

MARCO BASSI is Researcher at Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento, Italy. He received the National Scientific Qualification for University Professorship (second level).

Oromo studies has been Marco Bassi's main field of study since his Ph. D. research among the Oromo-Borana pastoralists. He produced several contributions on the political, social and symbolic significance of the gadaa system of generational classes. Over time he became more and more interested in current issues, studying the interface of customary institutions with development, human rights, biodiversity conservation and politics, with focus on ethnicity and commons. Since 1999 he contributed to the IUCN (World Conservation Union) debate on equity and community rights. Before moving to the University of Trento Marco Bassi was member of the interdisciplinary team of the project "Landscape, people and parks: environmental change in the Lower Omo Valley, Southwest Ethiopia", funded by the Art and Humanity Research Council. He dealt with oral history, archive research and anthropological issues. He joined the University of Oxford after 10 years spent at the University of Bologna, Italy, in the position of Adjunct Professor of Anthropology.