

## **Glocalisation and the Anthropology of Post-colonial Society in Africa: Some Nigerian Examples**

P-J Ezech<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Nigeria, Sociology & Anthropology, Nsukka, Nigeria

pitjazi@yahoo.com

In a globalizing world there is the need for reconciliation of the knowledge systems of pre-colonial and post-colonial Africa, or put differently the indigenous and exogenous knowledge systems. After the disruption that has been caused by slavery, Muslim/Christian proselytisation, and colonisation, African and other societies that have had similar experiences may not effectively compete in the contemporary world unless they reconcile the two knowledge systems: the local and the global. The mistake that is being made with the current efforts at globalisation is that it seems to be based on the assumption that Africa can somehow make a cultural quantum leap into the unified global system. At best, what is being witnessed is a misapplication of the acceptance of the material aspects of the new system. No progress is being made in adaptation to the epistemics that underpins or drives the new system. There is a disconnect between the knowledge systems of the old and the new systems. Knowledge being a cultural product, its increment or modification must proceed from what is already known to what is expected. The strategy that appears to be advisable is what has been termed glocalisation. Glocalisation has been described as globalisation of the local and localisation of the global. My proposition is that the two systems can be reconciled instead of attempting the impossibility of jettisoning home-grown systems that societies have been used to for millennia. The global system can make a speedier progress by incorporating the local system, and the local system may end up being stronger by adapting to the global system. I have been trying to use ethnographic models to investigate this proposition. My case studies have been the Orring and the Igbo of south-eastern Nigeria and so far my experience seems to support this position.