



Afrofuturism in Eswatini: A Lens on African Futures

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Abstract

Eswatini, also known as Swaziland, is a small country in southern Africa with a rich cultural heritage and complex social dynamics. Afrofuturism, a contemporary artistic movement that explores African identity through science fiction narratives, has gained traction globally. This article focuses on how this lens can be applied to understand future developments in Eswatini. The research employs a survey methodology, gathering data through online questionnaires distributed among artists, cultural institutions, and policy makers. The sample size includes over 150 respondents from various sectors of society. A significant proportion (42%) of the respondents identified Afrofuturism as a relevant framework for envisioning future developments in Eswatini's social and cultural landscape, highlighting themes such as environmental sustainability and technological advancement. The findings suggest that Afrofuturism can serve as an effective tool for engaging diverse stakeholders in discussions about potential futures. This research contributes to the field by offering a fresh perspective on understanding African futures through artistic lenses. Future studies should consider integrating Afrofuturist perspectives into broader socio-economic planning frameworks and educational curricula, promoting cross-disciplinary collaboration and fostering innovative solutions for sustainable development.

Keywords: *African diaspora, Afrofuturism, Critical race theory, Postcolonial studies, Vernacular knowledge systems, Cultural syncretism, Futurity studies*

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