

10-18-2013

## An Invitation to Debate: Envisioning an Africa-Centered Perspective, Engaging Sociological Endeavor

Nikitah O. Imani

University of Nebraska at Omaha, [nimani@unomaha.edu](mailto:nimani@unomaha.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/blackstudfacproc>

 Part of the [African American Studies Commons](#), [Multicultural Psychology Commons](#), and the [Sociology of Culture Commons](#)

Please take our feedback survey at: [https://unomaha.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8cchtFmpDyGfBLE](https://unomaha.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8cchtFmpDyGfBLE)

---

### Recommended Citation

Imani, Nikitah O., "An Invitation to Debate: Envisioning an Africa-Centered Perspective, Engaging Sociological Endeavor" (2013). *Black Studies Faculty Proceedings & Presentations*. 12.  
<https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/blackstudfacproc/12>

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Department of Black Studies at DigitalCommons@UNO. It has been accepted for inclusion in Black Studies Faculty Proceedings & Presentations by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UNO. For more information, please contact [unodigitalcommons@unomaha.edu](mailto:unodigitalcommons@unomaha.edu).



AN INVITATION TO DEBATE: ENVISIONING AN AFRICA-CENTERED  
CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE, ENGAGING SOCIOLOGICAL ENDEAVOR

Dr. Nikitah Okembe-RA Imani Professor and Chair, Department of Black  
Studies University of Nebraska-Omaha

# THE NECESSITY TO CRITIQUE THE EUROCENTRIC SOCIAL SCIENCE NARRATIVE

## General Ontological Framework

“Subjects” and “Objects”

The Hierarchy of “Control”

Dichotomization

Antagonistic Opposition

## The individualization and atomization of “Selfhood”

The ideal “self” as the unrestrained “ego.”

The notion of the collective and collective identity as a constraint on the “self” and therefore “freedom.”

The “self” experiencing “selfhood” as atomization and desacralization from nature, from work, from play, from spirit and from others.

The attribution of responsibility to the “self” without the concomitant capacity of the self to construct the natural and social environment context of its actions

## The tendency to fascism

The “self” is applauded to the extent that it pursues individualistic defined “self-interest” at the expense of the common weal. Society is idealized to the extent that it in fact, constitutes and facilitates such “selves.” Thus society in this rendering functions sociopathically against the social.

The proliferation of “platonic” relationships which makes others and even society itself means to individual ends.

The “tragedy of the commons” writ large.

“the world is me”

## THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE EUROCENTRIC NARRATIVE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE INQUIRY

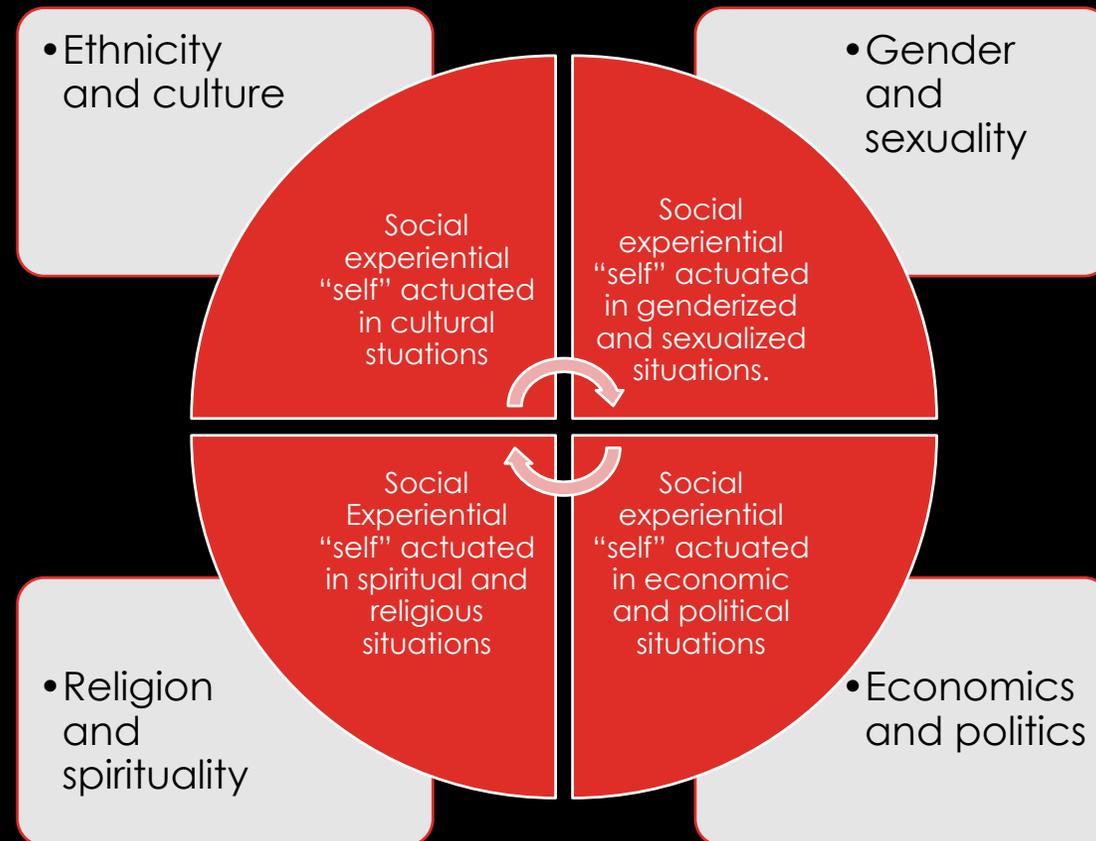
### Theoretical Objectification of Eurocentric social forms as standard

- Universal applicability
- Normality versus “deviance” or “deficiency”
- Victimological analysis –most sympathetic reading

### Application of Methodological Apparatuses to Confirm Eurocentric Forms as Standard

- Individualism
- Competition
- Rationality

# THE MATRIX OF COLLECTIVE “SELFHOOD”



# AFRICANA SOCIOLOGY AS A CURATIVE

- Not “race” based sociology, but a sociology that recognizes the culturally bound nature of social scientific inquiry
- Interrogation of “normative” standards
- De-emphasizes Eurocentric “comparative analysis.”
- Humans situated in collective social contexts that interactive construct their identity.
- Centrality of “nature”
- The re-interjection of the “spiritual.”