



Afrofuturism as a Lens to Understand African Futures in São Tomé and Príncipe

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Published: 12 February 2012 | **Received:** 23 August 2011 | **Accepted:** 21 December 2011

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18974217](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18974217)

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Abstract

São Tomé and Príncipe is an archipelago nation in the Gulf of Guinea, where Afrofuturism—a cultural movement that blends African heritage with science fiction—has gained traction as a tool for envisioning future narratives. The research employs qualitative methods including interviews with key stakeholders such as policymakers, artists, and academics. Data is collected through semi-structured discussions that delve into participants' visions for their country's future in relation to Afrofuturist themes. A significant finding is the predominance of themes related to environmental sustainability and economic empowerment within participants' visions of the African future, reflecting a collective desire for positive change despite challenges. Afrofuturism emerges as a powerful framework for conceptualizing African futures in São Tomé and Príncipe, offering insights into societal aspirations and technological innovations that align with cultural identity. Policy makers should consider incorporating Afrofuturist themes into development strategies to foster inclusive growth and address current socio-economic issues.

Keywords: *African diaspora, Futurism, Postcolonial theory, Cultural studies, Diasporic identity, African modernity, Science fiction literature*

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