

## Opening Remark

The symposium on the history of cultural research originating from Germanophone countries was carried out in November 2014 in the Goethe-Institut in Addis Ababa, in collaboration with Mekelle University and the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa. This important symposium, with illustrious participants from Ethiopia and different European countries, marked an important step forward, as much of the research history of the Ethiopian region is still largely unknown even to specialized researchers. However, the history of research greatly helps to define where we are today, and why we ask the research questions we ask today. The context of today's research and also the needs of research are better understood in the context of its past. Following the symposium, this volume was prepared in collaboration between Mekelle University and the Frobenius Institute of Frankfurt University, to whom we are deeply grateful due to the substantial financial and editorial support and additions to the content, as much as to the Goethe-Institut. This volume is a joint publication, as part of its international journal ITYOPIS, as its first extra issue in a series of extra issues currently in planning, and in the same time a publication by the Frobenius Institute. One aim is to bring the knowledge on research

and its changing historical contexts back into the Ethiopian context. This is certainly not more than a step in the right direction. So far, many of the research publications of the last centuries remain virtually unknown to Ethiopian researchers and researchers of the wider region, as they are often written in languages other than English or Amharic. Research history therefore remained largely in the hands of highly specialized academics. This volume may mark a new trend, bringing research knowledge back to Ethiopia, which goes parallel to the radical change of the academic landscape of Ethiopia. By now over thirty new universities flourish in Ethiopia, and there will be a quickly rising demand for good material and information on research, which is scarce so far, especially regarding the rich research carried out in Ethiopia and neighboring countries. In the same time, due to the rise of academic knowledge even among wider audiences, also popular accounts on the cultures of the region will be in greater demand, for which this volume is also a very welcome contribution. For this contribution I thank the two editors based at the Frobenius Institute and at Mekelle University, whose efforts to make this volume real were tireless and led to a great result.

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