

VISUAL STUDIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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FALL 2023 EVENTS

USC-LACMA History of Photography Seminar



DATE CHANGE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11
12:30-2pm PST
Zoom

Nos Images: Intersecting Colonial and African Photography in Postwar Belgian Congo

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In the wake of World War II, the colonial administration of the Belgian Congo accelerated the production of a permanent photographic service, the Centre d'information et de documentation (CID-InforCongo), which quasi centralized and monopolized all public photographic representations of the Congo for the national and international press, literature and exhibitions. These images became increasingly destined for an African viewership: the hiring of a Congolese photographer, Joseph Makula, as well as the creation of *Nos Images*, an illustrated magazine published in Ciluba, Swahili and Lingala, strove to tame the rise of independence movements. By concentrating on the alleged rise of a congenial "Belgian-Congolese community" through an iconography of kinship, this presentation examines the post-war colonial and African photography at the intersection of two usually antagonistic impulses: imperial propaganda and black modern self-imaging.

Image: Henri Goldstein for the Centre d'information et de documentation (InforCongo), ca. 1956. Archives Royal Museum for Central Africa, Belgium.

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