

**Development of Research Instruments**  
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First we require processes for sensitising the ‘universal’ to the ‘local’; by grounding’ we start from the bottom-up and sensitise the universal.

Level of measurement	Type of category	Some examples				
		Person	Material	Social	Cultural	Political
<b>Person: ‘objective’ needs</b>	Universal	Skills	Food	Relationships	Meaning	Voice
	Local	Cattle keeping Learning to read	Enset, relish etc	Patron-clientelism Nurturer	Orthodox Christianity	Respect for elders
<b>Person: ‘subjective’ needs</b>	Universal	Satisfaction with skills	Satisfaction with food	Satisfaction with relationships	Satisfaction with meaning in life	Satisfaction with voice
	Local	Satisfaction with cattle	Satisfaction with enset	Satisfaction with patron or client	Satisfaction with religion	Satisfaction with elders’ decisions
<b>Household resources</b>	Universal	Quality of household personnel	Means of production	Social resources beyond the household	Status of household in community	Household decision-making
	Local	Son’s cattle keeping skills Wife’s domestic skills	Land, oxen, plough, seed, fertiliser, rain	Member of (which) idir?	Status of craftworking in community	Extra-household network of advisers
<b>Community resources/structures /dynamics</b>	Universal	Identity and reputation in the community	Structure of local political economy: credit/debt; labour; land etc - local organisations and institutions Livelihood networks	Local livelihood and lifeworld figurations: household structures and dynamics; inter-household networks; local organisations	Local lifeworld institutions, norms, values and knowledge Entitlements Status distinctions and relations	Local political structures: Who makes decisions? Who do they favour? Local policy regime Who uses public services?
	Local	Being a ‘good farmer’ or ‘lazy’	Peasant farming <i>idir, equb</i> etc Common property <i>Debo, wonfel,</i>	Kin networks	Amhara inheritance/marriage/divorce rules; Local health beliefs	<i>Kebele</i> leadership and activities; other political activity
<b>Country structures/dynamics</b>	Universal	Status of ‘citizens’	Economic structure	Figurations of power	Cultural structures	Political structures Policy regime
	Local	Comparisons between Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Peru and Thailand				
<b>Beyond – structures</b>	Universal	Status in world citizenry	Niche in global economy	Transnational figurations of power	Transnational cultural structures	Niche in international political system

Level of measurement and dynamics	Type of category	Some examples				
		Person	Material	Social	Cultural	Political
	Local	Comparisons between Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Peru and Thailand				

The following research instruments must be developed:

- **Person:** measure of objective (but locally-sensitised) human needs (OHN) – personal, material, social, cultural and political – individual questionnaire; we plan to develop thresholds measures (like ‘poverty lines’) for each of the domains below which a person would be considered to be deprived in that dimension.
- **Person:** measure of subjective quality of life (QOL)– along the same dimensions – individual questionnaire
- **Household:** measures of resource portfolio (RP) – along the same dimensions – household questionnaire administered as survey with some random selection of households

These instruments can only take ‘snapshots’ of what are ongoing processes. The current proposal is to apply the instruments twice, one year apart, and in between use ‘ethnographic’ (long-term participant observation) methods to provide a ‘video’ of some of the processes.

- **Community: instruments to study:**  
social networks - relations between people and households in and beyond the locality  
community organisations – ‘modern’ and ‘traditional’  
community cultural structures (values, norms, narratives etc) and their contestation
- **Country: secondary sources to map:**  
the communities in wider structures (sampling issues here)  
the historically-situated wider political economy, especially inequality and therefore poverty  
cultural structures, especially the implications of diversity  
the policy regime
- **Beyond: outside influences and players who have affected the lives, household and communities of the people studied in-depth**

Throughout the aim is to link the levels of study to understand how people fit in their households, how these fit into their communities, and how the communities fit into wider structures.

### **Application of research instruments**

**My view of what we will do.**

**People:**

**We want to explore the objective needs and subjective quality of life of people of both sexes and all ages from babyhood, through childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, mature adulthood and old age. We will select purposively from our household sample.**

**Households:**

**We will select these randomly from within the communities to cover all wealth statuses.**

**Communities:**

**These will be selected so that they are not unrepresentative (i.e. outliers); but in diverse conditions it is impossible to select 4 to 6 communities to represent a whole country. One idea is to select those that might assist in informing relevant country issues and policies.**