Derek Peterson

*The Unseen Archive of Idi Amin: Photographs from the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation*

Derek R. Peterson is Professor of History at the University of Michigan and a visiting fellow at the re:work Institute at Humboldt University. He's the author, most recently, of ‘Ethnic Patriotism and the East African Revival’ (2012), which won the Herskovits Prize of the African Studies Association. In 2017 he was named a MacArthur ‘Genius’ Fellow.

Idi Amin was the subject of hundreds of thousands of photographs. A team of cameramen who worked with the Ministry of Information followed Amin, taking pictures of the many occasions when he appeared before a public. For decades it was thought that the photographs were lost to posterity. In 2014, though, archivists at the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation uncovered a filing cabinet full of thousands of photographic negatives. In January 2018 Peterson and his colleagues launched a project to digitize this important collection; and in May 2019 they opened an exhibition at the Uganda Museum drawn from this much larger collection. The exhibition is entitled 'The Unseen Archive of Idi Amin: Photographs from the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation'. It is the first time that any institution in Uganda has attempted to memorialize the Amin years.

In this lecture Peterson will reconstruct the history of the photographic archive and reflect on what we can and can’t see in it. These photos were created to chronicle the achievements of the Amin government, to impose its successes on the historical record. Their task as curators has been to remind curators that behind these beautiful pictures—vibrating with energy, enthusiasm, and life—there was death, just out of sight.

The lecture will be held in English on:

**Tuesday, 12 November 2019, 4 p.m.**
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
IGK Work and Human Lifecycle in Global History
Georgenstraße 23, 6th Floor, 10117 Berlin

It will be followed by a small reception.

Please RSVP at your earliest convenience to felicitas.hentschke@asa.hu-berlin.de

For additional information, please refer to http://rework.hu-berlin.de