

# VISUAL STUDIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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FALL 2020 EVENTS

## USC-LACMA History of Photography Seminar



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

5pm

*The Johnson Publishing Company:  
Photography, Memory and Activism*

LERONN P. BROOKS, PHD

Associate Curator, Modern and Contemporary  
Collections, Getty Research Institute

From 1942 to 2016, The Johnson Publishing Company (JPC) published twelve weekly, bi-weekly and monthly periodicals, including its flagship publications *Ebony* (1945-2016) and *Jet* (1951-2014) magazines, and a book division. Founded by John H. Johnson in Chicago, JPC publications, like the *Negro Digest* (1942-1951, 1961-1976) as well as *Ebony* and *Jet*, focused on the African American community, its culture and achievements. There is no greater, or more important, archive of twentieth-century African American life and popular culture. Considering this important history, Dr. Brooks's presentation will examine the cultural footprints of photography from *Ebony* and *Jet* (for example, David Jackson's photographs of Emmett Till which sparked the modern civil rights moment) on American popular memory and civil rights activism during the latter half of the twentieth century.

Dr. LeRonn P. Brooks is the Associate Curator for Modern and Contemporary Collections at the Getty Research Institute. Prior to working at the GRI, Dr. Brooks was an Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at Lehman College and a curator for The Racial Imaginary Institute, founded by poet and writer Claudia Rankine. His interviews, essays on African American art, and poetry have appeared in publications for *BOMB* magazine, The Studio Museum in Harlem, Socrates Sculpture Park, The Spelman Museum of Art, *Callaloo*, *The International Review of African American Art* as well as The Aperture Foundation, among others.

*Image Credit: Johnson Publishing Company  
(Ebony and Jet) Archive.*

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