

## Civilisation Recast: From Africa to Asia and Beyond.

Civilisation has for many decades been a rejected concept in anthropology and sociology because of its past evolutionary and Eurocentric misuses. My reason for re-introducing it is that it will enable us to go beyond the narrow confines of time and space to which culture and society have been confined and to raise our eyes to see the relations of societies and cultures to each other on a larger scale. In this lecture I will show how we can do this without the assumption of unilinear evolution and without Euro- or any other ethnocentrism. I will explore the long term history of relations over a large area from Africa to South and East Asia and I will show how a revised concept of civilisation can help understand the processes involved.