

Rescuing Modernity: Global Heritage Assemblages and Modern Architecture in Africa

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PROPOSITIONS

accompanying the dissertation

Rescuing Modernity Global Heritage Assemblages and Modern Architecture in Africa

Maastricht, 18 October 2013

by

CHRISTOPH RAUSCH

1. UNESCO's mission to select and protect World Heritage problematizes modernity, as it constitutes both a fundamental critique of, *and* a program for, modernization.
2. Cultural heritage is best studied as human practices that may culminate in global heritage assemblages.
3. The introduction of a notion of modern architectural heritage in Africa leads to the emergence of contemporary cultural heritage practices as new global forms.
4. The presumption that modernity can effectively be rescued is either arrogant or naive.
5. Paul Rabinow's anthropology of the contemporary is a highly relevant starting point of research and reflection in the human sciences today because it helps develop modes of inquiry into actual anthropological problems.
6. In the here and now, anthropological fieldwork is not what it used to be.
7. Africa, as a category through which the world is structured, proves a well-suited place in the world for anthropological inquiry into emergent problematizations of modernity.
8. James Ferguson is right when he claims that globalization connects and networks enclaves from point to point, leaving swaths of disconnected, un-networked spaces far behind.
9. The pairing of tradition and modernity in the contemporary is enmeshed with globalized differences of status, wealth, health and mobility – differences, which sit raw and naked without legitimizing narratives of progress and development.
10. Franz Kafka's insight that all knowledge, the totality of all questions and all answers, is contained in the dog should be taken very seriously.
11. Everybody is moving, if they ain't already there, as Bob Dylan sings.