**Scars of the past: A psychosocial examination of corrupt ethnic nationalism in Somalia during the Issaq Genocide**

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(MRes Social Research and Psychosocial Studies)

How has political discourse around corrupt ethnic nationalism during the Issaq genocide in Somalia/Somaliland perpetuated subjectivity and complex identity? This dissertation centralises on the complexities of corrupt ethnonationalism in Somalia during a time of political uproar during the dictatorship of Siad Barre and the violent regime he deployed during his presidency. To further detail the histories of political violence that was imposed this research will detail the case of the ‘Hargeisa Group’ also known as the ‘UFFO’ a self-help socialist group of academics and professionals were subject to horrific war crimes and extreme violence. I aim to examine the extent of political discourses during the Issaq genocide contribution to the perpetuation of complex identity formations among the affected communities, and how do these identities intersect with broader social, political, and cultural dynamics. This research will employ qualitative methods of critical discourse to fill the gap in literature by connecting the how political violence in Somalia was justified by corruption within ethnonationalists, clan culture superiority and histories of categorisations due to colonisation. This is a unique standpoint as I aim to connect these with psychosocial frameworks of subjectivity and complex identities. Opening the discussion for how power and violence was used to subjugate the members of the 'Hargeisa group’ and how perception and identity were navigated in these processes of human rights abuses within a corrupt governmental system.

Shukri is an MRes Social Research and Psychosocial Studies student. With a background in sociology, she has some experience in social research surrounding areas of racial inequality and intersectional representation. Having worked in a secondary school with SEN children, her my undergraduate dissertation (where?) focused on neurodiversity and the challenges that align with the racial disparities in UK healthcare polices. Before coming to Birkbeck, she completed a social policy and research internship at LSE, funded by the ESRC, where she conducted critical media discourse on migrant representation during the time of the implementation of the NBA and how this was presented in British Media. She would like to continue her research journey in qualitative methods and using what she has learned at Birkbeck to question and create room for interpretation of ideas in the realm of research and the 'self' also the social, cultural and political and how they can connect. Which moves me to my current research being my dissertation topic is one that I have a chosen to question the role psychosocial frameworks play in shaping the interpretations of power dynamics, corruption, and identity within the context of a historical genocide case that took place in my home country Hargeysa, Somaliland.