

CONTRIBUTORS

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Born in Somalia, **Yasīn Garad** migrated to the United States as a teenager and received a Bachelor of Science degree and a Masters in Public Health from the University of Minnesota. He is now actively involved in the Twin Cities social services community, providing resources to new immigrants.

Shannon Golden is a Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology at the University of Minnesota. Her dissertation research explores post-conflict community reconstruction in northern Uganda. She is interested in issues of migration, human rights, and building social solidarity.

Bashir Goth is a Somali poet, journalist, and corporate communications professional. He is also the first Somali blogger, a freelance writer, and a former editor and co-founder of a Somali news website. With a B.A. in English Literature and History from Lafole College of Education, Somali National University (1979), he is the author of numerous cultural, religious, and political articles. He is also a regular contributor to major Middle Eastern and African newspapers and online journals. A social activist and staunch supporter of women's rights, he is an advocate of community-development projects, particularly in the fields of education and culture. You can access the following sites for more details of him and some his works:

<http://www.strategicforesight.com/iwforum/bashirgoth.htm>

http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/postglobal/bashir_goth/archives.html

<http://www.onlineopinion.com.au/author.asp?id=4006>

<http://hanua.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.poemhunter.com/bashir-goth/>

Laura Hammond is Senior Lecturer in Development Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. She is Convenor of the MSc Programme in Migration, Mobility and Development. Hammond has taught at the University of Reading, University of Sussex, and Clark University. Holding a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, she has worked on issues relating to forced migration, diasporas, food security, conflict, and development in the Horn of Africa since 1993, and lived in Ethiopia and Somalia from 1993 to 1999. She is the author of *This Place Will Become Home: Refugee Repatriation to Ethiopia* (2004).

Joe Darwin Palmer received a Ph.D. at the University of Michigan in 1969 in English Language and Literature. He is Professor Emeritus of Applied Linguistics at Concordia University, Montréal, Canada. Dr. Palmer was part of the team of teachers from Eastern Michigan University that started the National Teacher Education Center near Afgoi, Somalia.

Abdi Ismail Samatar is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Geography at the University of Minnesota. He is the author of *Botswana: An African Miracle* (2000) and, more recently, “Ethiopian Invasion, U.S. Warlordism, and African Union Shame” in *African Political Economy* (2007) and “Somalia: Back to the Future” in *BBC Focus on Africa* (2008).

John P. Slight has a B.A. and M.Phil. in History from Cambridge University, and studied Arabic in Cairo. He is currently finishing his Ph.D., also at Cambridge, entitled, “The British Empire and the Hajj, 1856–1956.”

Raised with a nomadic upbringing, **Ahmed Ismail Yusuf’s** short stories have appeared in *Bildhaan: An International Journal of Somali Studies* and *Mizna*, an Arab-American literary magazine. His academic papers are available in the *Journal of Muslim Mental Health; Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*; and the *International Society for Traumatic-Stress Studies*. He has also produced scripts for plays on Somali television and articles and reviews on several Somali websites. Yusuf has a B.S. in Creative Writing and Psychology from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, and a Master of Public Affairs from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.