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Biography

Sophie Feyder was born in Etterbeek (Brussels) in Belgium in 1983. After a first year of studying French literature, history and philosophy at the Lycée Fénelon (Paris), she entered the Institut d’Etudes Politiques, where she obtained an MA in Political Sciences (major in development studies) in 2005. She spent the following year studying photography at an adult school in Berlin. In 2009, she obtained an MPhil in African Studies from the African Studies Centre (Leiden). During her fieldwork in Johannesburg, she met Farrell Ngilima, the guardian of his grandfather’s photographic collection. This photographic collection eventually became the object of a PhD dissertation, which Sophie initiated at the History Institute at Leiden University in 2010. In 2013, she co-curated together with Tamsyn Adams the exhibition *Sidetracks: Working with Two Photographic Collections* (Johannesburg), which lead to the publication of the book *Commonplace* (2016).