

University of Helsinki  
Social and Cultural Anthropology Visiting Seminars 2015-2016  
14:15 – 15:45 on Fridays  
Unioninkatu 35 Room 114  
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Abstract:

Waiting for emancipation: the prospects for liberal revolution in Africa  
Africa was the least densely populated and urbanized continent in 1900. Its share of world population is currently projected to be 40% in 2100. What political strategies might see Africans' global influence improve in the coming century? The twentieth century saw Africa join Childe's urban revolution at last, but presidential kleptocracy and subservience to foreign powers are an obstacle to political progress. The antidote to the Old Regime is a liberal revolution. I consider the form taken by the early modern revolutions (US, France, Italy, Germany) and ask who the classes are for and against a liberal revolution in Africa today. Mass insurgency must find partial support from large-scale capital and government. Above all, the model of national economy must give way to a greater emphasis on regional trade federations. One major departure from current neoliberal orthodoxy is that attempts to consolidate freedom of movement within an expanded home area also require protection from powerful agents of the world market.

<https://opendemocracy.net/keith-hart/waiting-for-emancipation-prospects-for-liberal-revolution-in-africa>