

Yohannes G. Hailu, Michigan State University

Dr. Hailu is an eclectic scholar who actively engages in public policy analysis and decision supports, and leads a policy research program, with the goal of enhancing strategic decision making in economic development. His works mainly focus on policy issues in Resource and Environmental Economics and Regional Science. As Associate Director of Policy Research at the Land Policy Institute of Michigan State University, he has led numerous policy studies in urban and regional development, regional prosperity, place policy in the “new economy”, renewable energy development, and land use policy; many of which have informed policy choices in Michigan. In this capacity, he also engages the policy community in Michigan through dissemination of contemporary knowledge on economic development, through legislative seminars and community outreach.

As a dedicated land grant university scholar, Dr. Hailu promotes the use of economic science in informing policy choices in Michigan, including the choice of effective renewable energy policies to spur the renewable energy industry, economic development strategies to revitalize the Michigan economy, land use policies that enhance efficient use of land resources, and competition for the attraction of talent, population and other “critical” assets as a strategy for regional economic development. His recent intellectual contributions deal with structural unemployment and poverty issues in manufacturing states that are related to the speed of economic transition to the emerging “new economy.” He explores the implications of these changes to America’s middle class.

Dr. Hailu is the recipient of numerous research and service awards, including the Thomas F. Torries award for research excellence. He is also invited to speak in numerous professional associations and policy organizations on economic development policies. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Finance from the University of Asmara, Eritrea, as well as a Master’s and Ph.D. degrees in Natural Resources and Regional Economics from West Virginia University. He is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at Michigan State University. Prior to his affiliation with Michigan State University, he was an Assistant Professor of Economics at West Liberty University. He also served as Public Debt and External Assistance Officer at the Ministry of Finance in Eritrea.