



Public panel

Image: Cover of Alain Mabanckou, *Huit leçons sur l'Afrique*, 2020, Grasset

Thinking Pluralisms - #1

On Diversity in “Francophone” Literature and Culture

Prof. Alain Mabanckou, French and francophone studies, UCLA,
current visiting Prof. ETH

Prof. Dr. Nadia Mazouz, Practical philosophy, ETH

Prof. Dr. Andreas Kilcher, Literature and culture, ETH

The notion of *French Culture* seems to imply a universalistic tendency, if not the ideal of the humanism and culture of the Enlightenment. At a closer look, this ideal of *French culture* – like any homogeneous idea of culture – has not only normative but also hegemonic implications with historical and political roots. It also contradicts to what French turns out to be in practice: namely as heterogenous as diverse. The perspective of the French African language, writing and culture adds to this pluralism and turns out to be a fresh point of critical reflection of what is French Language, Literature, and Culture.



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