



Living for the City

Living for the City is a social history of the Central African Copperbelt, considered as a single region encompassing the neighbouring mining regions of Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Haut-Katanga and Zambian Copperbelt mine towns have been understood as the vanguard of urban ‘modernity’ in Africa. Observers found in these towns new African communities that were experiencing what they wrongly understood as a transition from rural ‘traditional’ society – stable, superstitious and agricultural – to an urban existence characterised by industrial work discipline, the money economy and conspicuous consumption, Christianity, and nuclear families headed by male breadwinners supported by domesticated housewives. Miles Larmer challenges this representation of Copperbelt society, presenting an original analysis that integrates the region’s social history with the production of knowledge about it, shaped by both changing political and intellectual contexts and by Copperbelt communities themselves. This title is available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

MILES LARMER is Professor of African History in the Faculty of History and African Studies Centre, St Antony’s College, University of Oxford, and Research Fellow in the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies at the University of Pretoria. A Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, he is the author of *The Katangese Gendarmes and War in Central Africa*, with Erik Kennes (2016), *Rethinking African Politics: A History of Opposition in Zambia* (2011) and *Mineworkers in Zambia: Labour and Political Change in Post-Colonial Africa, 1964–1991* (2007).



Living for the City

Social Change and Knowledge Production
in the Central African Copperbelt

MILES LARMER

University of Oxford and University of Pretoria



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108833158

DOI: [10.1017/9781108973120](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108973120)

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[DOI 10.1017/9781108973120](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108973120)

This book is based on research that has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement number 681657: 'Comparing the Copperbelt: Political Culture and Knowledge Production in Central Africa').

First published 2021

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-108-83315-8 Hardback

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