

## Colouring In the Map: Community Photo-Mapping as a Public History Method of Centering Coloured History in the Stellenbosch District - **Nina Andro** (Central European University)

The town of Stellenbosch, South Africa, is a paradox. On one hand, it is a popular tourist destination and charming university town in the heart of the Cape Winelands; on the other hand, it has an enduring reputation as the 'cradle of Apartheid' (Giliomee, 2007) and a bastion of white supremacy and racism. Since South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994, leaps and bounds have been made in the town's historiography when it comes to studying previously marginalized histories. This includes developing more detailed historiographical accounts of indigenous people in the area, slavery, and the forced removals of ca. 3500 people of colour from the town under apartheid. This research has come from both official and unofficial or community-driven initiatives (Biscombe, 2004), but only a small percentage of this information is available in the public sphere, with most of it remaining confined to academic works, factually dense books, and elite academic circles. This is due to several reasons, with the result being a continued general lack of public awareness and acknowledgement of the presence and contributions of people of colour towards the town's history and development. As a result, people of colour are still being systematically excluded from sharing in the area's heritage.

My project aims to remedy this problem by coming at it from a different approach. Through collecting visual material (sketches, photographs, newspaper adverts, etc.) depicting people of colour in the area from several local and national archives, as well as through interviews with community members and the digitization of private family archives, I am constructing an informational and interactive digital map, which will be available free of charge upon completion. The map consists of geotagged visual material and contextual information linked to the town and the farms surrounding it, allowing users to gain a visual understanding of the presence of people of colour in the various periods of Stellenbosch's history, the record of which had been systematically erased. Building upon existing scholarship on coloured identity in South Africa (Adhikari, 2005; Kamies, 2018), the completed map will allow for a deeper exploration of the concepts of coloured identity and belonging in South African spaces traditionally deemed to be 'white', such as the farms and town of Stellenbosch in the 19th

and early 20th centuries, by examining their links to historical visual culture in the vein of Kuhn (2007). This project can also be contextualised within larger ongoing debates in postcolonial societies about public history, race, discrimination, identity, and belonging, and ultimately contribute towards the ongoing efforts of reconciliation after traumatic history.