The Kid’s Aren’t Alright: Afro-German Afrofuturism and the Fight for Futurity

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Drawing on theoretical models culled from Black (German) studies, Afrofuturism, performance studies and queer theory, this talk will analyze examples of Black German artists’ engagement with “future-making” through fantasy and speculative science fiction. From the “Afronauts” painting cycle (1999) of visual artist, Daniel Kojo Schrade, and the poetry of Philipp Khabo Köpsell, to the prose of Sharon Dodua Otoo and the plays and performances of Olivia Wenzel and Simone Dede Ayivi, Black German artists have increasingly employed Afrofuturist tropes in order to critique Eurocentricism, uncover German racism and confront German colonialism.