

## CONTRIBUTORS

**Farhia A. Abdi** is a PhD Candidate in the Faculty of Education at York University in Toronto, Canada. Her doctoral dissertation focuses on the role that education—both formal and informal—can play in promoting peace, justice and unity in post-conflict societies such as that of Somalia. She has taught courses for York University’s Borderless Higher Education for Refugees (BHER) project and delivers courses both online and onsite in Dadaab. Farhia is also a Professor at the School of Social and Community Services at George Brown College in Toronto.

**Stephanie R. Bjork** is Residential Faculty in Anthropology at Paradise Valley Community College in Phoenix, Arizona, USA. She holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Stephanie has conducted fieldwork on the Somali diaspora in Finland and the United States. She is co-editor of *From Mogadishu to Dixon: The Somali Diaspora in a Global Context* and serves on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Somali Studies*. Her research interests include the Somali diaspora, identity politics, practice theory, kinship, and gender.

**Lee Cassanelli** is Professor of History and former Director of the Africa Center at the University of Pennsylvania, where he teaches African History and World History. He is the author of *Hosts and Guests: A historical interpretation of land conflicts in southern and central Somalia* (2015) and *The Shaping of Somali Society 1600–1900* (1982), and co-editor of *The Struggle for Land in Southern Somalia* (1996, 2003). Dr. Cassanelli is a founding member of the Somali Studies International Association and currently serves as General Editor of the journal *Northeast African Studies* and Associate Editor for *Bildhaan: An International Journal of Somali Studies*.

**Afyare A. Elmi** is an Assistant Professor at Qatar University’s International Affairs Department. He is the author of *Understanding the Somalia Conflagration: Identity, Political Islam and Peacebuilding*, published by Pluto Press. He is the Lead-Principal Researcher of the Piracy in the Horn of Africa Research Project. His research interests include international security, political Islam, state-building, conflict and peace-building in Africa.

**Outi Fingerroos** is Professor of Ethnology at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. She is currently an Academy of Finland Research Fellow (2012–2016) in a project titled “Reuniting the Family: A Study of the Experiences of Immigrants and Officials.” The aim of the study is to better understand the family reunification process of Somalis coming to Finland via Ethiopia from the perspectives of officials and NGOs. She has done research in the fields of comparative religion, oral history, immigration studies and ethnic relations, and especially concentrated upon the (inter)connection of memory, narrative and identity.

**Abdirashid A. Ismail** is a Post-doctoral Researcher in the Department of Social Research, University of Helsinki, Finland. He is also an Economics Policy Fellow with the Heritage Institute for Policy Studies (HIPS) in Somalia. He holds a doctorate degree from Hanken School of Economics, Helsinki. Ismail studies immigration and diaspora, with particular focus on transnational migration and family well-being, as well as the political economy of conflict and state formation. He currently works in the Academy of Finland funded research project titled “Transnational Muslim Marriages: Well-Being, Law and Gender.”

**Giulia Liberatore** is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), and Junior Research Fellow at Linacre College, University of Oxford, England. She has a PhD in Anthropology from the London School of Economics, and her research interests are gender, Islam in Europe, migration, multiculturalism, ethics and subjectivity. Giulia teaches in the MSc program in Migration Studies at Oxford and is the editor of the COMPAS Working Paper Series. She is also Secretary for Kayd Somali Arts and Culture Ltd.

**Yusuf Sheikh Omar** holds a PhD from La Trobe University in Australia. He is a writer, poet, and peace activist. His research has focused on social integration of young Somalis in western countries and he has published widely in international academic journals and leading Australian newspapers. Yusuf has worked as a consultant at Victorian Transcultural Mental Health. He is a Global Advisor for Global Reconciliation; a member of the Advisory Board of Somali Studies published by the Institute of Somali Studies, Mogadishu University; and a for-

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**Mulki Al-Sharmani** is a docent and Academy of Finland Research Fellow in the Faculty of Theology, University of Helsinki, Finland. She holds a doctorate degree in Cultural Anthropology from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA. She researches and publishes on: modern Somali diasporas, transnational migrant families, Muslim marriage norms and practices in Finland and in Egypt, Muslim family laws and Islamic jurisprudence, and contemporary Muslim women's engagements with Islamic interpretive tradition.

**Marja Tiilikainen** is a docent and Academy of Finland Research Fellow in the Department of Social Research, University of Helsinki. She has a PhD in Comparative Religion from the University of Helsinki, Finland. Her research has focused on transnational Somali families in Finland, Canada, and Somalia; everyday life and religion; cultural concepts of illness and healing; and transnational healing practices. She currently leads two research projects titled "Transnational Muslim Marriages: Wellbeing, Law and Gender," and "Young Muslims and Resilience: A Participatory Study."

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**Brendon Cannon** is an Assistant Professor at Khalifa University's Institute of International and Civil Security in Abu Dhabi, UAE. He previously taught at Kisii University in Nairobi, Kenya and was the Director of Gollis University Research Institute (GURI) in Hargeisa, Republic of Somaliland. He earned his doctorate in Political Science from the University of Utah, USA, with emphasis on comparative politics and international relations (IR). He is the author of articles that include, "Terrorists, Geopolitics and Kenya's Proposed Border Wall with Somalia," and "Kenya in Turkey and Turkey in Kenya: Alternatives to the East/West Paradigm in Diplomacy, Trade and Security."

**Abdirashid M. Jabane** is a development consultant from Northern Kenya and holds a Masters in International Relations from University of Nairobi, Kenya. He has served in the public sector in Kenya in various regions and has wide-experience in the field of rural development and the environment.

