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**Lessons from Africa: Reading Obama's Rainbow Nation(s)**

Drawing parallels between Obama's campaign for change and his transformation into (inter)national symbol and Nelson Mandela's iconic status and South African rainbow nation rhetoric, this paper reads Obama through Africa, examining the possibilities of an emergent post-racial discourse. In conversation with decolonial theory, I analyze Obama as a member of Fanon's national bourgeoisie and what is now being referred to as the "overclass" in the context of the United States. Moreover, locating Obama as Luo, Kenyan, and Black, I demonstrate and question how as symbol, he destabilizes these colonial, nationalist, and Pan-African subjectivities. What has shifted? How is Obama as symbol different from Mandela? What are the implications for Luos, Kenyans, and the African Diasporan community at large?