



Afrofuturism in Malawi: An Ethnographic Exploration of African Futures

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Abstract

Afrofuturism refers to a cultural movement that explores and imagines alternative futures for African peoples and cultures by drawing on science fiction, Afrocentric aesthetics, and digital technologies. An ethnographic study was conducted through participant observation, interviews, and focus groups with individuals from various sectors including government officials, artists, academics, and community leaders. Participants articulated a range of futurist visions that incorporate traditional practices alongside modern innovations. For instance, one interviewee proposed integrating solar energy into traditional healers' practices to improve access to healthcare in rural areas. Afrofuturism offers a nuanced framework for understanding the complex interplay between tradition and progress in Malawi's social fabric. Policy makers should consider incorporating Afrofuturist perspectives into development strategies, while artists can use these visions to advocate for inclusive futures that honor cultural heritage.

Keywords: *African diaspora, Afrocentric, digital anthropology, futurism, speculative ethnography, technoculture, urbanization*

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