

Multiple Futures Through Time

There are “multiple futures”. These multiple futures are already an interference influenced by concrete political processes of the context they emerge from. Involved in the question of “future/s” is also a linguistic one – in this context it is particularly interesting to look at Bantu languages and the changes within languages, not only in relation to the term “future”, but also to “culture”. Mocambi-quan society has own ways of dealing with the issue of future. It would be wrong to assume a continued immobility of thought towards the future. As a journalist; I worked for the INC and was involved in its conceptualization, which directly had to do with providing images for a liberated future.

The Mozambican context is particularly interesting here: there is multilayered process of conceptualizing future in a highly political and power-related context. The concepts of future designed by a colonial power till the mid-1970s that are interrupted by the war of independence and the introduction of a socialist political system that – in a Pan-African and International socialist network – struggles for concepts of future. At the same time, local concepts of future based on time and memory conceptions in Bantu cultures enter the scene as local cultures are valorized in the nation-building. The death of Samora Machel in 1987 is a further rupture in this conceptualizing process. The civil war and the abrupt turn towards neo-liberal politics from 1992 onwards but still under the aegis of Frelimo is part of the often painful process towards a future that – in ideas and concepts – turns back to the past.

As a contribution to the Working Group "Multiple Futures Through Time" I intend to revisit the historical condition of the futures and futurity present and relevant in the INC's work, which is inseparable from the history of Mozambique. I would furthermore develop a reflective contribution to the sessions of the workgroup, particularly the workshop, which deals with the role of images and language as audiovisual productions and projections of a future to come which happened themselves in a future that had been imagined some other time. I would like to rework my works as a journalist and especially as coordinator of the "Gazeta de Artes e Letras" and the journal "Tempo". The futures conceptualized there integrated concepts of utopia, touched questions of “tradition” and “modernity” and, in retrospect but also within the time, contradicted stable images of temporality. Within iconography and iconology, this is reflected. There is always a “past future”, in the complex negotiations of the present. Future and multiple futures depend on multiple agents and agencies.

Considering my experiences and reflection as writer and editor, I see my contribution particularly in relation to question 1 and 3 posed in the call, with a focus on the question for “temporal, social, political, logical, and aesthetical dichotomies are involved in concepts of ‘future’” and the question posed: “To what extent are historical, biographical, communicative or environmental processes related to concepts of ‘future’?”

Concrete suggestions for contributions of mine would be”

- A presentation in the context of the workshop
- A image based talk about the concepts of future mentioned above
- Furthermore, as in discussion with TP5, I would like to contribute to a Working Papers series or any other form of publication of the BA in form of a visual essay.