



Youth Identity and Political Participation in Urban Africa: A Theoretical Framework

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Published: 15 June 2006 | **Received:** 18 February 2006 | **Accepted:** 19 April 2006

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18828185](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18828185)

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Abstract

Youth identity in urban Africa is a critical area of study within African Studies, particularly in South Africa where youth populations are significant contributors to social and economic development. This theoretical framework article will employ a qualitative analysis approach to review existing literature on youth identity and political participation, synthesizing insights from various disciplines including sociology, psychology, and political science. The study will also draw upon case studies of urban African communities in South Africa for illustrative purposes. This theoretical framework provides a robust conceptual model for understanding the relationship between youth identity and political participation among young people in urban Africa, offering insights into potential strategies to foster more inclusive democratic processes. Future research should focus on empirical validation of this theoretical model through longitudinal studies that track changes in youth identity over time. Additionally, policy recommendations could include initiatives aimed at strengthening cultural preservation efforts within marginalized communities and promoting economic opportunities for young people.

Keywords: *Africanization, Diaspora, Ethnography, Identity Politics, Multiculturalism, Postcolonial Theory, Urban Sociology*

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