Research Visit to Ethiopia in Pictures
16 October – 12 November 2012

Locations Visited: Shimelba, Mai Ayni, and Adi Harush refugee camps in Tigray; Shire town; and the capital city Addis Ababa.

* All photographs are credited to Feinstein International Center, Tufts University, October – November 2012.

Shimelba refugee camp, Northern Tigray, was established in 2004 and is home to around 6,500 Eritrean refugees. Shimelba refugee camp. 21 October 2012.
Shire, a city in Northern Tigray, is home to government offices and international aid organizations such as UNHCR, IOM and IRC. The city is a transit for Eritreans who are traveling to Humera, an Ethiopian border town from where they cross the Tekeze river into Hamedelt, Eastern Sudan. Shire. 21 October 2012.

A Kunama refugee family. Shimelba refugee camp. 22 October 2012.
A Kunama home, Shimelba refugee camp. 22 October 2012.

An IRC water point open for a few hours in the morning and the afternoon. Shimelba refugee camp. 22 October 2012.
A Kunama refugee transports mud-brick stones that he collected from a deserted house. The owners of the house were resettled to the United States in the group-resettlement programme. Shimelba refugee camp. 22 October 2012.

A Tigrinya refugee family. After years the family is still waiting to be called by IOM for the second interview. Shimelba refugee camp. 23 October 2012.
The road from Shire to May Aini and Adi Harush refugee camps. Northern Tigray. 23 October 2012.

Tekeze checkpoint between the city of Shire and the road to May Aini and Adi Harush refugee camps. Northern Tigray. 23 October 2012.
Inside a refugee home. May Aini refugee camp. 26 October 2012.

May Aini refugee camp, established in May 2009 is home to around 15,000 Eritrean refugees including 1,200 unaccompanied minors. May Aini refugee camp. 26 October 2012.
Eritrean youth protect themselves from the sun with umbrella’s. May Aini refugee camp. 29 October 2012.

A tailor shop. May Aini refugee camp. 29 October 2012.

Adi Harush, established in 2010, has 20,881 registered Eritrean refugees, however the camp is scarcely populated. Many refugees continued their secondary movement, others reside in Mai Ayni or urban areas in Ethiopia. Adi Harush refugee camp. 3 November 2012.
Bakery where Bani traditional Eritrean bread is prepared and sold. Adi Harush refugee camp. 3 November 2012.

Mud-brick house with outside kitchen. The houses were built by the refugee themselves. The UNHCR provides newcomers with a tent as seen in the pictures above. Adi Harush refugee camp. 4 November 2012.

Road to Sudan from the back of May Aini refugee camp. Travelers who cannot afford the journey by bus walk from the refugee camp to the Sudanese border in and about nine days facing many dangers along the way. May Aini refugee camp. 5 November 2012.
Official checkpoint on the way to Humera, a border town from where Eritrean refugees cross the Tekeze river into Sudan. Officials at the checkpoint are bribed by smugglers to give the illegal travelers free passage. Tigray Region. 8 November 2012.

The route that Eritrean refugees take by foot from Humera to the Tekeze river. Tigray region. 9 November 2012.
Tekeze river, Eritrean refugees cross the river into Sudan at night with the help of local 'swimmers'. The crossing of the Tekeze river is not without dangers. Numerous Eritrean refugees drown in the river or were eaten by crocodiles. Dima. 9 November 2012

During the night Eritrean refugees illegally cross into Sudan, during the day there is a buzzing trade between Ethiopia and Sudan. Boats loaded with goods were moving back and forth between the two countries. Dima. 9 November 2012.