



Black Queer Visibility: Finding Simon

17/07/2019



The *Simon Nkoli Collective* invites you to the opening of this photographic exhibition.

The *Simon Nkoli Collective* is a partnership with the *Dean's Office - Faculty of Humanities, Centre for Sexualities, AIDS and Gender (CSA&G), Centre for Human Rights (CHR), and the Sociology Department*. The Collective's aim is to use this exhibition to open debates on transformation, social justice and ideas of memory 25 years into democracy. Moreover, the exhibition is also a celebration of the *Faculty of Humanities Centenary* through which Simon Nkoli's memory is evoked as a site for reflecting on Black queer resilience. The desire to inhabit the past through Simon's journey is to map this existence within the contradictions of (in)equality.

Why Simon: The aim is to provide an interesting and engaging introduction to the history of LGBTIQ activism rooted in Black narratives. In the excavation of the earlier narratives of black queer visibility it is difficult to overlook the much-documented life of Simon. It is undeniable that he championed many efforts. When Simon Nkoli's memory is revisited, three images are often portrayed: his anti-apartheid, HIV/AIDS, and LGBTIQ activism. Some argue that he was an internationalist. Nonetheless, Nkoli remains one of the prominent internationally celebrated South African black queers.

The photographic exhibition profiles a series of thirty images, eleven awards, one video installation and a kanga designed by Kenyan visual artist Kawira Mwirichia. The nature of the installation requires minimal narration with the material intended to solicit the participatory presence of a spectator. Visitors will absorb, critically analyse and construct for themselves the Simon they prefer.

Venue: New Student Gallery, Javett Art Centre, UP Hatfield Campus

Date: 17 July 2019

Time: 17:00

RSVPs: <https://forms.gle/pVngzH6YjS3Sgz7j6> by 15 July 2019

The programme will be led by the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, *Prof Vasu Reddy*, and speakers will include: *Prof Tawana Kupe* (UP Vice Chancellor), *Adv Gcina Malindi SC* (Victoria Mxenge Group of Advocates and Delmas treason trailist), *Pierre Brouard* (CSA&G) and *David Ikpo* (Centre for Human Rights).