

Saving and Being Safe Away from “Home”

7-8 April 2022, Online

A worldwide phenomenon, informal savings and insurance associations, such as rotating savings associations or self-help groups, are critical aspects of life in diasporic settings. Especially in new contexts, migrants resort to such informal associations which serve economical, social, cultural, and political functions. The availability of formal alternatives and institutions has neither changed the need nor damaged the popularity of these associations.

The workshop will explore two important questions related to these informal institutions:

First, we will discuss how people in the diaspora work towards a ‘good life’ and a ‘good future’ through informal savings and insurance practices.

Second, we will assess how such informal institutions have supported migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic and how the pandemic has presented new challenges to these institutions.

The workshop is organized by the DFG funded project “On the saf(v)e side: informal economic associations and future aspirations in the Ethiopian diaspora” at the Frobenius Institute, Frankfurt, Germany.

Please submit your proposal by 10AM CET, 3 January 2022. Please send a 300-word abstract with a short, 50-word biographical blurb to Sophia Thubauville (thubauville@em.uni-frankfurt.de).