

Preface

At the beginning of a journey you are never the same person as at the end. A stimulating conference held in Frankfurt/M. in 2012 set the stage for this project – at the time we were interested in the question “How does memory enter photography?” From the start there was a strong international presence and interest in the global dimensions of photography – including papers contributed from scholars and curators from Africa. The dialogue continued and intensified in joint research seminars in Vienna, Frankfurt and Heidelberg. These were followed by other collaborative efforts, including a workshop in Dakar in 2014 organized by Kokou Azamede and Sissy Helff and a student-led joint research project on colonial photography in Togo by Kokou Azamede and Stefanie Michels, with an exhibition in Lomé in 2016.

Ideas are not enough to produce a book – it needs dedicated work and funds. Our many thanks therefore go to the contributors for whom it proved a much longer road than initially intended – thank you for bearing with us. The assistance of Tatjana Poletajew and, in the final phase of the project, of Yagmur Karakis was most valuable. Their patience and meticulous work with the ordering, formatting and referencing of the manuscripts and photographs were fundamental to completing the book. Yagmur Karakis also added valuable comments on the content. We also appreciate the suggestions of Frank Jones regarding English language usage, structure and style.

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Sissy Helff and Stefanie Michels, Frankfurt and Düsseldorf, November 2017