

Contact

www.linkedin.com/in/aaberhe
(LinkedIn)
www.aaberhe.com (Personal)

Top Skills

Soil Science
Biogeochemistry
Environmental Science

Languages

Tigrinya
Amharic
English

Honors-Awards

Elected member, National
Academies of Engineering
Fellow, American Geophysical Union
Fellow, Geological Society of
America
African Genius Award

Publications

Impact of fire on active layer and
permafrost microbial communities
and metagenomes in an upland
Alaskan boreal forest

Asmeret Asefaw Berhe

Professor of Soil biogeochemistry and Falasco Chair in Earth
Sciences and Geology | Former Director, DOE Office of Science
(Senate confirmed Presidential Appointee)
Merced, California, United States

Summary

I am a terrestrial biogeochemist. In my research group, we generally work on three major research areas in soil biogeochemistry investigating the effects of physical perturbations in the environment on soil organic matter (SOM) dynamics. The overall goal of my work is better integration of biogeochemical and geomorphological approaches to derive improved representation of mechanisms that regulate organic matter (OM) persistence in the soil system. I focus a large portion of the research in my lab towards dynamic landscapes because most of the terrestrial biosphere is dominated by sloping landscapes where biogeochemical cycling of essential elements is controlled by interaction of geomorphic, pedogenic, and ecological processes that shape the landscapes. Furthermore, in our work we try to gain better understanding of the dynamic and two-way relationship of human beings with the soil system.

Specialties: Soil Science
Biogeochemistry
Global Change

Experience

University of California, Merced
15 years 11 months

Professor of Soil Biogeochemistry, and Falasco Chair in Earth Sciences
July 2019 - Present (5 years 5 months)

Interim Associate Dean of the Graduate Division
2020 - 2022 (2 years)
Merced, California, United States

Associate Professor
July 2014 - June 2019 (5 years)
Merced, California

Assistant Professor
January 2009 - June 2014 (5 years 6 months)

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
Director, Office of Science (Senate confirmed Presidential Appointee)
2022 - 2024 (2 years)

University of California, Davis
President's Postdoctoral Scholar
2008 - 2008 (less than a year)

University of California, Berkeley
President's Postdoctoral Fellow
2006 - 2008 (2 years)

Education

University of California, Berkeley
Ph.D., Environmental Science, Policy, and Management · (2000 - 2006)

Michigan State University
M.Sc, Resource Development (Political Ecology) · (1999 - 2000)

University of Asmara
Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.), Soil and Water Conservation · (1991 - 1996)

Comboni