



Religious Pluralism and Inter-Faith Dynamics in West Africa as Seen from Ethiopia

Wondimu Amsalu¹, Kassahun Wolde², Tsega Haile^{3,4}, Abay Mamo⁵

¹ Department of Research, Haramaya University

² Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Bahir Dar University

³ Haramaya University

⁴ Department of Advanced Studies, Hawassa University

⁵ Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Haramaya University

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Correspondence: wamsalu@yahoo.com

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Author notes

Wondimu Amsalu is affiliated with Department of Research, Haramaya University and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Kassahun Wolde is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Bahir Dar University and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Tsega Haile is affiliated with Haramaya University and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abay Mamo is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Haramaya University and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

Religious pluralism in West Africa is a complex phenomenon influenced by historical, cultural, and social factors. Ethiopia serves as an interesting case study due to its own religious diversity and interfaith dynamics. The research methodology involves a critical analysis of literature from both Ethiopian and West African sources, including historical documents and contemporary ethnographies. The study employs qualitative thematic analysis to identify patterns and themes related to religious coexistence. A notable finding is the significant role played by syncretic practices in mediating inter-faith relations across diverse communities in Ethiopia, particularly among ethnic groups like the Oromo and Amhara who practice Christianity alongside indigenous beliefs. This study highlights the importance of understanding religious pluralism through a comparative lens to foster greater mutual respect and peaceful coexistence between different faiths. Policy makers should consider promoting interfaith dialogue initiatives that recognise and celebrate syncretic practices as key contributors to social cohesion in West African societies, including those with Ethiopian influences.

Keywords: *Geography, Africa, Multiplicity, Sociology, Linguistics, CulturalStudies, ComparativeAnalysis*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

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