



Afrofuturism and Beninese Perspectives on African Futures

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Abstract

Afrofuturism is a contemporary cultural movement that explores African identity through science fiction and speculative narratives. In Benin, this lens has been applied to discuss visions of future societies. The study employs qualitative content analysis on Afrofuturist fiction, academic discourse, and public policy documents from Benin. Interviews with key stakeholders were also conducted to gather insights into contemporary perceptions of African futures in Beninese society. Themes of technological advancement and environmental sustainability emerged as prominent in Afrofuturist works and discussions regarding the future of Benin. There was a notable proportion (35%) of content that critiqued existing power structures, indicating the movement's critical engagement with current realities. The analysis reveals how Afrofuturism in Benin provides nuanced insights into societal aspirations and critiques through speculative narratives and policy interventions. Future research could explore how Afrofuturist movements influence public discourse on African futures across other francophone countries, potentially informing broader discussions of identity and progress. Afrofuturism, Benin, Speculative fiction, Public discourse, Societal aspirations

Keywords: *African diaspora, Africology, postcolonial theory, speculative fiction, cultural studies, migration studies, identity politics*

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