

2018 DevNet Aotearoa Conference **Disruption and Renewal**

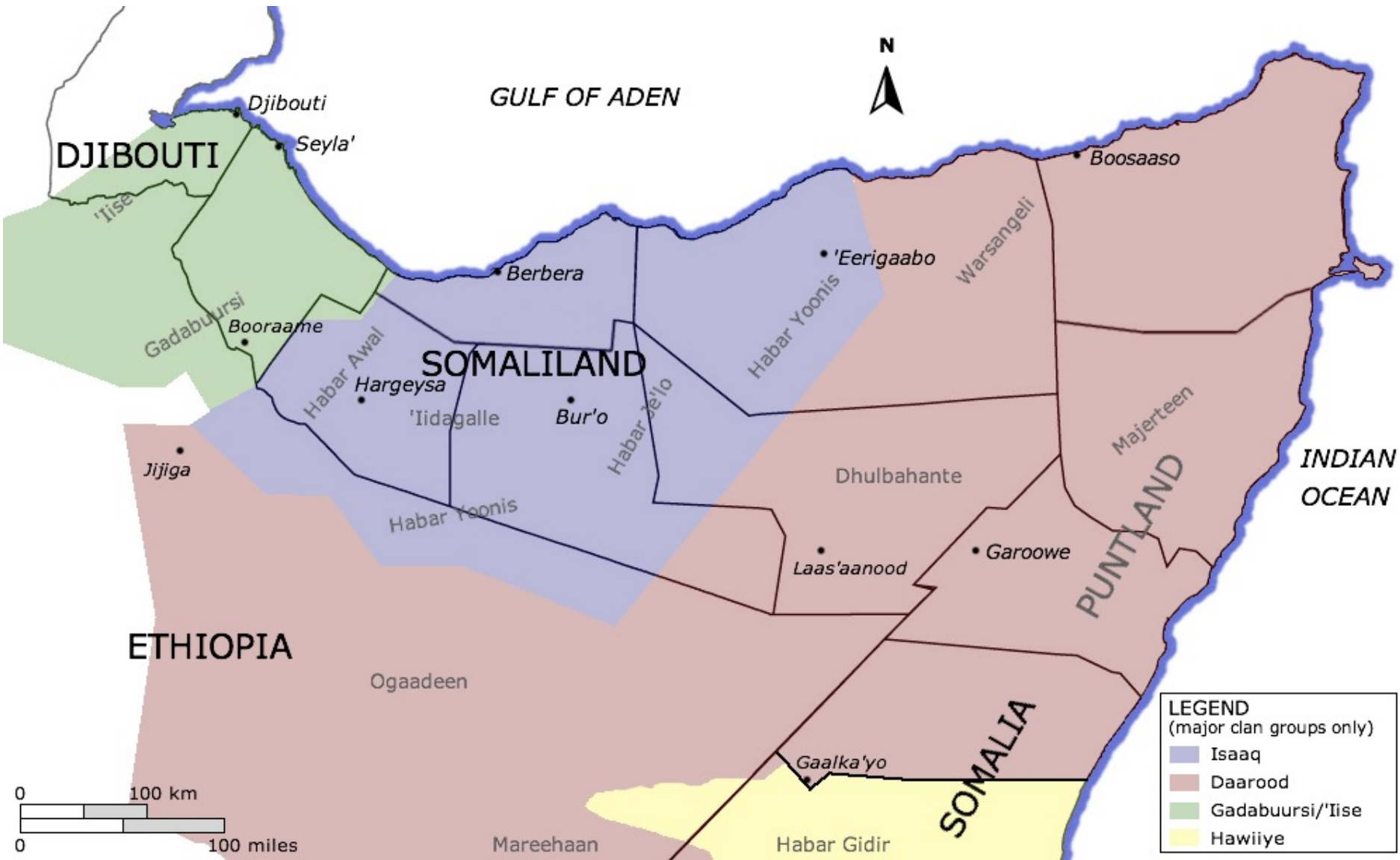
Political disruption and renewal in Somaliland:
Transition from a discursive politics to electoral representation

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Disillusion with 'clannist' politics

*Democracy was intended to **eliminate tribalism** and be an alternative to the clan politics but you see it only ignited it further. It has turned into an effective tool for spreading tribalism [...] Political parties, elections and democracy have all been misunderstood and misused to the point that they have **heightened tribalism** to new heights we have never seen before (male 61–70, private sector, no formal education, Sanaag - emphasis added)*

Walls, M., M.-L. Schueller, and A.-B. Ekman, 2017, 'Political Settlement in Somaliland: a gendered perspective', *Research report, ESRC-DFID Joint Fund for Poverty*(March) London: UCL/Progressio): 59

Tribalism strengthened by representative system

*It is not the clans that are getting more dominant but it is tribalism that is on the rise, and I think **the rise of tribalism has a lot to do with democracy and the multi-party system** we have chosen, you see it has become a sort of weapon for the elders, now it is harder for women to come in. If a woman wants to compete in elections, everyone will disown her, her blood clan will say, you don't represent us, you belong to the clan you are married to and the clan she is married to will say you belong to the clan you are from*

(male, civil society, Maroodi Jeex - emphasis added)

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