



On the return to humanity: A case for Africanisation

BLESSING CHAPFIKA, PH.D.

UNIVERSITY OF HULL

African ontology and humanism

- ▶ Physicalism/Materialism = Metaphysics of corporeality.
- ▶ Unity in nature (human & spiritual beings, environment).
- ▶ Connectedness of being = naturalism & holism.
- ▶ Communalistic and egalitarian ethic.
- ▶ Being is being together = I'm my brother's keeper.
- ▶ "I am because we are; since we are, therefore, I am."
(J.S. Mbiti – African philosopher and theologian).

Slavery and colonisation

- ▶ European expansionist project = Dualistic metaphysics (disjunction)
- ▶ Theoretical basis: rationalist and empiricist foundationalism.
- ▶ Eurocentrism = The particular masquerading as the universal
- ▶ Authoritarian exclusionism = Racial discrimination and oppression
- ▶ African value displacement & European value superimposition
- ▶ African elites and the assimilation policies (French & Portuguese)
- ▶ Colonial policies; ethnographic research; religious teaching

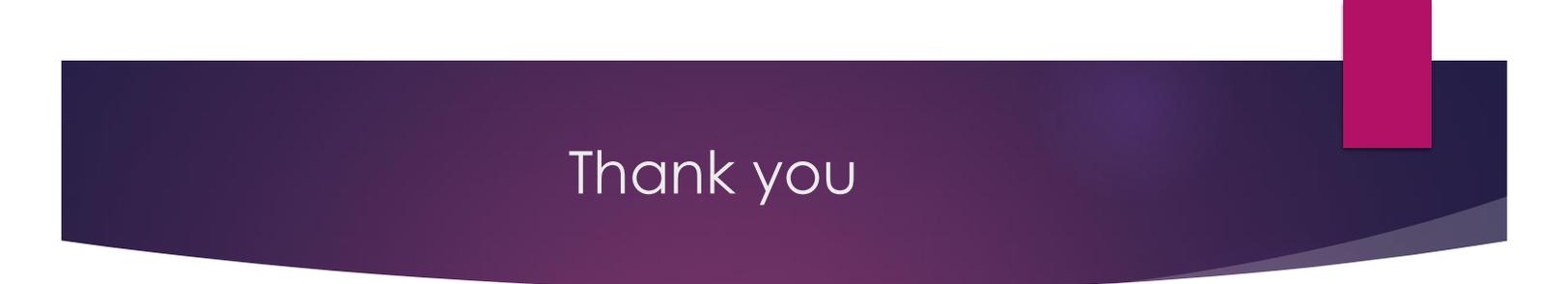
(Im)possibility of return to humanity

- ▶ Challenge: Resolving abnormal complexities of colonization.
- ▶ Wiredu (1995): “Intellectual anomaly ... utmost existential urgency.”
- ▶ Oraegbunam (2006): “a crisis of the post-colonial African identity”.
- ▶ Du Bois (2015): “Double consciousness” or “split personality.”

On the double consciousness of the African American, he writes, “One ever feels his twoness, —an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder.”

African predicament: The Question of direction

- ▶ Challenge: How to escape the gridlock of European universalism.
- ▶ Bernasconi (1997): “Double bind” – violence of inclusion/exclusion.
- ▶ Options: Authentic existence vs Borrowed consciousness.
- ▶ Afrocentrism: Going back in search for African true values.
Forget the present, return to find lost pride, & let it be the guide.
- ▶ Universalism: Going forward with universal/European values.
Forget past, refine present, & move forward with rest of the world.
- ▶ Africanisation: Dialogue that respects cultural identity and dignity.
Return to find yourself, engage with present, & shape the future.



Thank you

Blessing Chapfika, Ph.D.
University of Hull

Contact details:

B.Chapfika-2017@hull.ac.uk
Blessing.Chapfika@gmail.com