

# POETIC AND PHOTOGRAPHIC PRACTICES IN THE *KIONGOZI* GERMAN EAST AFRICAN COLONIAL NEWSPAPER FROM 1885–1918

## SUBJECT

The newspaper was a place of negotiation of socially shared knowledge in the emerging culturally heterogeneous colonial society in German East Africa (Tanganyika, today's Tanzania, Burundi, and Rwanda). Newspapers are central zones of contact and emerging archives in which the migration, the entanglement, and the gradual emergence of knowledge can be traced in concrete terms. My dissertation examines two aspects, poems and photographs, as crucial sites for textual innovation, experimentation, knowledge production, and negotiation. The project aims to critically examine the role of visual and poetic representations in the colonial web of narratives, realities, and concepts of empire building.



## RESEARCH QUESTION

- HOW CAN WE LABEL OR DEFINE TEXTS WRITTEN, PRODUCED, AND CIRCULATED WITHIN A COLONIAL PRACTICE AND DISCOURSE AS A FORM OF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION?
- WHAT KIND OF GENRES DID PEOPLE EXPERIMENT WITH AS SOCIALLY SHARED KNOWLEDGE?
- HOW WAS EMPIRE BUILDING NEGOTIATED, CONSIDERING THAT IT WAS THE SUBJECT OF DIALOGUE FROM ABOVE AND BELOW AND WAS SHAPED BY BOTH AFRICAN AND COLONIAL POWERS?
- WHO WROTE IT, WHO WAS THE AUDIENCE (THE READERSHIP), AND HOW WAS IT RECEIVED?

## RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

- Africa and Africans play a significant role in shaping the discourses of the new global history of knowledge production, print, genre, and literary production.
- Aesthetic and textual codes are manifestations of the concept of empire building and colonial state building and its forms with regard to critical power constellations.