



AfroEuropeans: Black Cultures and Identities in Europe Sixth biennial network conference

University of Tampere, Finland, 6 - 8 July 2017

Call for papers:

Deadline for online submissions for individual papers (max. 300 words including the title) is **25 February 2017**.

General information on the conference and the complete list of sessions are available at this link:

<http://www.uta.fi/yky/en/6thafroEuropeans/callforpapers.html>

SESSION 8: "AFROEUROPEAN MODES OF SELF-DEFINITION: BLACKNESS, AFRICANNESS AND EUROPEANNESS IN THE MAKING"

Convenors

Marleen de Witte (University of Amsterdam)

Serena Scarabello (University of Padova)

Abstract

This panel aims at contributing to the analysis of the emergence of AfroEurope by investigating the circulation, and intersection, of categories of Blackness and Africanness, in everyday discourses and social practices. Taking Blackness and Africanness as categories of practice rather than categories of analysis, we focus on how these notions are made and unmade, connected or dis-connected, appropriated or refused, adopted or deconstructed in social interaction and evolving biographies. This politics of self-definition becomes particularly urgent for youth born and/or raised in Europe, but confronted with intensifying practices and discourses of exclusion from Europe and Europeaness. It is in this context that we seek to explore the current revival of the Afro prefix among young generations of African-descended people across Europe.

AfroEuropean youth politics of self-definition are situated at different spatial levels: the level of circulation of categories across the Black Atlantic, the European level of an increasing awareness of AfroEuropeaness, the national level of specific colonial histories and racial

formations, and the local level of everyday interaction. Indeed, something new is happening at the European level, especially among young generations that establish pan-European networks through which to carve out the Europeanness of the African diaspora as well as the Africanness of Europe. This pan-European process is informed by the global circulation of categories of difference and belonging and embedded in local specificities.

We invite papers that analyse this intersection from different European countries. The questions we seek to answer are when and how notions of Blackness, Africanness, Europeanness emerge and become important (or cease to be so) in individual biographies and subject formations and/or in collective practices and social dynamics. When and how do national or ethnic identifications (e.g. Italian, Ghanaian, Asante) become relevant, and when and how do youth transcend these differences and redefine and hyphenate categories of belonging?