

## Information on the ETHIOMAP project

The history of Northeastern Africa is characterized by rich corpuses of political, religious and cultural materials, including centuries old written historiographies of the Christian kingdom of Ethiopia and neighboring Muslim sultanates and emirates, but also the oral historiographies of southern societies organized as kingdoms or “tribal republics”. Cartographic depictions of these territories were produced by foreign researchers and co-produced by often anonymous local informants and collaborators such as traditional scholars, merchants and officials.

In the historical and anthropological studies of the Horn of Africa, cartographic sources are often neglected or used without enough critical effort. Blurred and incomplete knowledge of the processes of construction and appropriation of territories and on how they were fixed on maps may have consequence on how the territorial structures and related identities are understood at different scales, from local to international perspectives.

The ETHIOMAP project combines online visualization and indexation tools to explore and study a selection of maps of the Horn of Africa since the 17th c. These digital tools aim to develop a critical analysis of cartographic sources to understand the territorial structures of this region, their sustainability and their dynamics of transformation, examining in particular the transactions between local knowledge, techniques of scientific description and practices of political control.

The Ethiomap website can be consulted on <https://ethiomap.hum-num.fr>

Project information: [www.uni-erfurt.de/forschungszentrum-gotha/projekt/dfg-anr-kartographische-quellen-und-territoriale-transformationen-aethiopiens-seit-dem-spaeten-18-jahrhundert-ethiomap](http://www.uni-erfurt.de/forschungszentrum-gotha/projekt/dfg-anr-kartographische-quellen-und-territoriale-transformationen-aethiopiens-seit-dem-spaeten-18-jahrhundert-ethiomap)

Homebase of the project:

- in France: École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Paris, funded by Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR, France).
- in Germany: Forschungszentrum Gotha der Universität Erfurt, Gotha, funded by Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, Germany).

Research partners involved in the project are:

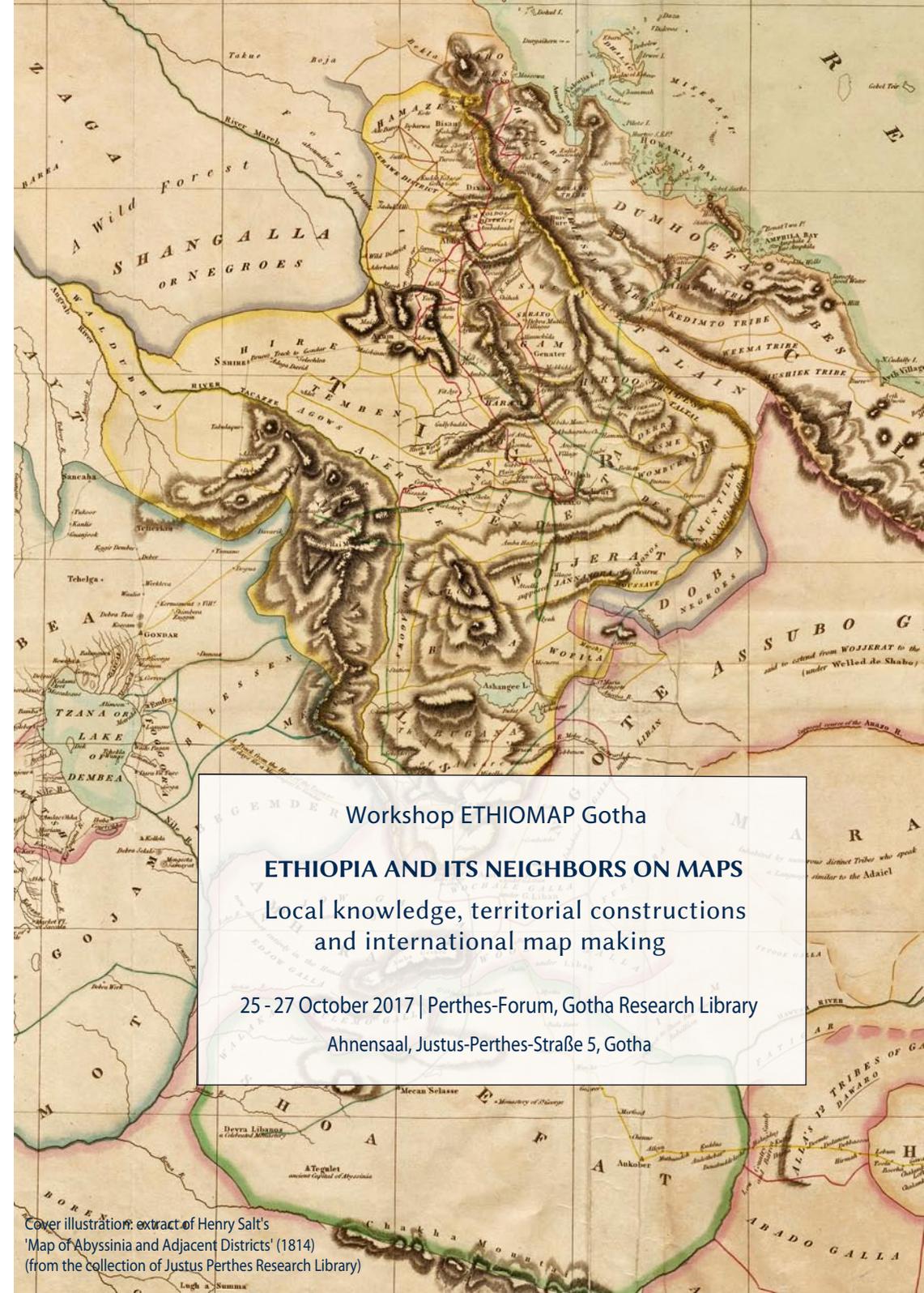
- in France: Centre d'études en sciences sociales du religieux (CésOr).
- in Germany: Forschungsbibliothek Gotha der Universität Erfurt/Sammlung Perthes.
- in Ethiopia: Centre français des études éthiopiennes (CFEE); Mekelle University (MU).

Project Heads :

- Eloi Ficquet, EHESS-CésOr, Paris.
- Wolbert Smidt, Mekelle University (Ethiopia) / Gotha Research Centre.



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Workshop ETHIOMAP Gotha

**ETHIOPIA AND ITS NEIGHBORS ON MAPS**

Local knowledge, territorial constructions  
and international map making

25 - 27 October 2017 | Perthes-Forum, Gotha Research Library

Ahnensaal, Justus-Perthes-Straße 5, Gotha

Cover illustration: extract of Henry Salt's  
'Map of Abyssinia and Adjacent Districts' (1814)  
(from the collection of Justus Perthes Research Library)

## PROGRAM

Note: All presenters have 40-45 minutes each, including discussion.

### DAY 1: Wednesday, 25 October

- 9 | Arrival
- 9.30–9.45 | Welcoming addresses  
**Kathrin Paasch** (Gotha Research Library, Erfurt University)  
**Iris Schröder** (Gotha Research Centre, Erfurt University)
- Introduction
- 9.45–10.15 | **Eloi Ficquet** (EHESS, Paris)  
Feedback from the Ethiomap website: new tools of research and their results.
- | **Wolbert Smidt** (Gotha/Mekelle)  
Maps as sources for external perspectives and for local knowledge as a basis for future research: Territories between exact representation and non-existence.
- 10.15–10.30 | Coffee break
- Discussants for following sessions
- Günther Schlee** (MPI für Ethnologische Forschung, Halle)  
**Marie de Rugy** (Gotha Research Centre, Erfurt University)  
**Tobias Mörike** (Gotha Research Centre, Erfurt University)  
**Anke Fischer-Kattner** (Universität der Bundeswehr, München)
- 1st session: Early 19th century cartography
- 10.30–11.15 | **Christopher Clapham** (Cambridge University)  
Henry Salt's "Map of Abyssinia and the Adjacent Districts" (1814).
- 11.15–12 | **Dorothea McEwan** (Warburg Institute, London)  
What is the use of cross-sectional profiles? On Georg Wilhelm Schimper's hand drawn cross-sectional profiles accompanying the manuscript maps of three areas in Ethiopia.
- 12–14 | Lunch break
- 2nd session: An early high-quality French map: Lefebvre
- 14–14.45 | **Fesseha Berhe** (Mekelle University / EHESS)  
The Lefebvre map with particular focus on southeastern Tigray: The presence of local information on the Doba'a in the Hashenge area .
- 14.45–15.30 | **Ahmed Hassen Omer** (IES Addis Ababa)  
From local itineraries to maps: Places of Shewa and Wollo in the travel accounts and maps published by T. Lefebvre (1845).
- 15.30–16 | Coffee break
- 3rd session: Cartographic progress and invention in France
- 16–16.45 | **Eloi Ficquet** (EHESS, Paris)  
Open data cartography in the 19th century: The geodesic maps of Ethiopian territories published by Antoine d'Abbadie in the 1860s.
- 16.45–17.30 | **Simon Imbert-Vier** (IMAF, Aix-en-Provence)  
In search of Lake Alli: Political significance of a cartographic invention, French Somaliland, 1897-1954.

### DAY 2: Thursday, 26 October

- 4th session: Gotha, the new centre of cartography
- 9.30–10.15 | **Petra Weigel** (Gotha Research Library, Erfurt University)  
Äthiopien in Gotha. Aethiopia in den Beständen der Forschungsbibliothek Gotha. (Ethiopia in Gotha. Aethiopia in the Collections of the Research Library Gotha)
- 10.15–11 | **Iris Schröder** (Gotha Research Centre, Erfurt University)  
Mapping Ethiopia in Times of Change. Hermann Habenicht's farfetched knowledgeability and the art of compilation in his 10-sheet Map of Africa, 1880s-early 1890s
- 5th session: Internal boundaries and international borderlands in Ethiopia
- 11–11.45 | **Günter Schröder** (Frankfurt)  
The administrative map of the late reign of Menelik II: Evolution of internal administration of Ethiopia from Menelik to the EPRDF in maps.
- 11.45–12.30 | **Alexander Meckelburg** (Catholic University of Eastern Africa - CUEA, Kenya)  
Vanishing cultures and changing territories? The Ethiopian-Sudanese borderlands on selected maps, with focus on Juan Schuver, since the 1880s.
- 12.30–14 | Lunch break
- Afternoon excursion: The „Kartenwochen“ Exhibition
- Evening session: Public Keynote Lecture of the Kartenwochen  
Venue: Spiegelsaal, Gotha Research Library of Erfurt University
- 18.15 | **Wolbert Smidt** (Mekelle University / Gotha Research Centre)  
Die besondere Beziehung zwischen Gotha und Äthiopien: Träume von biblischen Ländern und internationaler Diplomatie der Gothaer Herzöge im alten Abessinien.

### DAY 3: Friday, 27 October

- 6th session: The Ethiopian borderlands (continued)
- 9.30–10.15 | **Wolbert Smidt** (Mekelle University / Gotha Research Centre)  
The hidden cartographic competition between Heuglin and Munzinger in the northern borderlands – a contrast of field research methods from the 1850s to their last maps of 1875.
- 10.15–11.00 | **Markus V. Hoehne** (Halle University, Institute of Ethnology)  
Borders of Somaliland in local practice, tradition and imagination.
- 11.00–11.30 | Coffee break
- 11.30–12.30 | CLOSING DISCUSSION