



# Visual Identities in Flux: A South African Lens on Youth Culture and Identity Formation in the Post-Apartheid Era

Sipho Nkosi<sup>1</sup>, Nomsa Mabhali<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Pretoria

**Published:** 02 August 2006 | **Received:** 28 February 2006 | **Accepted:** 07 June 2006

**Correspondence:** [snkosi@yahoo.com](mailto:snkosi@yahoo.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18830803](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18830803)

## Author notes

*Sipho Nkosi is affiliated with University of Pretoria and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.  
Nomsa Mabhali is affiliated with University of Pretoria and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Visual culture has played a significant role in shaping identity formation among young people in post-apartheid South Africa. The review synthesizes existing literature on visual culture and youth studies in South Africa, focusing on academic articles and ethnographic research from the last decade. A key theme identified is the proliferation of hip-hop aesthetics among urban youth, which serves as a unifying force despite social and economic disparities. Visual representations significantly impact how young people perceive themselves and others in South Africa's post-apartheid context. Further research should explore the intersectionality of visual culture with socio-economic status to provide nuanced insights into identity formation.

**Keywords:** *African Studies, Visual Anthropology, Youth Culture, Postcolonial Theory, Identity Formation, Cultural Studies, Migration Studies*

## ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

**Email:** [info@parj.africa](mailto:info@parj.africa)

Request your copy of the full paper today!

## SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

**Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!**

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

**Submit at:** [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)



Scan to visit [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)

**Open Access Scholarship from PARJ**

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge