

Teklehaymanot G. Weldemichel

Personal information

Othilienborgvegen 50B,
7033 Trondheim, Norway | ☎+4798994490
E-Mail: weldemichel@ntnu.no

Website: www.ntnu.edu/employees/teklehaymanot.weldemichel

Personal blog site: <https://teklehaymanotblog.wordpress.com/>

Orcid ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8664-053X>

Twitter: @TeklehaymanotG

I am a human geographer currently working as a Postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Geography in the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. My research interest broadly consists of topics ranging from conservation politics, environmental justice, state violence, and urban and regional development with particular focus on the discourses of sustainable development. My postdoctoral project focuses on the discourses and practices of the Sustainable Development Goals in Norwegian urban municipalities.

Educational Background

PhD in Geography

Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway March 2021
Dissertation: “Life in contested lands: The discourses and practices of mainstream conservation in the Greater Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem.”

MPhil Development Studies specializing in Geography

June 2012

Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway
Thesis: “Degradation - conservation - degradation: The political ecology of environmental conservation in Lakenay village of Tigray, Northern Ethiopia”

Bachelor of Education Curriculum and Instruction (*Major*),

July 2008

Geography (*Minor*)
Dilla University, Ethiopia

Fellowship, Awards and Prizes:

1. 2007-2009: The Quota scholarship scheme in Norway, Department of Geography, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Norway
2. 2008: Gold medal from Dilla University for best graduating student of the year with a GPA of 3.97/4.0

Current and Previous positions that involved teaching

1. Postdoctoral Research fellow: Norwegian university of Science and Technology (April 2021-)

- Guest lecture: GEOG 2022 – Globalization and sustainable development in the global south (Master's degree level course)- Spring 2021, Spring 2022
- Guest Lecture: PLAYNAREMA summer course 2021, Department of Biology

2. PhD candidate with teaching duty: Norwegian University of Science and Technology (2016-2020)

Courses (parts of) taught:

- GEOG3515 - Environment, Development and Changing Rural Livelihoods (Master's degree course)
 - Planned and gave lectures on: Climate change, Political ecology, Conservation, and communities for master's degree students in Geography and Natural Resources Management programs.
- AFR1002 - People and Environment in Africa
 - Planned and delivered lectures on, Political ecology, Climate change in Africa, and conservation & communities in Africa for bachelor's degree students in Geography and Anthropology during 2 semesters.

Lecturer: Mekelle University, Ethiopia

(2013-2016)

Courses (parts of) I taught:

- **Environment and Development**

Developed syllabus and delivered lectures on Political Ecology on a summer Master program course (Environment and Development) in collaboration with other lecturers in Mekelle University.

- **Postgraduate Seminar Series**

Developed syllabus and organized seminars, administered grades (Seminar course for master's degree students in Gender and Development studies)

Graduate Assistant: Dilla University, Ethiopia

(2008-2010)

Collaborated on curriculum and exam development, met with students upon request, and graded all written work, including final exam papers.

Projects and related Experiences

Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway

Organizing Nordic Geographers' Meeting 2019 (NGM 8) in (June 2019): I was a member of the organizing committee for the 2019 Nordic Geographers' Meeting, which was held in Trondheim.

Mekelle University, Ethiopia (2013-2016)

1. Research project: *Courting Catastrophe? Humanitarian Policy and Practice in a Changing Climate*. This was an international collaborative research project funded by the Norwegian Research Council. I was a member of the Ethiopian research team based at the Institute of Gender, Environment and Development Studies in Mekelle University.
2. Research Project: *Community Biodiversity Management and Resilience*. Funded by International Treaty/FAO Economy, the project involved 12 countries from Latin America, Africa, and South Asia. I was a member of the Ethiopian research team. We worked with selected local communities engaged in Community-Based Biodiversity Management to strengthen their resilience to climate change. We also organized two workshops: one at national level and another one involving representatives from all the countries both of which I was a member of the organizing team.

Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI):

Consultant expert on Kenya for the project *Targeting Natural Resource Corruption (TNRC)* from 10 January- 30 September 2020.

The Conflict and Environment Observatory

Consultant expert for the analysis of the environmental impact of the war in Tigray: mapping hotspots of change. September 2021- April 2022. In collaboration with colleagues, I wrote the following publications.

1. [Report: The war in Tigray is undermining its environmental recovery - CEOBS](#)
2. [Tigray in Ethiopia was an environmental success story – but the war is undoing decades of regreening](#)

Organization of Scientific events/meetings

June 2019, I was a member of the team that organized the 8th Nordic Geographers Meeting (NGM8), which was held in Trondheim, Norway.

Research mobility

1. May 2019 | Visiting Researcher, Department of Politics at the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom
2. October-November 2019 | Visiting researcher, Department of Social and Economic Geography at Uppsala University, Sweden

Invited presentations

1. November 8, 2021: [*War, famine and the environment in Tigray*](#). Cambridge Centre of African Studies 2021 Seminar Series, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.
2. April 26, 2022: [*Tigray siege and the humanitarian catastrophe*](#). Tigray: Nature-based solutions, conflict, and resilience. The Conflict and Environment Observatory

Memberships and networks

1. Board member of Nordic-Africa Research Network (NARN), September 2020-Present
2. Board member of Norwegian Association for Development Research (NFU), January 2018- present
3. Member of the Political Ecology Network (POLLEN) 2018- Present
4. Member of

Selected Publications

1. **Weldemichel, Teklehaymanot** (2021). Making land grabbable: Stealthy disposessions by conservation in Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania. *Environment & Planning E: Nature and Space*, 0(0), 1-21
2. **Weldemichel, Teklehaymanot** (2021) Inventing Hell: How the Ethiopian and Eritrean Regimes produced Famine in Tigray. *Human Geography*. 0(0), 1-5
3. **Weldemichel, Teklehaymanot** (2020). Othering Pastoralists, State Violence and the Remaking of Boundaries in Tanzania's Militarized Wildlife Conservation Sector. *Antipode*, 52(5), 1496-1518.
4. Cavanagh, Connor Joseph; **Weldemichel, Teklehaymanot**; Benjaminsen, Tor A. (2020) Gentrifying the African Landscape: The Performance and Powers of for-Profit Conservation on Southern Kenya's Conservancy Frontier. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 110 (5), 1594-1612.
5. **Weldemichel, Teklehaymanot**; Benjaminsen, Tor A; Cavanagh, Connor Joseph; Lein, Haakon. (2019) Conservation: Beyond population growth: response to Ogutu et al. *Science* (e-letter).
6. **Weldemichel, Teklehaymanot**; Benjaminsen, Tor A; Cavanagh, Connor Joseph; Lein, Haakon. (2019) Conservation: beyond population growth. *Science*. vol. 365 (6449).
7. **Weldemichel, Teklehaymanot**; Lein, Haakon. (2019) "Fencing is our last stronghold before we lose it all." A political ecology of fencing around the Maasai Mara National Reserve, Kenya. *Land Use Policy*. vol. 87.

Other publications

8. Bühne, Henrike Schulte to; Weir, Doug; Nyssen, Jan; **Weldemichel, Teklehaymanot**. (2022) Tigray in Ethiopia was an environmental success story – then the war undid decades of greening. The Conversation.

9. **Weldemichel, Teklehaymanot;** Emnet, Negash; Jan, Nyssen; Gebrekirstos Gebresclassie, Gebremeskel; Amare, Teklay. (2021) Database: The Ethiopian public universities during the Tigray war. Zenodo. DOI:10.5281/zenodo.5792266.
10. **Weldemichel, Teklehaymanot;** Lein, Haakon. (2019) *Land division, conservancies, fencing and its implications in the Maasai Mara, Kenya*. European Commission. 2019. (report)
11. **Weldemichel, Teklehaymanot;** Etana, Mesele Abera. (2017) The Need for Transformation: Local Perception of Climate Change, Vulnerability and Adaptation Versus 'Humanitarian' Response in Afar Region, Ethiopia. In *Filbo et al, (2017) Climate Change Adaptation in Africa: Fostering Resilience and Capacity to Adapt*.
12. **Weldemichel, Teklehaymanot;** Etana, Mesele Abera. (2016) *Climate change, vulnerability and adaptation versus 'humanitarian' response in Afar region, Ethiopia*. (Policy brief)

Op-eds

1. Gebreananaye, M. and Weldemichel, T. (2023) [The Pretoria Peace Agreement](#). Also a podcast here
2. Weldemichel, Teklehaymanot (2022) [The Internet Governance Forum: a spectacle of the United Nations' complicity in the Tigray Genocide](#). TGHAT
3. Weldemichel, T. and Mehta, L. (2022) [Krisen er langt fra over i Tigray](#). Bistandsaktuel.
4. Mehta, L. and Weldemichel, T. (2022) [Marking the second year of the Tigray war](#). Institute of Development Studies.
5. Weldemichel, T., Mehta, L., Gebregziabher, M., and Rannestad, M. (2022) [Tigrayan farmers need urgent help to face a war-induced famine](#). Institute of Development Studies.
6. Teklehaymanot G. Weldemichel and Meron Gebreananaye (2022) [Tigray is Africa's Ukraine: We Must Build Pan-African Solidarity](#). The Elephant
7. Weldemichel, Teklehaymanot (2021) [The environmental cost of the War on Tigray](#). TGHAT.
8. Weldemichel, Teklehaymanot. (2019) [Guns, fire and violence in the name of conservation in Loliondo, Tanzania](#). The BIOSEC project, University of Sheffield.

Media appearances

1. [The Pretoria Peace Agreement - by Claire Berlinski](#)
2. The Fire These Times (podcast) [What is happening in Tigray? With Teklehaymanot Weldemichel](#) [Internet]. 2022-06-03
3. Hjorthol, Lars Martin. (2021) [Tigray-krigen: – En planlagt sultkatastrofe](#). [Internet]. 2021-12-15.
4. Global Rights Defenders (podcast) ["I no longer call myself Ethiopian."](#) [Podcast, Internet]. 2021-11-15.
5. TGHAT Forum (2021) [Famine as a Weapon of War in Tigray](#). [Internet]. 2021-12-02.

6. BBC Focus on Africa program (2019) [On Land Issues in Kenya](#). [Radio]. 2019-02-06.

Language competence

Tigrinya (Native), **Amharic** (Native), **English**(Fluent)

Norwegian and **Swahili** - Speak, read, and write with basic competence.

References

1. Haakon Lein: Professor (PhD supervisor), Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Email: haakon.lein@ntnu.no | +47 91897634
2. Tor A Benjaminsen: Professor (PhD co-supervisor), Norwegian University of Life Sciences Email: t.a.benjaminsen@nmbu.no | +4767231353
3. Connor Joseph Cavanagh: Associate Professor (co-author on my two articles), University of Bergen, Norway. Email: Connor.Cavanagh@uib.no | +47 55 58 30 93