Bleak prospects: young men, sexuality and HIV/AIDS in an Ethiopian town
Tadele, G.

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: http://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.
# Table of contents

Acknowledgements ix  
Summary xi  
Samenvatting xv  
**Part I: Background**  
Introduction: Sexual polemics 1  
   The puzzle 1  
   ‘Barren waste land’: Anthropology and the study of sexuality and HIV/AIDS 2  
   Sexuality and HIV/AIDS research in Ethiopia 3  
   Young people and HIV/AIDS research 4  
   Political economy approach to the study of sexuality and HIV/AIDS 6  
   Research questions and objectives 8  
   Methods and sources 9  
Focus 9  
Profile of the participants 11  
Data collection techniques 12  
   Focus group discussions (FGDs) 12  
   In-depth interviews 13  
   Observation 13  
   Questionnaire 13  
Data processing and analysis 14  
Looking back: Reflections on the fieldwork 14  
Outline 16  

**Dessie and Ethiopia: Romanticism and poverty** 17  
   Ethiopian Context 17  
   The predicament of Ethiopian youth 22  
   Dessie 23  
History 23  
   Environment and population 24  
   Social services and infrastructure 25  
   Economic activities 27  
   The predicament of Dessian youth 28  
Romantics: Sexuality and HIV/AIDS in Dessie 30  
Conclusion 31  

**Part II: Love and sexuality**  
The Scarcity of love and money: A rhetoric of complaint 35  
   Love, relationships, and money among school pupils 37  
   ‘Fighting the war’: Negotiating love among school pupils 42  
   Negotiation or coercion? 45  
   ‘Being Listro, No girlfriend’: Love and relationships among male street youths 45  
   Conclusion 48  
Sexuality, marriage, and religion: Moralistic views and double standards 51  
   A bit of history 52  
   Marriage: A distant dream 53  
   An ideal partner 56
"Virginity and smallpox disappeared long ago": Premarital sex among male school students 58
‘A pretext for sex’: Religion, religiosity, and sexuality 62
Conclusion 65

‘Normal’ and ‘abnormal’: Sexual practices 69
‘Normal’ versus ‘abnormal’ sexual positions 71
Sex from beginning to end 75
Multiple-partner Sex 77
‘Group sex’ 80
‘Ferengis’ things’: Oral and anal sex, and pornographic films 83
Masturbation 87
‘Dirty’: Perceptions of homosexuality 90
Conclusion 93

Part III: HIV/AIDS
‘Fire and shoes’: Surviving in a world with HIV/AIDS and condoms 99
Local perceptions of HIV/AIDS 100
Sent-disease narrative: Listening to an AIDS patient 100
‘Fruits of compounded sin’ 103
Amenmin 105
Primate origin 105
Metaphors for HIV/AIDS 106
Level of awareness about HIV/AIDS 108
‘Sex as a fire and condom as a shoe’ 111
Why young people do not use condoms 112
Lack of confidence/conspiracy 112
Lack of know-how 114
Reduced pleasure 114
Metaphors and shame 115
Trust, mistrust, and gender inequality 117
‘Fig leaves’ 119
‘Inducing promiscuity’ 120
Conclusion 121

‘We are overwhelmed by worry’: HIV/AIDS and other plights 125
Worries and concerns 127
Worries and concerns of street youths 127
Worries and concerns of school students 129
Making sense of poverty in everyday life 132
Grappling with identity and ending up HIV-positive: the case of Bedelu 136
Conclusion 139

‘Boring’: Perceptions of HIV/AIDS interventions 141
HIV/AIDS prevention in Ethiopia 142
Perceptions of the ABC prevention paradigm 144
Obstacles and challenges surrounding intervention programmes 149
Absence of sex education in schools 149
Lack of coordination 151
Limited management and insufficient financial resources 151
Lack of political will 153
Conclusion 154

Conclusion: Bleak prospects 157
How do young people understand and express sexuality and HIV/AIDS in their daily lives? 158
How are poverty and other structural factors linked to young people’s sexuality and HIV/AIDS? 163
How do young people and key informants receive, interpret, and evaluate ongoing interventions? 165
What can be done? 171
Bleak prospects 171

Glossary 173
Acronyms 179
Appendix A: Questionnaire 181
Appendix B: Selected survey results 185
Appendix C: Map of the study Area 185
Appendix D: List of Photographs 193
References 199