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Friday Research Seminar in Africa Studies

Love is a project: desiring intimate futures in Uganda

with

Anna Baral

Researcher in Cultural Anthropology, Uppsala University

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House 3, room 2028, Engelska Parken
Thunsbergsvägen 3H, Uppsala

In the face of economic hindrances and political uncertainty, formal and socially approved marriage in Uganda is declining, replaced by new forms of partnership. The forms of personhood that marriage is supposed to fulfil and reproduce, however, remain valid – but frustrated – ideals. Where do young men and women, then, find resources to fulfil their desires in terms of love, sexuality and satisfactory livelihoods?

The project presented in this seminar is a contribution to the larger IMAGENU (Imagining Gender Futures in Uganda), led by Århus University. It proposes to look at partnerships as locus for individual and collective advancement – one kind of “development project” where resourceful relations are tuned to one’s desired futures. In particular, it looks at “otherness” and the “elsewhere” as material and symbolic resources harnessed by individuals to achieve emotional and material fulfilment.

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afrikastudier@antro.uu.se
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