

# Griefs and Griffes: Exploring Sartorial Displays of Resistance and Identity in Congo-Brazzaville and Beyond

## Dr. Danielle Sanchez

Danielle Sanchez is a cultural and urban historian of modern Africa, with particular interests in race, expressive culture, and resistance in francophone central Africa. Dr. Sanchez received her Master's Africana Studies from Cornell University in 2010 and her Ph.D in History from the University of Texas at Austin in 2015. Her current research explores daily life, urban development, and race relations in colonial Brazzaville during the Second World War.

The *sapeurs* of the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo continue to capture the attention of the world due to their immaculate styling, poise, and exuberance. However, media coverage and depictions of this dress culture phenomenon in popular culture fail to historicize the emergence of this movement, specifically as it relates to frustrations with power, both in the colony and the post-colony. Thus, this talk explores and historicizes the significance of dress as a way of thwarting authority, taking control of one's body, and resisting economic and political marginalization from Brazzaville to Brussels.



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