

**Using Eurocentric and Afro Centric Lenses to Examine,
Explain and Understand the South Africans' Attitudes towards
"Diversity and Foreignness" of Immigrants
Residing in South Africa**

S. M. Kang'ethe¹ and Vusumzi Duma²

*¹Department of Social Work and Social Development, ²Department of Sociology and
Anthropology, University of Fort Hare, Private Bag X1314, Alice 5700 South Africa
E-mail: ¹<skangethe@ufh.ac.za>, ²<VDuma@ufh.ac.za>*

KEYWORDS Xenophobia. Capitalism. Interpellation. Diversity. Transnationalization. Territorialization.

ABSTRACT This research paper is an outcome of the recent episodic waves of ill treatment, discrimination, exclusion and attacks directed to immigrant residing in South Africa. The aim of this paper is to invite attention through debates and discourse, examining the state of diversity and foreignness in South Africa using both Eurocentric and Afrocentric lenses. The paper has used dialogues and debates to understand the contribution of both Eurocentrism and Afrocentrism in explaining the current state of diversity and foreignness in contemporary South Africa. Results indicate that Eurocentric philosophies: suffer from serious epistemological and methodological flaws; largely contribute and explain the current state of attitudes towards African immigrants. Besides, they are responsible for imperialism that could be associated with xenophobia and racism; contribute to the homogenization of identity; and perpetuate differentiation and demarcation among the people. In addition, findings indicate that Afrocentrism: accentuates a common identity and humanity; promotes interconnectedness of humankind through the processes of transnationalization and territorialization. Besides, it offers a healing and an emancipatory environment. The researchers propose the world community to consider using both Eurocentrism and Afrocentrism in tandem and to advance research and scholarship that seeks endogenous explanations to attitudes against immigrants.