

GOETHE INSTITUT

In South Africa, Zara Julius created two short video documentaries, producing careful and complex portraits that prioritise self-reflection.

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Family Matters



the Family Matters' project was carried out by seven Goethe-Institut in Angola, Burkina Faso, DRC, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda and South Africa. The content produced was mediated/created/directed by diverse individuals, each generously bringing themselves to the work and sharing their interpretation of the brief.

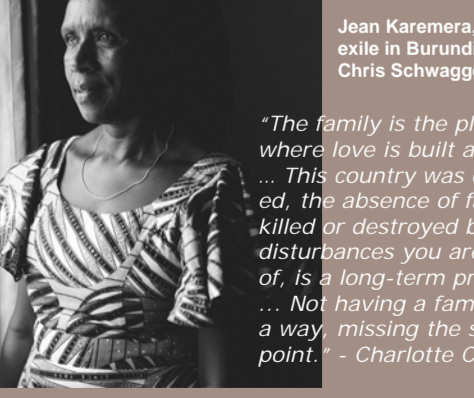
tised honest and fair depictions of the participants. In Kenya, Wanjeri Gakuru recorded audio interviews with five people, being aware all the time that they should not "carry the burden of representation", but rather stand wholly as themselves. In our mediation and presentation of this project, we hope to have followed Julius and Gakuru's lead.

In Angola and Rwanda each of the individuals interviewed was photographed alone, standing as the sole representative of the families they spoke about...

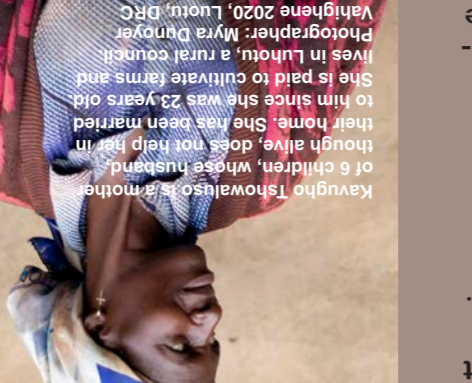
- Helen Harris and Gina Figueira
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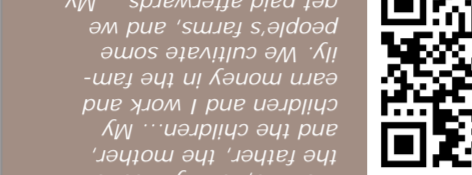
Charlotte Charité, mother, widow, a discreet woman with a strong determination for autonomy. Photographer: Chris Schwagge, 2020, Kigali, Rwanda



"I immediately agreed with the project, identifying the people to be interviewed was only difficult because we had to limit the time of the interviews, to have to summarise what we had to say. The concept of the family carries so much, to call it into an interview is to touch on several dimensions at the same time." - Assumpta Mugiraneza



er." - Myra Dunoer Vahegne 2020, Luanda, Angola



the families. I enjoyed telling the stories of these people and listening to these people and discovering new lives that are just as different from each other." - Myra Dunoer Vahegne 2020, Luanda, Angola



Cyitatire Jean Paul Kayumba, a young man who dreams of being a philosopher and cultural anthropologist. Photographer: Chris Schwagge, 2020, Kigali, Rwanda

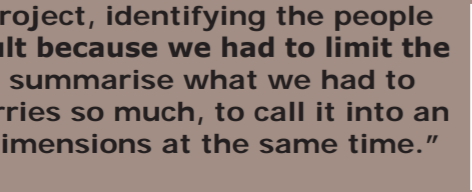
"When I hear the word 'family', I understand it as the starting point of all life, whether for the individual or the entire social group. I say that it goes even further, it has something philosophical. On an emotional level, family arouses in me the joy (of having an origin for me), the desire or the will of having a family like what I know and at the same time a certain tension or anxiety for the concept itself awakens memories and absences." - Cyitatire Jean Paul Kayumba

"[I] grew up in a family of the genocide survivors, but my mother and father were almost the only ones who survived from their families. I do not know what it is like to have grandparents, aunts, or uncles, except, of course, for the families we choose for ourselves. An anxiety related to this particular past, an anxiety we have to live with." - Sandrine Gasabarage Niyonkuru

Sandrine Gasabarage Niyonkuru, a young girl from post-memory (this is how Marianne Hirsch designates children born after the great cataclysms, to underline that this type of event has its weight in the next generation), second daughter of a family of 4 girls, the first born in the post-genocide period. Photographer: Chris Schwagge, 2020, Kigali, Rwanda

Jean Karemera, an artist, father, and grandfather. Born in the South, he lived in exile in Burundi and returned to settle in the east of the country. Photographer: Chris Schwagge, 2020, Kigali, Rwanda

"Umunyarwanda understands life in family and family is not limited to parent-child nucleus, it is also a philosophical conception of the country and each group to which it belongs, which makes us grow, helps us to realize ourselves, to become us men or women worthy of founding our own family." - Jean Karemera



"As it was a subject that touched on the intimate lives of families, many people did not agree [to participate] at all. In addition, as it was about making photos and videos of these families, I really liked listening to these people and discovering new lives that are just as different from each other." - Myra Dunoer Vahegne 2020, Luanda, Angola

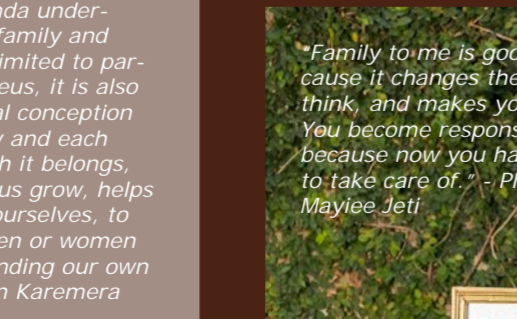


Lucy is a South Sudanese refugee and a foster mother of five. (from left: Sophie, Lucy) Photographer: Julian Manjahi/Goethe-Institut Nairobi, 2020



Mary and her daughter, currently live on the streets of Nairobi and consider those they live with, their family. Photographer: Julian Manjahi/Goethe-Institut Nairobi, 2020

"I live with my friends, they are like my brothers and sisters. That's how we get to help each other. Someone can get sick on the streets, they don't have a family, brothers and sisters to look after them, so you adopt them." - Mary Nduku



"Family toime is good, because it changes the way you think, and makes you focus. You become responsible because now you have people to take care of." - Phillip Mayiee Jeti



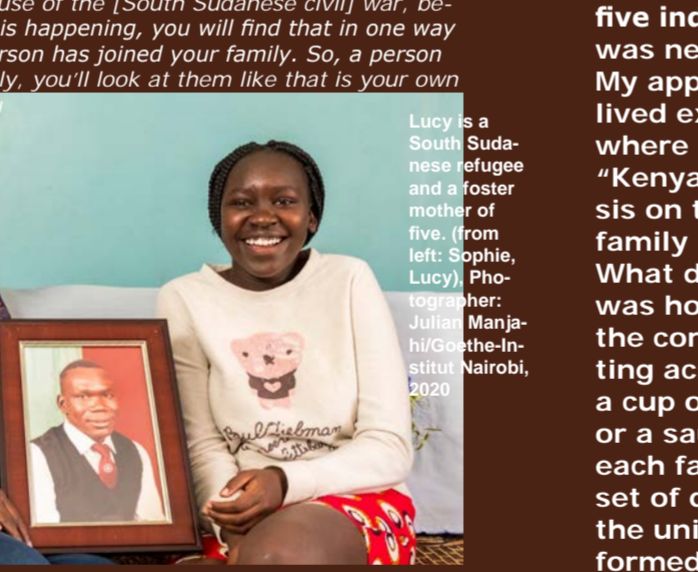
"Bo-kaap for me is a loving caring family. No one is different. Everybody's mommy is mommy, everybody's daddy is daddy." - Wafigah Simons



Still from 'Shayandima, Family Matters' documentary video by Zara Julius, featuring: Isha Matsihya Mathivha, Thakani Mathivha, Talli Jani Mathivha, Florence Tshikange, Shayandima, South Africa



"My life has been shared between my siblings and what they taught me was love, love in the family and then a spirit of sharing because life is not easy. The little you get, we should be able to share among ourselves ... because of the [South Sudanese civil] war, because of the neglect that is happening, you will find that in one way or another, a different person has joined your family. So, a person who has joined your family, you'll look at them like that is your own family." - Lucy Jua Nduku



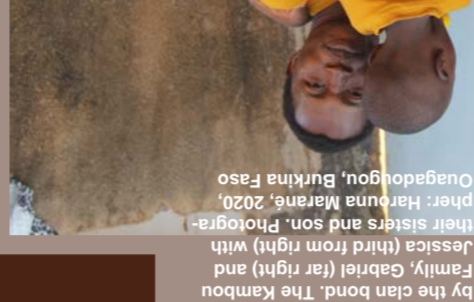
"Here we are, two men, black and white, older and slightly a little bit older, together and in this family unit of ours" - Daniel Digashu Potgieter

"I think we fit well into any kind of society, and that's been proven to us moving to Namibia from South Africa, which I thought was going to be a lot worse and it was actually not." - Johann Digashu Potgieter



Zainabu's family, Zainabu is a Muslim and a single mother, waiting to hear from the courts regarding the custody of her children. She is close to her muimu, extended family, who are very important to her. Photographer: Julian Manjahi/Goethe-Institut Nairobi, 2020

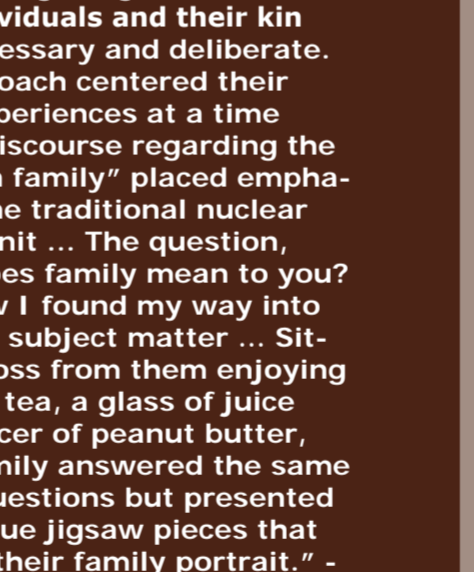
"We forget that documentaries are also constructed, and so it's always important to me that the people I work with feel fairly represented in the edit. Often folks forget that there are real people behind documentaries, with real lives and they don't really owe anyone access to that." - Zara Julius



"I think that Burkina society is changing, because in the past, families lived together, grandparents, parents, children, all generations were housed under the same roof. At that time, there were many exchanges, the youngsters knew the history and habits of their families, knowledge was transmitted, which brought to each one a success. It must be said that what made the task more complex was the taking of photos, which were re-individualistic, very few families live together, we are gradually losing family values." - Harouna Marane

"With my dad I always ask him how do I become a journalist? He says 'I don't know, but I'll try to help you.' I'm actually a polygamist, as we help each other in our work. When one of my wives is ill, the other takes care of her. Again, when one goes to the farm, the other stays with the children, and that's good." - Kasereka

"Presenting insights from these five individuals and their kin was necessary and deliberate. My approach centered their lived experiences at a time where discourse regarding the 'Kenyan family' placed emphasis on the traditional nuclear family unit ... The question, What does family mean to you? was how I found my way into the core subject matter ... Sitting across from them enjoying a cup of tea, a glass of juice or a saucer of peanut butter, each family answered the same set of questions but presented the unique jigsaw pieces that formed their family portrait." - Wanjeri Gakuru



"We're two women from two completely different cultures raising one young lady to be ready for the world as it is." - Karlien Kruger

"My grandmother accommodated everyone. People would come from all calibres of life, because our house is just next to the mosque, I'm a muslim, and so she opened our house to everyone. That's how I learned that family is not only the people who are bridged to you by blood, but anyone who comes and you can be able to accommodate, be associated with, do so many things along together, that's family." - Zainabu Abihanifah Godoro



"This project was really challenging and rewarding in so many ways. Production took place in the midst of the Covid pandemic so the production process was surrounded by a lot of uncertainty and having to work around members of families testing positive or in isolation. In the end, I found that we are such a multi coloured, multi faceted and diverse nation, but one common thread throughout all families was LOVE. Love for the family unit and love for one another." - Lila Swanepoel



"Bernarda is the middle daughter, more liberal than her siblings. Being the daughter of a devout catholic mother, at age twelve she went to a Christian boarding school in the country's capital. Religion had also been the key to her mother's education." - Arno Holl

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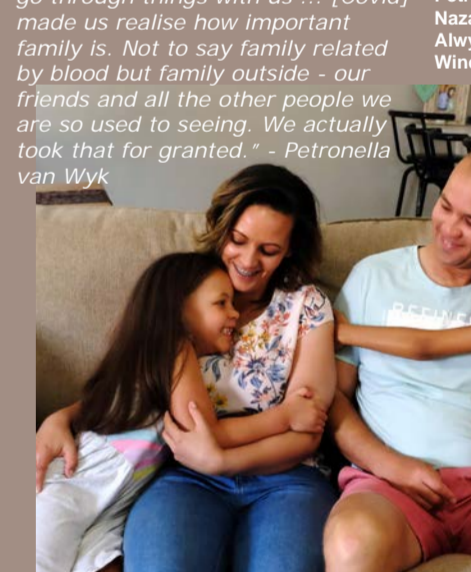


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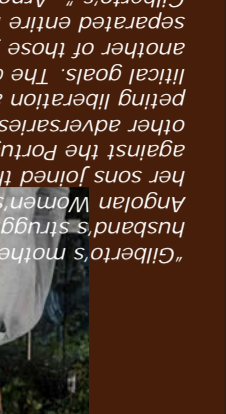


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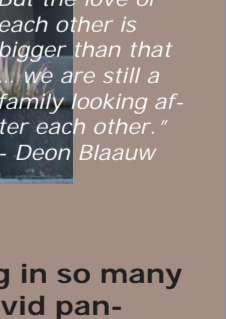
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"When I think of my children, I feel them all over my body, like heat and chills at the same time. Life first are my children." - Betty Mukamulisa



Betty Mukamulisa, a young mother who sings. Photographer: Chris Schwagge, 2020, Kigali, Rwanda

Family Matters

a takeaway exhibition



"I think for me, based on how my family has come about, I think there's a huge part about choice and so it's choosing to love. That's what constitutes family." - Arya Jeipea Karijo



Arya is a transgender woman and is the mother and head-of-household. Her children all chose her as their mother and are adults in their twenties. Photographer: Julian Manjahi/Goethe-Institut Nairobi, 2020

Cristina Câmara aka Lueji Dharma is an Angolan architect, author, university teacher and social activist. She was born to an Angolan mother and a Portuguese father who worked for the Angolan diamond mining company. Photographer: Susana Maria dos Santos/Goethe-Institut Angola, 2020, Luanda, Angola

"One book in particular was to change her life: 'Lueji' by Angolan writer and former guerrilla fighter Pepetela, about a woman who became the first female ruler of the kingdom of Lunda. She was so impressed by the story of the novel's historical heroine that she increasingly identified with the protagonist." - Arno Holl



"Inspired by anticolonial ideas and new music from Brazil, [Lamartine and his friends] spread their ... musical message as much as possible. Several members of this and other groups rose to national fame. As more and more members got arrested, Carlos started writing his own songs, having perceived the power of music in the mobilization of people for the struggle for freedom." - Arno Holl

Carlos Lamartine is one of Angola's main musical voices. The son of a post officer was born under a huge tree in a shantytown in the city of Benguela. Photographer: Susana Maria dos Santos/Goethe-Institut Angola, 2020, Luanda, Angola



"The family is a band, that is, all the descendants of the royal succession. That's what we call a family." - Mwami Kasereka Viro Katshiravweya



Katshiravweya is the Mwami (customary chief) of Baswagha of the Batshira sub-clan. At the time of the interview, he was in the town of Butembo, but his kingdom is in Ghutan da and Vurusl. He has only one wife and a one-year-old baby. He is the sole provider of his family. He is also in charge of the governance of the region, and the community of Ghutan da and Vurusl. Photographer: Myra Dunoyer Vahlgene 2020, Butembo, DRC

"I think it's very special to not just think of history of, okay this is when Apartheid happened, this is when a World War happened, but also in terms of your family and who you are, because then we don't lose our identity and then we don't also allow the things that happen in the world to control everything that we are ... For us family is not just a word, it's a feeling." - Neige Moongo



The Moongo Family (back from left: Veronica, Neige, Natalia, front: Eliud), Photographer: Lloyd Zandberg, 2020, Windhoek, Namibia

Born in Côte d'Ivoire, Mamadou Sama lived there until recently returning to Burkina Faso to settle with his family in 2018. Mamadou Sama was born a Muslim, converted to Christianity in 1992, and is now a pastor. The Sama Family (from left: Mamadou, Odella, Elcharisse, Sandrine), Photographer, Harouna Marané, 2020, Ouaga dougou, Burkina Faso



"Spiritually, we often pray with our children. However, sometimes I pray with them or my wife does it ... Our family has entrusted itself entirely to Christ, this is one of its special specificities. We try to live according to Jesus' living model. The second specificity of our family is that for me, my family is the priority of priorities" - Mamadou Sama