Propositions

1. Rural youth in the highland parts of Ethiopia face increasing difficulties in gaining access to agricultural land because of land shortages and insufficient alternative employment opportunities.
2. Seasonal out-migration helps rural households to cope with the increasing problems regarding access to agricultural land.
3. Land contestations and conflicts do not necessarily emerge due to land scarcity *per se.* They must be seen in the context of the increased value of land, the overall land governance system and the specific political economy of local governance.
4. Tenure insecurity is structurally embedded in peasant-state relations. The problem of tenure insecurity can mainly be addressed when the structural cause of insecurity – the subordination of the peasantry to the state – is addressed.
5. Ensuring effective land governance that improves tenure security and resolves many of the conflicts that arise over land are as much political challenges as they are administrative and technical.
6. The lack of tenure security may not inevitably lead to a decline in investments in land and the correlation between land tenure and land conservation practices is not necessarily unidirectional. There might well be reversed causality.
7. The recent and ongoing large-scale land acquisitions in Ethiopia have primarily been driven by the state.
8. Local resistance strategies against large-scale land acquisitions and investors' capacity to enforce their claims to land vary depending on the state's presence, level of authority and its legitimacy.
9. The recent large-scale land acquisitions taking place in many African countries may provoke contestations and changes in power relationships within and between state and society that have important implications for land rights and livelihoods of poor rural groups.
10. Who to interview within the household is crucial in a household survey. The best strategy is to include as many members of the household in the interviews as possible.
11. The idea behind development research is not simply to understand development concerns and problems but to contribute to changing them.