

# **The Black Social Economy in Germany: A Study of ROSCAs by Ethiopian Immigrants**

An Abstract of the Thesis By  
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The purpose of this study was to examine the ROSCAs (Equubs) of Ethiopian immigrants in Germany in relation to the idea of the Black social economy. To do so, I used a qualitative study design in which data were collected through thorough semi-structured interviews with eight individual participants from eight different Equubs found in Berlin and Munich. Based on the collected data, I thematically classified and discussed the characteristics of the Equubs in terms of their age, nature of membership, organization, money, reasons for existence, and relation with other sectors. I also demonstrated how the characteristics of the Equubs signify the features of the Black social economy. Accordingly, I concluded that these Equubs are excellent examples of the Black social economy. The Equubs provided an alternative form of financing and showed that there are possibilities of noncapitalist ways of financing even in the Western world.

Keywords: Black social economy, diverse economies, Equub, Ethiopian immigrants, finance, Germany, People of African Descent, racial capitalism, ROSCA, social economy