



HAMILTON LUGAR

SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

African Studies Program

African Studies Program Friday Colloquium Series

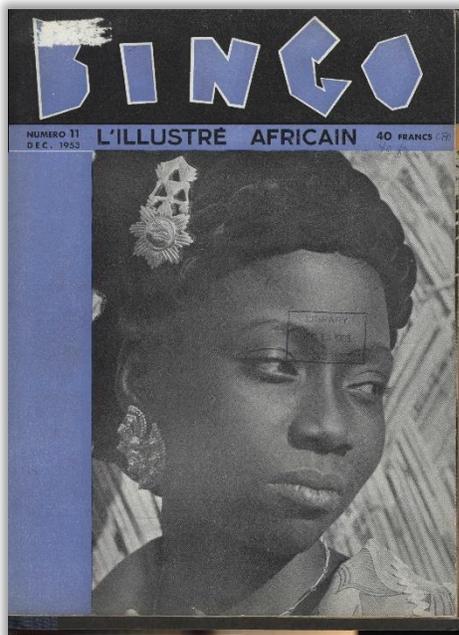
March 29, 2019 | 10:30am – 12:00pm | GA 1112



Beth Buggenhagen

Associate Professor of Anthropology at Indiana University

“From the Studio to Black Magazines: Portraiture in the Pages of Bingo Magazine in 1950s Senegal”



When the illustrated magazine, *Bingo: l'illustré africain*, first appeared on newsstands around Dakar in 1953, studio photography flourished across French West Africa. Studio photographers created and captured their sitters' aspirations during a booming economy and migration to the city. As the social contexts of the circulation of photography shifted to include illustrated black magazines, sitters began to think about themselves differently and in time, their aspirations began to shape portrait photography in Senegal. Reader submitted photographs in *Bingo* magazine show how illustrated magazines offered a new register in which what Krista Thompson calls “the politics of being seen being seen in a new light” could come into play. *Bingo* magazine was both a slice of material culture and represented desired, if unattainable, forms of material

culture from the photographs, to the phonographs, and the cameras advertised in its pages.

Biography: Beth Buggenhagen

Beth Buggenhagen writes about visual culture, value, gender, and Islam in contemporary West Africa. Her scholarly work emerges from her long-term ethnographic research in Senegal since the early 1990s. She has traced the global trade networks of Senegalese Muslims and the transmission of enduring social value through gifts of cloth and religious offerings highlighting women's participation in these global networks. She is the author of *Muslim Families in Global Senegal*, published by Indiana University Press (2012), an open access edited volume with Anne Maria Makhulu and Stephen Jackson through which she has made her work freely available to scholars on the African continent, *Hard Work, Hard Times. Global Volatility and African Subjectivities*, published by the University of California Press (2010), and numerous journal articles. Her work was awarded a research grant from The Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research and a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend.

Combining research on the popular culture of photography and work with contemporary artists in Senegal, Beth Buggenhagen awarded a faculty curatorship from the Mathers Museum of World Cultures at Indiana University and support for museum based, ethnographic, and archival research from Indiana University. She has published her research in *Visual Anthropology Review* and the top African Studies journal published by Cambridge University Press, *Africa*. She is currently working on a book, *Photography Beyond the Frame: Family Portraits in Muslim Senegal*. Adopting archival, museum, and ethnographic methods, she is researching how Muslim families create value through photographic portraiture in the West African nation of Senegal. She expands approaches to photography from the visual to the visceral showing how women and men fashion idealized images to mend fraught and fragmented lives. She traces the haptic, aural, and emotive labor is entailed in making, viewing, sharing, talking about, and keeping photographs, both digital and analog. She considers how lens based artists also push the frame of portraiture in their work. *Photography Beyond the Frame* offers a humanistic sensory based exploration of photographs and photographic practices from the early twentieth century to the present including displaying framed portraits, keeping albums, viewing magazines, posting photos on social media, and making art.