



The inauguration of Nelson Mandela (left), and FW de Klerk visiting Soweto (right), South Africa 1994. Photo: Paul Weinberg



# Photographs in Conversation

*An International Colloquium on Living Archives*

Photography has famously served to both perpetuate and to protest the visual regimes of nationalism and colonialism, but also to imagine relations and identities differently, a visual interculturality of sorts with open-minded curiosity and open-ended outcomes. The stories in this colloquium will unfold in the context of such potentialities, assessing the world-making capacity of the photograph across national boundaries and histories, and across the changing landscape of image technologies.

Contributors explore how the custodians of photographic archives in different parts of the world face the challenges of preserving a visual heritage, and how they go about selecting and making images accessible to others both off- and online. Discussions revolve around the economic predicament and vulnerability of cultural institutions and their photographic collections, and the role such institutions often play in competing nationalisms and the politicization of memory and identity.

South Africa is our point of reference, but its photo heritage becomes part to a transnational conversation in this colloquium through the preparation of a series of online exhibitions that will juxtapose photographic works from different world regions. We aim to develop a design for such conversations in order for them to become open access resources in both research and higher education. In focus in this first encounter are visual culture and history in South Africa, Sweden and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Karlstad University, Minerva, House 12, and online on Zoom, December 10, 2021, 10.00 am – 5.30 pm

'Photographs in Conversation' is a collaboration between the universities of Karlstad and Johannesburg, the Photography Legacy Project, the Goldblatt Legacy Trust, Västerbottens museum and the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, funded by STINT – The Swedish Foundation for Internationalization of Research and Higher Education – and Karlstad University. Register by sending an email to [staffan.lofving@kau.se](mailto:staffan.lofving@kau.se) before December 8, 10.00 am.

10.00-11.00 Opening Session

Presentation, PAUL WEINBERG, the Photography Legacy Project and the University of Johannesburg, and STAFFAN LÖFVING, Karlstad University

Keynote address, HLONIPHA MOKOENA, Anthropologist and Associate Professor at WiSER – Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Keynote address, PAUL LOWE, Photographer and Professor at the London College of Communication, University of the Arts London, London

11.00-12.00 African Archives and Photography Now: Visual Stories

LINEO SEGOETE, Visual artist, curator and writer, Maseru

ALA KHEIR, Photographer and director of The Other Vision platform for education and archives, Khartoum

SYOWIA KYAMBI, Interdisciplinary artist and curator, Nairobi

12.00-13.00 Break

13.00-15.00 The Archive and the Nation: South Africa and Bosnia and Herzegovina

ELMA HASIMBEGOVIĆ, Director, the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo

PAUL LOWE, Photographer and Professor at the London College of Communication, University of the Arts London, London

LARISA KURTOVIĆ, Associate Professor of Anthropology in the School of Sociological and Anthropological Studies at the University of Ottawa, Ottawa

STEPHEN SYMONS, Historian and Postdoctoral Mellon Research Fellow, University of Pretoria, Pretoria

KYLIE THOMAS, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellow at the Netherlands Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Amsterdam

RAZIA SALEH, Director of Archive and Research at Nelson Mandela Foundation, Johannesburg

15.00-15.30 Break

15.30-17.30 Documentary Photography in South Africa and Sweden: David Goldblatt and Sune Jonsson

PAUL WEINBERG, Photographer, Archivist and Research Associate with the University of Johannesburg

NEIL DUNDAS, Senior Curator, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg

ALEXANDRA A. ELLIS, Curator and coordinator, Sune Jonsson Center for Documentary Photography, Västerbottens museum, Umeå

PETTER ENGMAN, Photographer, Västerbottens museum, Umeå

SVERKER SÖRLIN, Professor in Environmental History, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm

KERSTIN HAMILTON, PhD Candidate in Artistic Practice, University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg