

+++Call for contributors+++

## A Digital Archive of Alternative Genders in Africa and Africa(n) Collections

This project explores how ideas about gender in African contexts were shaped by colonial history — and how African communities have always held gender identities and expressions that go far beyond the colonial categories of “man” and “woman.”

The archive brings together objects, stories, and perspectives that show the long presence of queer, non-binary, trans\*, inter, feminist/womanist, and other alternative gender expressions in African histories. Examples such as the Namibian *ekoli* instrument played by *ovashengi* („gays“) or the gender-ambiguous *mankishi* created by Luba and Songye artists, remind us that queerness has deep roots on the continent, despite narratives that claim it to be “Western” or “new.” However, it is tied to an understanding that goes beyond Western notions of queerness and therefore requires critical examination.

Our goal is to give space and voice to these histories, spark conversations, and support new storytelling. The archive connects past and present, linking precolonial queer identities with today’s LGBTIQI+ experiences and struggles. Together, we aim to imagine decolonial, queer, and trans\* futures — and rethink what queerness means in African contexts.

### Who can participate?

We welcome cultural experts, artists, researchers, heritage communities, organizations, museums, activists, and others interested in contributing. Contributions may focus on a museum artefact and its queer history, or on objects, image, or video connected to contemporary queer life on the continent and the diaspora — including themes of remembrance, community, queer ancestry, visibility, healing, spirituality, healthcare, body politics, or social inequalities.

Our team will support you throughout the process and help turn your material — text, audio, visual, or mixed — into an archive entry. Final contributions may take the form of short essays, object analyses, artistic responses, interviews, or multimodal pieces. Contributors may be based anywhere. We kindly ask you to reflect on your positionality and be aware of any limits to your knowledge. At the moment, submissions can only be accepted in English. We offer a one-time honorarium of 600 Euro.

### Timeline

- **Application deadline:** 19 February 2026
- **Response:** 28 February 2026
- **Submission of final contributions:** September 2026
- **Archive launch:** December 2026

## Not sure what to expect? Want to stay anonymous?

The archive is meant to start conversations — not to demand finished, polished work. Early ideas are welcome. You can send us:

- a short outline (150–300 words)
- a brief bio (50–100 words)
- optional sample material

We are happy to brainstorm together. Contributors will also have opportunities to meet and exchange with each other. A follow-up project is planned.

We know that queer topics can be sensitive or even dangerous in some contexts due to discrimination and criminalization. Anonymous contributions are welcome. If needed, we can work with creative forms of anonymization, including speculative storytelling.

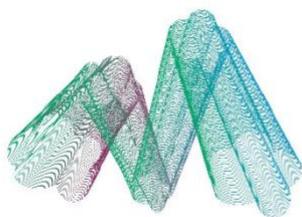
Please write to [afqueerarchives@proton.me](mailto:afqueerarchives@proton.me). We look forward to hearing from you!

## About us

We are Thsidy Kamogelo Ngoma (Gaborone), Nneoma Angela Okorie (Lagos), Noam Gramlich (Berlin), and Isabel Bredenbröcker (Berlin/Bremen). Together we bring backgrounds in community work, museum practice, queer studies, anthropology, and the arts.

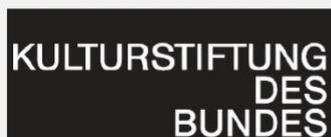
We collaborate with perfocraZe International Artist Residency (Kumasi), the Botswana National Museum (Gaborone), the University of Bremen, MARKK (Hamburg), Pitt Rivers Museum (Oxford), and AfricaMuseum (Tervuren).

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