

Graduate School of Global Studies
Open Seminar

Democracy Without The State

The Politics in Mursiland, Southern Ethiopia

Jean-Baptiste Eczet

Social Anthropologist
École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales



This presentation explores the nature of politics in a pastoral society that has long remained distant from the modern state and earlier empires. Drawing on extensive fieldwork among the Mursi of southern Ethiopia, I first present several anthropological concepts and the empirical practices associated with them, such as the age-set system, segmentarity, and public debate. I then argue that the coexistence of these practices constitutes a democratic political system characterized by countervailing powers, the acceptance of dissent, political mobilization, and a balance between equality and hierarchy.

Date: Saturday, July 11, 2026, 16:40–18:10

SK214, Shikokan, Karasuma Campus, Doshisha University

Graduate School of Global Studies
tel. 075-251-3930 E-mail: ji-gs@mail.doshisha.ac.jp

No reservation
required