



Rift Valley Institute

Horn of Africa Field Course 2017

Enduring vulnerabilities and new political challenges have marked the Horn this year. The worst famine since 2011 devastated rural communities after prolonged drought. Ethiopia imposed a State of Emergency following unprecedented political protests, while Eritrea's path back from international and self-imposed isolation did not see internal openness. Somalia's delayed and downscaled election brought a new but inexperienced government while Somaliland elections were again postponed. The Saudi-led intervention in Yemen, military leases of Red Sea ports and an uptick in piracy, added to the Horn's geo-strategic relevance. This year's RVI Horn course will map out how country-specific developments intersect with region-wide challenges in a context of both continuity and change, better to inform internal and external actors' policy response and interventions.

FEES, LOCATION AND HOW TO APPLY

- ◆ The course will be held in Entebbe, on the shores of Lake Victoria in Uganda from **18-23 June**.
- ◆ The cost of each course is US 4,250. This covers tuition fees, six nights' full board and accommodation, special excursions, local transport and advance course literature. Flights and visas are not included.
- ◆ Please apply online at www.riftvalley.net/key-projects/courses. For more information contact courses@riftvalley.net.

SYLLABUS

Day 1 Culture, Demographics and Context

- ◆ Why ethnicity and identity still matters
- ◆ Bringing a gender lens to work and study in the Horn of Africa
- ◆ Drought, famine and humanitarian responses

Day 2 History: Continuity, Trends and Transformations in the Horn

- ◆ The Ethiopian developmental state and Eritrea after independence
- ◆ Dictatorship, civil war and peace processes in Somalia (1991-2006)

Day 3 Contemporary Horn of Africa

- ◆ Ethiopia: Protests and the prospects of reform
- ◆ Somaliland: Elections, economy and extraversion
- ◆ Contemporary Somalia and the challenges of peace-building and state-building

Day 4 The Horn of Africa: Transformation and Persistence

- ◆ IGAD: The rhetoric & reality of cross-regional security & economic cooperation
- ◆ Drivers of migration and diaspora dynamics

Day 5 Development and Humanitarian Challenges

- ◆ Counter-terrorism missions and the stabilization debate
- ◆ Resource politics: Water, hydrocarbons and extractives
- ◆ Participant-led discussion on regional food emergency & response mechanisms



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What have been the region's most significant developments this year?

Drought and famine have had the greatest effect on the majority of the Horn's populations, while the governments and their external interlocutors have been more seized by political developments. **Ethiopia's** internal political crisis deepened prompting the imposition of a state of emergency and the increased political profile of the security arm of the state, the military in particular. The prioritization of presidential and parliamentary elections in **Somalia**, pushed the completion of federal state formation at the risk of unsustainable political fixes. The African Union's (AMISOM) peace-enforcement mission—mostly dependent on Somalia's neighbour states for its troops—lost momentum, suffering reverses to al-Shabaab with consequent loss of confidence amongst donors. **Eritrea's** slow rehabilitation from regional pariah continued, rebuilding relations with the EU and its member states trying to halt the exodus of Eritrean youth, and joining the Saudi-led coalition in its Yemeni intervention, including leasing its Red Sea Assab port to UAE for military use. **Djibouti** re-elected its incumbent President with an economy buoyed by hosting a clutch of foreign military bases, with China and Saudi Arabia also establishing bases in addition to the long-term US and French presence.

What are the main policy challenges?

The region-wide famine has affected each of the Horn's states in different ways and prompted differing internal responses and presenting challenges for the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance. Ethiopia's importance as regional hegemon - including contributions to peace-keeping missions in Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia – effective implementer of international development aid, and investment potential, complicates policy response to a deteriorating political context. The balance between support for Somalia's federal government and its security architecture (and AMISOM exit strategy) and a more substantive and assertive collection of federal member states, as well as the mediation between the federal actors, will be difficult to strike. Coordination between a still growing number of external interlocutors will be equally challenging. Eritrea's strategic importance for different external audiences reduces the potential for leverage over internal reform. 15 years after the international arbitration on their disputed border and subsequent stalemate on implementation, the risk of war between Ethiopia and Eritrea still remains significant.

What are the potential implications of these events beyond the region?

The Horn of Africa has again shown how historic vulnerabilities, abiding but unresolved political issues, and connections with adjacent regions - the Arabian peninsular and Gulf in particular – present a uniquely challenging region for leveraging influence and effective interventions, including conflict prevention. The rise of both economic and military engagement by non-traditional actors, especially China, Turkey and Arabian Gulf states, not only complicate coordination of policy and interventions they also increase the risk of the Horn's embroilment in wider regional rivalries that feed into both inter- and intra-state tensions, to levels not seen since the end of the Cold War.

What will be the highlights of the course?

The course will cover a range of high-level country and regional events and trends from a political economy perspective. It will also explore a series of thematic issues of common concern to policy makers and expert practitioners, including a gendered perspective to policy and practice. Political and human rights activists will be present as guest contributors.



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CORE TEACHING STAFF

Laura Hammond PhD, Reader in Development Studies, SOAS
Terrence Lyons PhD, Professor of Conflict Analysis and Resolution
Lealem Mersha, Independent Researcher
Rashid Abdi, Horn of Africa Analyst, ICG
Ken Menkhaus PhD, Davidson College
Dereje Feyissa PhD, Addis Ababa University
Fadumo Dayib, Somalia Presidential Candidate, 2016
Michael Woldemariam PhD, Assistant Professor, Boston University
Lee Cassanelli PhD, Associate Professor, University of Pennsylvania



WHAT ALUMNI SAY

- *'There was an intelligent balance between leading indigenous and western thought.'* **Geraint Jenner**, British Peace Support Team, Horn of Africa 2015.
- *'As someone who knew very little about the wider region, I thought the design was spot on – starting with the overviews and then getting into the detail...I wish I'd done the course last year. I will definitely recommend it to friends and colleagues.'* **Kate Ferry**, Adam Smith International, Horn of Africa Course 2015.
- *'I dare say I have done nothing comparable in so comprehensive a package.'* **Bob Snyder**, Canadian International Development Agency, Horn of Africa Course 2013.

