

Fana Gebresenbet (Addis Ababa) has been awarded the prestigious first *Africa Spectrum Young African Scholar Award!*

The Hamburg-based *Africa Spectrum* journal is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. To mark this occasion, and in cooperation with the University of the Free State (UFS) in Bloemfontein, South Africa, the Young African Scholar Award is granted for the first time in 2016. The goal is to support junior scholars carrying out research on Africa.

Fana Gebresenbet has submitted his PhD in December 2015 on the territorial implications of the global land rush that was triggered by the 2008 financial crisis and targeted Sub-Saharan Africa. His case study is on Gambella, western Ethiopia. The PhD has been written in the joint PhD programme "Global and Area Studies" that was launched in 2012 with support of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) by the Global and European Studies Institute (GESI) of the University of Leipzig, Germany, and the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of the University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The thesis has been supervised by Prof Dereje Feyissa (Associate Professor, based at AAU) and Prof Dr Ulf Engel (University of Leipzig).

Scholarship in African Studies still faces the challenge of capacity-building to enhance ownership by authors and institutions from and on the African continent. It also requires more coordinated efforts to provide the deserved space by African authors in the international domain. This Award seeks to strengthen efforts to further promote internationally recognized African scholarship in African Studies. The Young African Scholar Award is bestowed once a year. In 2014, the Centre for Africa Studies (CAS) at the University of the Free State (UFS) became affiliated with the Africa Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies (AEGIS), of which the Institute of African Affairs of the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies in Hamburg is a member, too. The GIGA publishes *Africa Spectrum*, putting out three issues annually. The journal is also linked to the German African Studies Association (*Vereinigung von Afrikanisten in Deutschland, VAD*).

Those eligible to submit are postgraduate students nearing completion of their PhD theses and postdoctoral scholars who are within five years of being awarded their PhD at the time of the submission deadline. Scholars affiliated to the CAS are ineligible. Scholars should be from Africa or affiliated with African institutions.

The awardee not only receives a prize money of 5,000 South African Rand, but in addition will also be appointed a non-numerated associated research fellow with the CAS for the period 2016-2018.