

SOSANT2120

Assignments for postponed take home exam Autumn semester 2019

Information

Please read the exam regulations before you start writing your exam paper.

You may submit your response in English, Norwegian, Swedish or Danish.

You must submit your paper as a **pdf file** in Inspira before the announced deadline.

The exam results will be published in the StudentWeb no later than three weeks after the exam.

Best of luck!

Assignments

FOR ALL QUESTIONS:

- You must thoroughly use 4 texts from the reading list. (You are welcome to use more.)
- You can draw on other readings and sources, news items, film and music to make your paper stronger, but with at least the stipulated number of reading list texts.
- Discussion questions require that you have a viewpoint that you argue well for and balance against other possible positions.
- Remember to place texts in their historical context and in relation to each other.

Answer one of the following five questions:

1. African anthropologists understand Africa better than Africanist anthropologists do. Critically discuss the pros and cons of this argument, also in the light of the discipline's history.
2. African politics and society, long considered 'backward' or 'catching up' on 'the west', helps us to understand global futures rather than universal pasts.

Discuss different ways in which anthropologists might study Africa as a site of the future.

3. The 1990s idea of 'multiple modernities' is helpful to overcome the reductionist teleological implication of western modernisation theory and better understand contemporary, post-colonial Africa. Discuss critically the pros and cons of this argument, exploring different ways anthropology has engaged with modernity.
4. Discuss the role of the imagination – 'fantasy', 'fiction', 'spectre' – in early 21st century, post-neoliberal Africa, with particular emphasis on the African city.
5. Watch Filip de Boek's film 'The Tower' (<https://vimeo.com/183847738>; password: utopia). What can we learn from it about the Congolese/African present, past and future? Furthermore, does it make a useful contribution to Africanist anthropology?