

VISUAL STUDIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SPRING 2025 EVENTS

Images Out of Time Seminar



From Colonial Science to Transnational Heritage: The Photographic Constellation of the Institut Français Afrique Noire

CHARLOTTE BIGG

Research Fellow, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Centre Alexandre Koyré, Paris

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

3:00-5:00pm PST

SOS 250

Readings and links for Images Out of Time events will be made available when you RSVP to vsri@usc.edu.

Charlotte Bigg will present the collaborative project PhotIFAN, which aimed at exploring and studying the photographic collections of the Institut Français d'Afrique Noire, a research institute operating in colonial West Africa between 1936 and 1960. Patterned on the Parisian Natural History Museum, it carried out and supported research and exploration in the natural, human and social sciences. One major activity was the production of photographs that are now disseminated across a wide range of locations. The project involved a collaboration between research institutions and museums in France and West Africa to explore some of the practical, epistemological and ethical questions raised by this kind of postcolonial scientific heritage.

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