



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Humanities

Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe
Lefapha la Bomo



The Department of Sociology

Invites you to a seminar on the topic

“How I Photographed Cetewayo”: Photography and the Spectacle of Exile in Colonial South Africa

Professor Hlonipha Mokoena

WISER (Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research)

University of the Witwatersrand

The photographs taken of Cetshwayo once he was exiled from his kingdom have been reproduced and reprinted several times. As representations of the “Zulu king” prior to his visit to England, they also signal the moment at which Cetshwayo became an imperial celebrity. Moreover, as the leader of the Zulu kingdom, images of Cetshwayo were used to stand in for “Zuluness” in general. This paper will examine Cetshwayo’s relationship to the camera and to the photographers who took his portraits. Since these photographs were taken after 1879, they will be read as markers of the end of Zulu autonomy while also heralding and complementing the proliferation of the image of the “Zulu warrior”. The paper aims to offer insights into how Cetshwayo and “Zulus” became photographic subjects. Specifically, the dividing line between “elites” and “commoners” seems to have been blurred by photographic practice since all “Zulu” men became, through the power of the lens, warriors and all “warriors” became Zulu through the same medium.

Date: 3 March 2016

Time: 11.00am – 12:30pm

Venue: Seminar room 19-15, 19th floor, Humanities Building

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