

Book Launch

Population Politics in the Tropics: Demography, Health and Transimperialism in Colonial Angola

by Samuël Coghe
(Freie Universität Berlin)

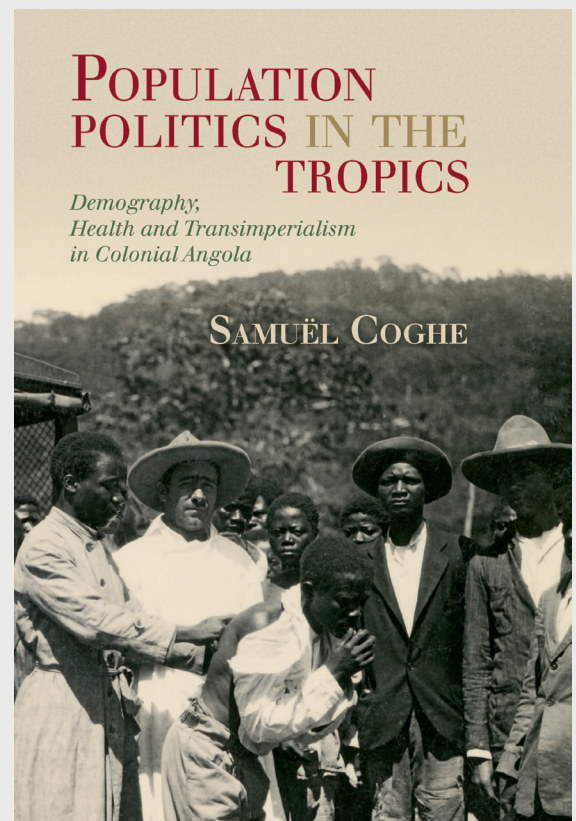
2 May 2022
15–16 CEST
on Zoom

Registration:
<https://bit.ly/3EyAWZR>



Discussion with the author and Cristiana Bastos (University of Lisbon), Sanjoy Bhattacharya (University of York), Philip Havik (New University, Lisbon), Maria da Conceição Neto (University Agostinho Neto, Luanda) and Alexandra Widmer (York University, Toronto)

Population Politics in the Tropics explores colonial population policies in Angola between 1890 and 1945 from a transimperial perspective. Using a wide array of previously unused sources and multilingual archival research from Angola, Portugal and beyond, Samuël Coghe sheds new light on the history of colonial Angola, showing how population policies were conceived, implemented and contested. He analyses why and how doctors, administrators, missionaries and other colonial actors tried to grasp and quantify demographic change and 'improve' the health conditions, reproductive regimes and migration patterns of Angola's 'native' population. Coghe argues that these interventions were inextricably linked to pervasive fears of depopulation and underpopulation, but that their implementation was often hampered by weak state structures, internal conflicts and multiple forms of African agency. Coghe's fresh analysis of demography, health and migration in colonial Angola challenges common ideas of Portuguese colonial exceptionalism.



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Cambridge University Press (2022)
ISBN: 9781108837866
Print: www.cambridge.org/9781108837866
(use code COGHE2022 at checkout for 20% discount)
Digital: <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108943307>