

## Report on the NOCIES Conference in Stockholm and the Research Visit in Vienna from October 07 - October 19, 2019

### NOCIES Biannual Conference & Global CIE Forum 10-11 October 2019



Banner of NOCIES conference

The University of Gondar Team, Kassahun and Hawa and Dr. Yekyealem from the Addis Ababa University team have arrived in Stockholm, Sweden from Addis Ababa before the NOCIES Conference started on Tuesday, October 8 2019. The team of the University of Vienna had organised everything for Gondar and Addis Ababa. After the arrival of the INEDIS team they organised a meeting among Dr. Margarita, Dr. Michelle, Kassahun, Hawa and Dr. Yekoyealem.

The main conference started with the welcoming of the participants and the presentation of the programme. After this, Professor Astrid Soderberg Widding (Vice Chancellor, Stockholm University) and Professor Heidi Biseth (NOCIES President) welcomed all the participants and gave a short overview on the NOCIES/Global CIE FORUM. The inauguration was then held by David Turner (Normal University, Beijing, China). The keynote speech “Academic Tribes, Territories and Units of Analysis in Comparative Education Research: Strengths and limitation in qualitative approaches” was given by Mark Bray (East China Normal University).

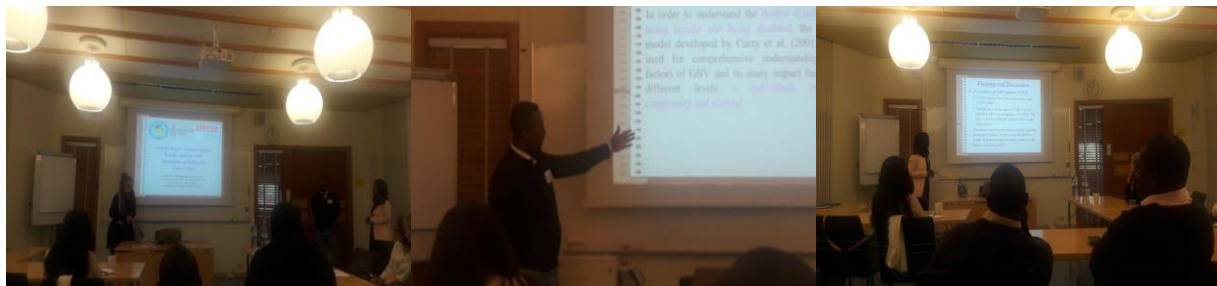


After the lunch break the conference continued with presentations in seven different sessions. We were attended one of the sessions, namely session S1-5: From theory to practice, teaching and researching comparative and international education. In this session there were three

different presentations related to comparative education. From the presentations we can get knowledge and develop our understanding about comparative education.

For the second day Kassahun, Hawa and Dr. Michelle presented our research on “Gender Based Violence in Higher Education Institutions” in session S4-3 on Global and Local Dynamics Influencing Cultural Heritage, Sustainability, and Social Justice. After the presentation questions were raised by participants. We tried to answer those questions and the audience also gave comments and suggestions.

In a different session on Inclusive Education in the Field of Comparative and International Education, Dr. Yekoyealem and Dr. Margarita held their presentation on “Comparing the Incomparable? Students with Disabilities in Higher Education in Ethiopia and Austria. Experiences from an International Project (INEDIS)”.

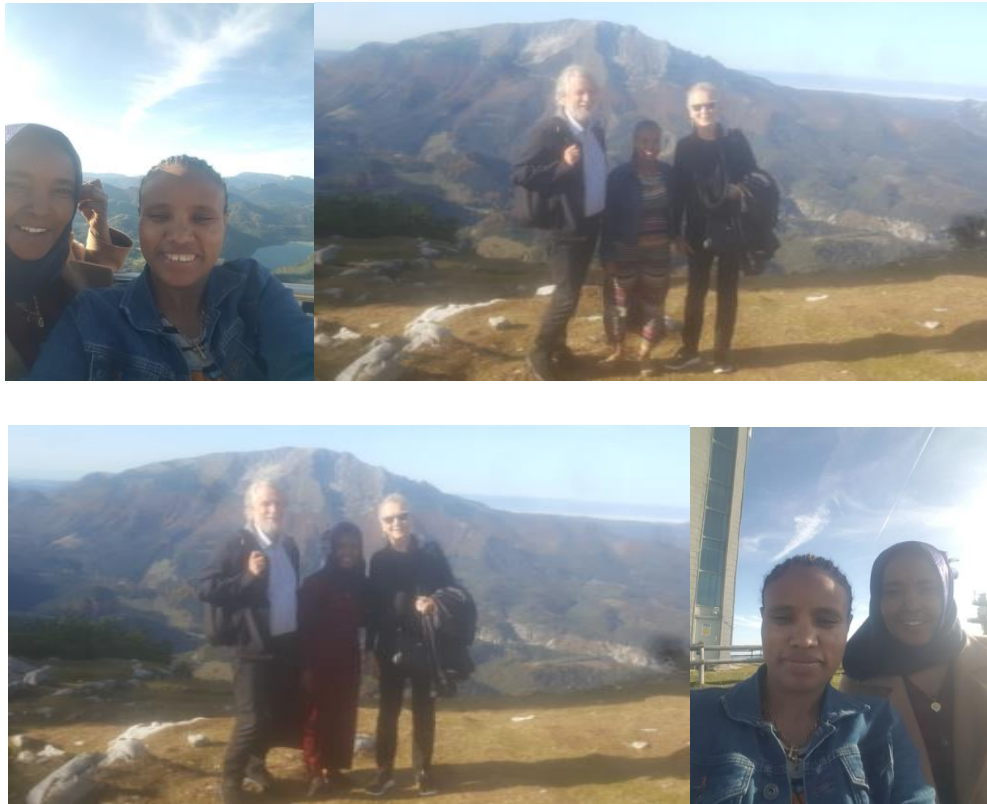


After lunch the conference continued with the keynote speech on “Why large-scale Studies of Education are Necessary but Not Sufficient for Cross-National Research: Observations from a reformed empiricist” by Larry Suter (University of Michigan, USA) and a panel discussion about the experience and future of CIE/CE by different scholars. Finally the Annual General Meeting of NOCIES/Global CIE was closed.

### **Research Visit of Young Female Scholars to University of Vienna**

After the conference Hawa travelled from Stockholm to Vienna where Meseret joined her directly from Ethiopia. They met in Vienna for a research visit for young female scholars at the Department of Education, University of Vienna from October 12 to October 19 2019.

We started our visit on Sunday October 13, with Prof. Gottfried and his wife outside of Vienna. We got an opportunity to see and know many things about Vienna and its countryside and the community in rural areas. We visited an ancient catholic church before our good lunch that we were invited to. Our visit was continued after lunch, climbing up on the top of the mountains by elevators and enjoyed more of the beautiful view on Vienna. It was a great memorable time in our life, that we cannot forget that event forever.



For the next day, we arrived at 13:00 at the Department of Education for an arranged discussion with the Gender and Diversity management of the University of Vienna in one of the lecture rooms together with Simon. We shared knowledge and experience about the University of Vienna management related to gender and diversity after a good presentation.

At 16:00 we went to Light for the world and had a chance to meet with the coordinator of the inclusive education program and a project officer for Ethiopia. They informed us about activities done by their projects and we discussed our involvement in different activities, such as their CBR program at the University of Gondar. Our department is formally and informally working in different activities in collaboration with this project. We further discussed about possible collaboration in the near future.

On day three we were free to explore the city of Vienna and at day four at 12:00 we met again with Elvira at the Department. She showed us the library and how we can access literature from there.

On Thursday, day five, we joined with Dr. Michelle at the Department of Education at 13:30 and discussed about our Article on GBV and at 14:30 we went to the main campus of the University of Vienna to get to know accessibility issues. We visited the historical building, the biggest library and learned about how it is accessible for students with visual and physical disability. We were impressed by the description and explanation of the focal person.

On Friday, day six, we had a program to visit a primary school in Vienna at 8:00 in the morning. We went to the school with Dr. Michelle and we visited the school compound, class rooms, the

teaching and learning process, different supportive rooms and students in and outside the class rooms. It was a good opportunity for us and we gained useful experiences.



The school we visited



One of the class room

On the last day at 11:00 we checked out from the apartment and used our remaining time at the Department of Education until 18:00 to meet with Elvira. We can't forget her support and hospitality. In the evening we went back to Ethiopia.