

Engagement in the Anti Fascist Movement and the Transnational Liberation of Minorities in the Literary Works of Langston Hughes

This paper is centered in a collection of Langston Hughes works about the American and European antifascist movement but also is an examination of race and cultural xenophobia in the United States and abroad. The literary works of Langston Hughes offer a valuable discourse for exploring concepts of community, goodness, social justice, tolerance and love and especially the reader can notice their centrality in the moral construction of literature. Hughes literary production also provides us with an extremely useful methodology for considering the function of these philosophical constructions in regard to the most fractious issues of the twentieth century, and for that matter to the new millennium. Langston Hughes works are coverage of constant racial tensions not only in American life but also abroad and especially in Europe. For instance his works could be considered as a document about race and the life of the Negroes in the United States but also highlight the importance of transnational race and how minorities abroad, and especially under fascism, are subject to oppression, segregation, racism, violence, and super-exploitation. According to Hughes, European fascists hoped to exploit the emotional appeal of xenophobia to rally the people in the name of national unity. My work addresses the innovative nature of Langston Hughes as a transnational activist and an international writer but especially he shines as an innovator of exposing and criticizing international xenophobia, fascism and nationalism. Many of his literary works are composed of male-centered nationalist characters and often explore the contradictory interplay of nationalism and xenophobia in different geographical spaces. In my paper the works of Langston Hughes will be studied through the concept of "race" or what Etienne Balibar calls "that fictive ethnicity around which nationalism is

organized” as an attempt to engage Hughes ideals with the transnational liberation of minorities.

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