

PROPOSAL: DECENTRALIZATION AND DIVERSITY IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

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We distinguish between vertical decentralization, when, whether via deconcentration, delegation or devolution, the central government relinquishes some resources and/or decision-making to local bodies, and horizontal decentralization, when the central finance ministry shifts some decision-making to the line ministries, e.g. health and education, and the executive branch shifts some power to the legislative and judicial branches of government, an aspect of democratization. The effects of these two types of decentralization on conflict among contending ethnic groups and their ability to agree on public goods is a main focus of the research.

The work will entail literature reviews and requires analytical ability to deal with the subject in both its qualitative and quantitative dimensions.