopia's National Regional States, March-September 2002

Research Consultant & Co-Author, study of Structures and Relations of Power in Ethiopia, for Sida <http://www.sida.se/English/About-us/Sidas-Publications/> Article ref. SIDA2141EN, May-June 2002

Contributor and commentator on a study of transitional justice, and the trials of officials of the Ethiopian Dergue regime for Genocide and Crimes against Humanity, for the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, University of Oslo, 2001-2002 *passim*

Contributor, study of power structures underpinning the deconcentration/devolution of executive, administrative and party-political activity in three of Ethiopia's National Regional States, funded by the Netherlands Organisation for International Development Co-operation (Novib), for the InterAfrica Group, 1999-2000 *passim*

Researcher & Editor, Regional Profiles of politics, institutions, governance and civil society in six of Ethiopia's National Regional States and the Federal Government, for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Ethiopia Project Support Unit, January-August 1998

Research Consultant & Author, Re-emergence & Democratisation of Civil Society in Ethiopia after 1991, for the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF), Christian Aid, and the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD), December 1995 - October 1996

Evaluation Team Leader (from Ethiopian Relief & Rehabilitation Commission and UN World Food Programme) to review food aid programming in the evolving Ethiopian policy environment, for Save the Children Fund UK, June-September 1995

External evaluator of agricultural extension work in Northern Ethiopia of the Relief Society of Tigray (Ethiopian NGO), for SCIAF, April-May 1995

Advisor seconded to the Office of the Chief Special Prosecutor, Transitional Government of Ethiopia, with responsibility for press, NGO and donor relations, and to plan a documentary record of 'Red Terror' abuses; employed by International Commission of Jurists, Danish Section, June-December 1994

Committee member, Project Approvals Committee, and periodic Advisor on Africa Project Co-financing Applications to Overseas Development Administration (ODA) and DFID, for SCIAF, October 1993-January 1998

June 1988 - December 1993 Tigray Transport and Agriculture Consortium (employed by Novib, CAFOD, War on Want) responsible for the secretariat of a consortium of international NGOs co-ordinating support (circa US\$42 million over the period) to relief and rehabilitation programmes in non-government-held areas during the civil war in Northern Ethiopia:

- from May 1992 General Secretary (Addis Ababa) with overall responsibility for the organisation, personnel, and for policy-development in a transitional political context;
- from January 1990 Co-ordinator (den Haag, The Netherlands) for representation, liaison, lobbying; fundraising, co-financing; programme evaluation, reporting, auditing;
- from June 1988 Deputy/Acting Co-ordinator (London, UK) vehicle and equipment procurement, financial management, administration

Emergencies Monitor/Volunteer in the Overseas Division Research & Evaluation Unit and Press Office, for OXFAM UK/Ireland, October 1986 - May 1988

Other

- Principal, The Policy Practice <http://thepolicypractice.com> (December 2016-present)
- Expert advisor HMG and other Ethiopia/Horn-based diplomatic/aid missions
- Expert advisor on Ethiopia and Eritrea for UK immigration hearings
- External doctoral thesis examiner, Ethiopia related topics, UK/European universities
- Board Member, Gerealta Institute for Policy Studies and Training (2023-present)
- Trustee, Anglo-Ethiopian Society, London (2022-2024)
- UK delegate, International Organising Committee of the bi-/tri-annual International Conference of Ethiopian Studies (ICES) (August 2015 to April 2022)
- Founder member (with a group of public intellectuals from the Horn) of the African Institute for Democratic Deliberation and Action, Addis Ababa, 1998-2000
- Member of the Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism, LSE, London
- Academic peer reviewer for (amongst others) Africa, African Affairs, Journal of Eastern African Studies, Journal of Modern African Studies, Journal of Political & Military Sociology, Journal of Regional & Federal Studies, Politique Africaine, Review of African Political Economy, Small Wars and Insurgencies, etc.
- Manuscript reviewer (Hurst, ODI, OUP, Routledge, James Currey, Zed/Bloomsbury)
- Volunteer Social Policy Co-ordinator, Northumbrian Citizen's Advice Bureau, Berwick-upon-Tweed Office (2014 to 2017); Trustee, Berwick Welfare Rights (2018-2019)
- Treasurer, North Northumberland Constituency Labour Party (2024-present)

SELECTED REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Books

(2023) with Martin Plaut, Understanding Ethiopia's Tigray War, London: Hurst.
<https://www.hurstpublishers.com/book/understanding-ethiopias-tigray-war/>

(2018) Changing Rural Ethiopia: Community Transformations, eds Pankhurst Alula, Pip Bevan, Catherine Dom, Agazi Tiumellisan & Sarah Vaughan, Los Angeles: Tsehai Publisher <https://tsehaibooks.com/product/changing-rural-ethiopia/>

(2003) with Kjetil Tronvoll, The Culture of Power in Contemporary Ethiopian Political Life. Stockholm: SAREC, Sida Studies, 10. <https://cdn.sida.se/publications/files/sida3358en-the-culture-of-power-in-contemporary-ethiopian-political-life.pdf>

Other publications (excludes unpublished reports and review articles)

(forthcoming) 'Knowledge Production and Narrative in Conflict in Ethiopia' Special Issue on Knowledge Production in the Horn, author and editor, North East African Studies

(forthcoming) 'Behailu Bezabih and the Ethiopian Imaginary: Turbulence, Politics and the Longing for Peace' in Bekele Mekonnen (ed) Coaxing Curiosity: The Life and Works of Behailu Bezabih, Addis Ababa: Addis Ababa University Press/School of Fine Art and Design.

(2025) 'Politics by other means in Ethiopia's Shape-Shifting Civil War: "Counterinsurgency" or the Dissolution of the State?' Small Wars and Insurgencies 36, no.4.
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09592318.2025.2525294>

(2025) 'Struggling for Liberation: Revolutionary Iconographies, Local Nationalisms, and Evolving Practices of Resistance' in Etana Habte Dinka (ed.) Interpreting the Ethiopian Revolution: Imperial Heritage and Embattled Statehood. London: Zed Books/Bloomsbury, 2025.

(2023) Introduction, in Birhan Gebrekirstos and Mulu Mesfin Tearing the Body, Breaking the Spirit. Women and Girls' Rape Stories from the Tigray War. Amazon: Kindle Direct Publishing

(2022) 'Ethiopia's Foreign Relations and the Tigray War' in Eritrea Focus & Oslo Analytica, The Tigray War and Regional Implications, Vol.2, July 2021-December 2021, February 2022, <https://eritreahub.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/The-Tigray-War-and-Regional-Implications-Volume-2-Final-1.pdf>

(2021) 'The Ethiopian Context' in Eritrea Focus & Oslo Analytica, The Tigray War and its Regional Implications, Vol.1, July 2021 https://www.academia.edu/49552576/The_Tigray_War_and_Regional_Implications_Volume_1

(2020) with Mesfin Gebremichael, 'Resettlement of Gumuz communities around Ethiopia's Blue Nile dam' FutureDAMS Working Paper 010, July, Manchester: University of Manchester
<https://hummedia.manchester.ac.uk/institutes/gdi/publications/workingpapers/futuredams/futuredams-working-paper-010-vaughan.pdf>

(2018) WIDE Discussion Briefs on "land and urbanization" and "local government and governance" available at <http://ethiopiawide.net/publications/wide-bridge-discussion-briefs/> for publication in English and Amharic during 2019

(2018) 'Ogaden Secessionism at the Heart of the Horn of Africa' in de Vries, Lotje, Mareike Schomerus & Pierre Engelbert (eds) Secessionism in Africa. London: Palgrave Macmillan. <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-90206-7>

(2017) 'Innovation, "technology transfer," and positive social change: models and realities of transformation' in ed. Pankhurst, Alula, Change & Transformation in Twenty Rural Communities in Ethiopia: selected aspects and implications for policy. Addis Ababa: January 2017, and (forthcoming 2018) Los Angeles: Tsehai Publishers.

(2017) 'The Ethiopian Developmental State' in Uhlig, Siegbert, et al. (eds) *A Companion Handbook to Ethiopia*. Hamburg: Harrasowitz, published in English and (2018) in German.

(2015) 'Federalism, Revolutionary Democracy and the Developmental State, 1991-2012' in Prunier, Gerard & Eloi Ficquet (eds) *Understanding Contemporary Ethiopia: Monarchy, Revolution and the Legacy of Meles Zenawi*. London: Hurst.

(2013) 'Revolutionary Democratic State Building: people, party and state in EPRDF's Ethiopia' in Abbink, Jon & Tobias Hagmann (eds) *Reconfiguring Ethiopia: the politics of Authoritarian Reform*. London: Routledge.

(2013) 'Ethiopian federalism: hybridity in ambiguity?' in Loughlin, John, John Kincaid & Wilfried Swenden (eds) *Routledge Handbook of Regionalism & Federalism*. London: Routledge.

(2013) Tim Kelsall with David Booth, Diana Cammack, Brian Cooksey, Fred Golooba-Mutebi, Mesfin Gebremichael and Sarah Vaughan, *Business, Politics & the State in Africa: Challenging the Neo-Liberal Orthodoxy*. London: Zed Books.

(April 2012) with Irene Rafanell, 'Interaction, consensus & unpredictability in development policy 'transfer' and practice' (accepted September 2011), *Critical Policy Studies*.

(February 2012) 'Revolutionary Democratic State Building: people, party and state in EPRDF's Ethiopia' (accepted July 2011) in Abbink, Jon & Tobias Hagmann (eds) *Special Issue on Revolutionary Democracy in Ethiopia*, *Journal of East African Studies*.

(2011) 'Federalism and Development in Ethiopia's Lowland Peripheries' in Zamponi, Mario & Davide Chinigo (eds), *Special Issue on Rural Development in Ethiopia*, *Afriche e Orienti*, 1-2011, 6-43.

(2011) 'Ethnic and Civic Nationalist Narratives in Ethiopia,' in Harrison, Trevor & Slobodan Drakulik (eds) *Against Orthodoxy - Studies in Nationalism*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press. 154-182.

(2011) with Mesfin Gebremichael 'Rethinking Business and Politics in Ethiopia: The role of EFFORT' *Africa Power and Politics Research Report No.2*, August 2011, available at <http://www.institutions-africa.org/filestream/20110822-appp-rr02-rethinking-business-politics-in-ethiopia-by-sarah-vaughan-mesfin-gebremichael-august-2011>

(2009) 'The Role of the Office of the Special Prosecutor in the trials of former Dergue-regime officials' in Tronvoll, Kjetil, Charles Schaefer & Girmachew Aneme Alemu (eds) *The Ethiopian Red Terror Trials: Transitional Justice Challenged*. Oxford: James Currey.

(2007) 'Fédéralisme ethnique et démocratisation en Ethiopie depuis 1991' in Prunier, Gerard (ed.) *'Ethiopie Contemporaine*. Paris: Kathala, Addis Ababa: Centre francophone pour les études Ethiopiennes.

(2006) 'The experience of Ethnic Federalism in Ethiopia's Southern Region', in Turton, David (ed.) *Ethnic Federalism: the Challenges for Ethiopia*. Oxford: James Currey, Athens: Ohio University Press, and Addis Ababa: Addis Ababa University Press.

(2005) 'Identité ethnique et fédéralisme en Ethiopie du sud' in *Politique Africaine Special Issue 'Ethiopie: le fédéralisme en question'*, 99, October 2005.

(2004) (2005) 'Ethiopia: History' & 'Ethiopia: Economics' in *Africa South of the Sahara*. London: Europa Publications.

(1996) 'Ethnicity and Political Science' in de la Gorgendiere, Louise, Kenneth King, & Sarah Vaughan (eds) *Ethnicity in Africa: Roots, Meanings, & Implications*. Proceedings of a Conference 24-26 May 1995. Edinburgh: Centre of African Studies.

(1996) 'Ethnicity and the Prospects for Democratisation in Ethiopia' in Bulletin of the Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism 10 (Winter 1995-6) 17-29. London: LSE. Also published in de la Gorgendiere et al. (eds) op.cit..

(1994) 'The Addis Ababa Transitional Conference of July 1991: its origins, history and significance' Occasional Paper 50. Edinburgh: Centre of African Studies.

Conference and invited seminar papers

(2026) Keynote Speaker, 'The Ethiopian Imaginary: Turbulence, Politics and the Longing for Peace', Conference Celebrating 75 Years of Ethiopian Studies in Poland, University of Warsaw, Poland, 13-15 May 2026.

(2026) 'Ideologies Amidst Violence: Rethinking the Binaries of Nationalism, Democracy and Freedom in Ethiopia' paper presented at a conference on Nationalism, Democracy and Freedom, Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism, Edinburgh, 21-23 April 2026.

(2025) Discussant 'Conflict and Knowledge Production in Ethiopia: Critical Perspectives on Social Science and Violence', European Conference of African Studies, Prague, 24-28 June 2025.

(2024) 'Understanding Insurgency in Ethiopia' paper presented at a Workshop on 'Politics in Ethiopia from Below,' University of Paris, Condorcet Campus, 13 December 2024.

(2024) 'State Violence and the Gulf States' "Great Game" in the New Wars of the Horn of Africa' paper presented at the conference "Security In Africa: Actors, logics and futures," University of Edinburgh, Centre of African Studies (CAS) and Centre for Security Research (CeSeR), Edinburgh, 23-24 April 2024.

(2024) 'Making life Grievable: The Memorialization of Martyrs in Ethiopia' paper presented at a conference on Nationalism and Memory, Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism, Edinburgh, 9-11 April 2024.

(2024) 'Thinking about Peace Dialogue' invited presentation at a conference on Peacebuilding organized by the University of Mekelle, and the Government of the FDR Ethiopia's Ministry of Peace, March 2024, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUFmZC0EwOY>

(2024) 'Fifty years of resistance at the grassroots,' paper presented at an International Symposium on the Ethiopian Revolution of 1974 at the University of Miami, Florida, 26-27 January 2024.

(2023) invited presentation at a UK parliament seminar on 'Atrocity Crimes and Ongoing National Crisis in Ethiopia' September session in the series 'The Genocide Convention at 75: Lessons Learned or Not', IPU, London, 11 September 2023.

(2023) Understanding Ethiopia's Tigray War book launch seminars/webinars at the Universities of Aberdeen, Cambridge, Edinburgh, London School of Economics, Oxford, Paris, and Tufts University, Boston MA.

(2022) Invited presentation to a seminar 'Tigray, Starvation and War' organized by the Union Chapel, 20 October 2022. <https://unionchapel.org.uk/church/church-events/starvation-and-war--a-webinar-on-tigray>

(2022) Invited presentation to a seminar 'Tigray, the Prevention of Genocide' organized by the Union Chapel, 28 April 2022. <https://unionchapel.org.uk/church/church-events/tigray-the-prevention-of-genocide>

(2018) (with Shalom Ali Faris) "Globalisation and rural development in Yetmen, East Gojjam, Amhara region of Ethiopia" presented at the 20th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies held at Mekelle University, Northern Ethiopia, 1-5 October 2018.

(2018) "Risks and opportunities in contemporary Ethiopia," Rift Valley Institute Seminar for DFID Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, 27 & 29 March 2018

(2016, 2017, 2018) Presentation of Ethiopia WIDE findings and discussion briefs, www.ethiopiawide.net: ODI, London; Mokoro, Oxford; University of Oxford, Horn of Africa Seminar Series, Oxford; FDRE Agricultural Transformation Agency, Addis Ababa; DAG, UNICEF, Addis Ababa; FDRE High Level Forum, Addis Ababa; Bahr Dar University.

(2016) invited reflection, seminar on "Social Movements and State Fragility in Ethiopia", School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, 21 June 2016

(2016, 2015) invited talks, EU/DHMs meeting Addis Ababa 14 June 2016, HMG/FCO London, August 2016 & December 2015

(2015) convenor, panels on "Citizen State and Society in Contemporary Ethiopia," and speaker, panel on "Beyond the Vote Liturgy", 19th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Warsaw, Poland, 24-28 August 2015

(2013) "Ethiopia's political economy: how does it work and how is it changing?", presentations for Ethiopia's EU member states delegations, Addis Ababa 24 September 2013, and EU commission, Brussels 8 October 2013

(2012) "Implementing the Developmental District" invited talk to the Human Rights and Democracy Sub-group, Ethiopian Partners' Group, Norwegian Embassy Addis Ababa, 22 November 2012

(2012) "Centralised Decentralisation? Building the wereda in Ethiopia's Developmental State Federation", paper for the 18th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Dire Dawa, 29 September-3 October 2012

(2012) "Ethiopia's political development" and "Domestic political scenarios", invited talks to Roundtable 24 April 2012, and Seminar 12 September 2012, FCO London

(2012) "Revolutionary Democracy and the Developmental State" invited talk to the Ethiopian Partners' Group Heads of Mission, Netherlands Residence Addis Ababa, 17 April 2012

(2010) "Ethnic Federalism & Rural Development" Invited paper for a Conference on Development in Ethiopia, University of Bologna, 12 November 2010

(2010) "Ethiopia's Development Context", Royal African Society Panel "Southern Ethiopia: A Debate on the Dams Controversy", School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) University of London, 11 October 2010

(2010) "The Ogaden National Liberation Front: Secessionism at the Heart of the Politics of the Horn", paper for presentation to the Nordic Africa Days Conference, Abo/Turki, Finland, 30 September – 1 October 2010

(2010) "Interaction, Consensus and the Practice of Development", co-authored with Irene Rafanell, paper presented to the 5th International conference on Interpretive Policy Analysis, Grenoble, France, 23-25 June 2010

(2009) 'Federal Practice in Ethiopia: Opportunities and Challenges', 14 November 2009, invited paper for a seminar at the Department of Governance, Hawassa University, Ethiopia, organized by the Open Society Initiative

(2009) 'Nationalist Discourses in Ethiopian Politics, 1960-2010' paper presented at the XVIIth International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University, Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa, 3-5 November 2009

(2009) 'Federalism and Conflict in Ethiopia: Land, Boundaries, and "Indigeneity"' paper presented at a Panel on Contested Space in the Horn of Africa: Regional and spatial conflicts in their economic, political and cultural contexts, at the Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies Conference, Leipzig, 4-7 July 2009 (presented by skype)

(2009) 'Conflict and the Dynamics of Federalism in Ethiopia', 7 May 2009, invited paper for the African Studies Seminar Series, ASC, St Anthony's College, Oxford University

(2009) 'Multi-level Governance and Multi-level Conflict in Ethiopia' 14 January 2009, African Studies Seminar Series, Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh

(2008) 'Ethnic and Civic Nationalism in Ethiopia' commissioned paper for a seminar on Constitutionalism and Human Security in the Horn of Africa, Sheraton Addis Ababa, 7 August 2008, organised by the InterAfrica Group

(2008) 'Changing Perceptions & Changing Roles: Religion in Ethiopia amidst Diversity & Conflict' for a Conference on Religion & the State in Africa, Edinburgh 9-10 April 2008, organised by the Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh

(2007) 'Conflict Analysis & Mapping: Issues from work in Ethiopia' invited paper for a seminar on Conflict Prevention, Management & Resolution for Senior Policy-Makers, Kaliti, Addis Ababa, 13 June 2007, organized by Addis Ababa University, Institute for Peace & Security Studies, and UN University for Peace

(2007) 'Ethiopia: Presentational Issues' commissioned presentation for a Seminar at DLA Piper, London, 12 March 2007

(2006) 'Ethnic federalism in practice: some issues from Ethiopia's Southern Region' invited paper for a Forum on Ethnicity & National Identity in Ethiopia, Harvard Law School, Cambridge MA, 12 November 2006, for the Ethiopian Students' Association at Harvard

(2006) 'Ethiopian Federalism in practice: some experiences from the Southern Region' invited paper for an Expert Seminar on Ethiopian Federalism and the Protection of Human Rights, Brussels 12-13 July 2006, organised by the University of Ghent, Faculty of Law, and Mekelle University, Faculty of Law

(2005) 'Ethiopia: Federalism, Ethnicity & Power' for the Research Seminar *Conjonctures africaines*, Centre des études et recherches internationales, Paris, 1 December 2005

(2005) 'Remaking Ethiopia: post-liberation politics, ethnic federalism, and revolutionary democracy', paper presented at the Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies Conference, School of Oriental & African Studies, London, 29 June – 1 July 2005

(2005) 'Sources of Conflict & Instability in Ethiopia' commissioned paper for a Seminar on Peace & Security Sector Reform, ILRI, Addis Ababa, 24 June 2005, organised by UK DfID and the British Embassy

(2004) 'Responses to Ethnic Federalism in Ethiopia's Southern Region' invited paper presented at a Seminar on Ethnic Federalism: The Challenges for Ethiopia, Ras Mekonnen Hall, Addis Ababa University, 14-16 April 2004, organised by Addis Ababa University, the British Council and the Ministry of Federal Affairs

(2003) 'Ethnicity and Power in Ethiopia's Southern Region' paper presented at the XVth International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, Africa-Asia Institute, University of Hamburg, 21-25 July 2003

(2000) 'The Operation of Power in Ethiopia' invited paper delivered to the Royal African Society, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, 9 November 2000

(2000) 'Historical Relations between the Tigray People's Liberation Front and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front', invited paper presented at a conference convened by the Ethiopian Institute for International Peace and Development (EIIPD), Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa, 2-3 March 2000

(1998) 'Historical Perspectives on the Ethio-Eritrean Conflict', invited paper presented at a half-day conference convened by the Law Forum for Peace, UN Economic Commission for Africa Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, 9 December 1998

Media

2026, May Interview, 'Tigray and Ethiopia on the brink of war: war as a means of governance',
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xn1fKONCG3k>

2026, May, Refugees International, 'Scars of War and Renewed Risks of Impunity for Women in Tigray'
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8X3KINj-Cw>

2024, April: interview, <https://www.tghat.com/2024/04/27/in-conversation-with-sarah-vaughan/>

2023, August: US National Public Radio (NPR) Throughline podcast
<https://www.npr.org/2023/08/29/1196282658/how-did-ethiopia-go-from-its-leader-winning-the-nobel-peace-prize-to-war-in-a-ye>

2023, August: New Books Network podcast <https://newbooksnetwork.com/understanding-ethiopias-tigray-war>

2020, May: BBC Radio 4 Profile, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000jfpf>