



**DECOLONIZING AND DIGITALIZING
'HERSTORIES" ON FEMALE TRADITIONAL
LEADERS IN MATEBELELAND SOUTH, ZIMBABWE**

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Objective



- To examine possible ways of documenting the stories of women in a non-colonial and communicative accessible forms of global learning in National Archives.



“It is unfortunate that researchers will come here with assumptions of who I am as a chief and when they engage with me, they do so to manipulate the information you give them to suit their own stories” Chief Mabhena, Botswana, 2021

“Much has not been written on women in Ndebele state played in society development. They were influential as mothers, but it is never recognized” The late Conte Mhlanga, 2022

“There is no relationship between researchers and local community key informants, there is a lot of history on the powerful women of Matebeleland and Zimbabwe at large” Phathisa Nyathi, 2021

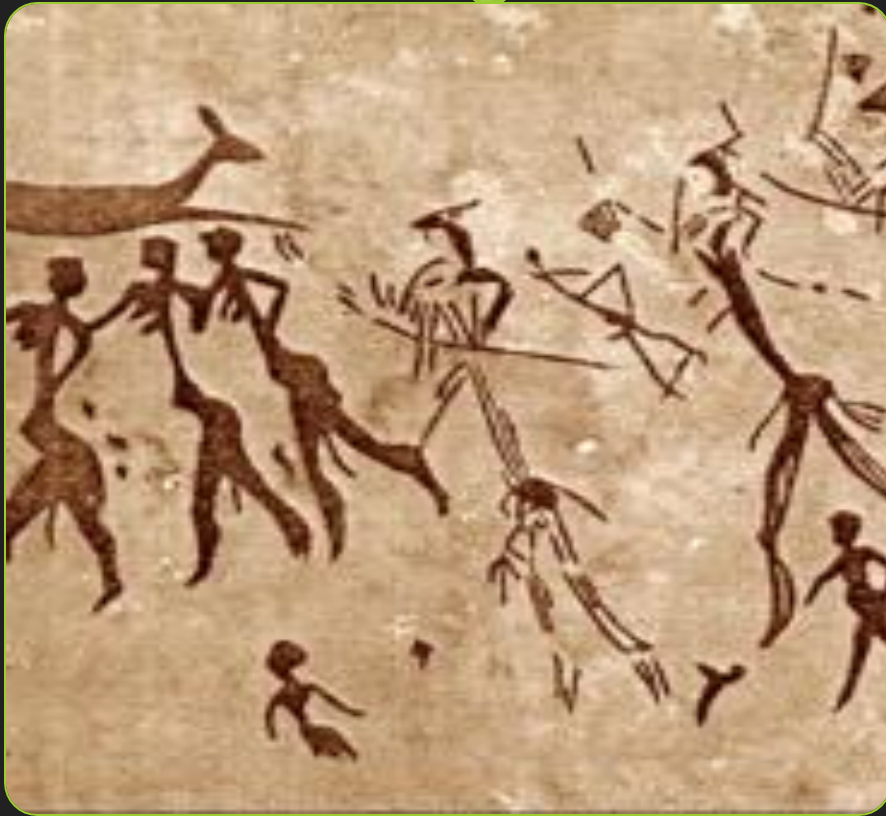
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They did exist. We just don't know their history because it was never taught to us. But you have the right to research the knowledge for yourself...



Who are they? What is their story?

Decolonialization of Archives from a gendered perspective



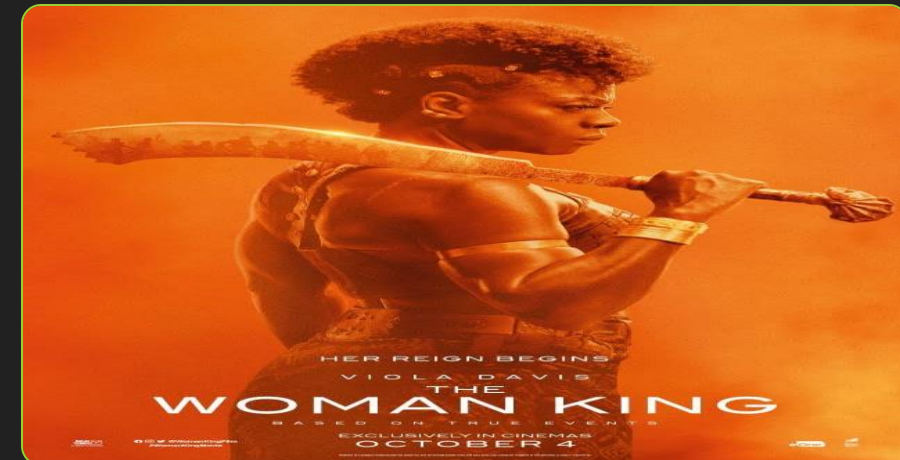
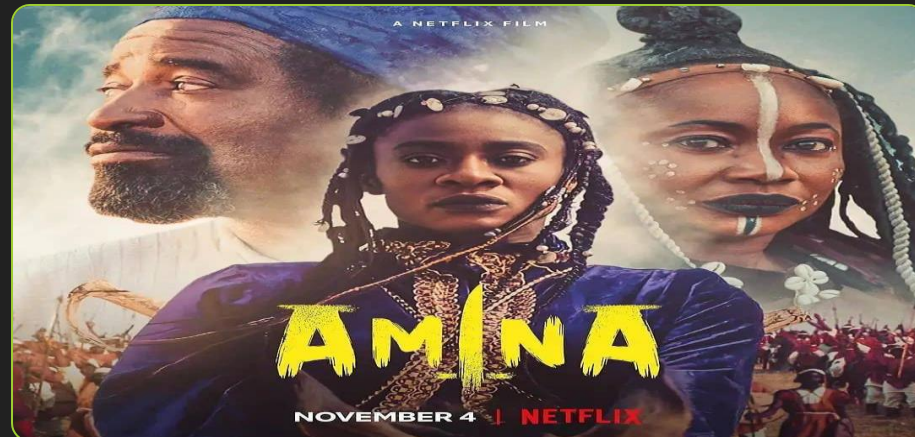
- ❑ How do we define Archives from a decolonial perspective?
- ❑ Archiving as a limiting practice to the visibility of women
- ❑ Collaborating and co-production with (female) local guides in knowledge production
 - ❑ Intersectionality approach to knowledge production

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- Terminology-use of local language/ terms
- Research methods



Communicative & accessible forms of global learning in National Archives



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Decolonizing the documentation of the stories of women in National Archives is also a form of global learning. This can be done through:-

- ❑ Documentaries
- ❑ Introduction of e-governance in traditional leadership
- ❑ Decolonization of the curriculum
- ❑ Social Media
- ❑ Radio channels that are specifically designed for Indigenous Knowledge Systems
- ❑ Women Archives category in National Archives e.g Pathfinder for Women's history research





THANK YOU