Birth Control in the Decolonizing Caribbean

Over the course of the twentieth century, campaigns to increase access to modern birth control methods spread across the globe and fundamentally altered the way people thought about and mobilized around reproduction. This book explores how a variety of actors translated this movement into practice on four islands (Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, and Bermuda) between the 1930s and 1970s. The process of decolonization during this period led to heightened clashes over imperial and national policy and brought local class, race, and gender tensions to the surface, making debates over reproductive practices particularly evocative and illustrative of broader issues in the history of decolonization and international family planning. Birth Control in the Decolonizing Caribbean is at once a political history, a history of activism, and a social history, exploring the challenges faced by working-class women as they tried to negotiate control over their reproductive lives within this context.

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Birth Control in the Decolonizing Caribbean

Reproductive Politics and Practice on Four Islands, 1930–1970

NICOLE C. BOURBONNAIS
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For my grandparents
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over the last few years with my “Grandma Angel” about the joys and challenges of raising six children on a small budget and attempting to control reproduction in the mid-twentieth century resonated powerfully with stories I came across in my research, despite the vast distance between the sunny islands of the Caribbean and the frozen prairies of Canada. I hope I have adequately captured the complexity of these experiences in the following pages.
Acronyms

ABCL American Birth Control League
BCIIC Birth Control International Information Centre
BFPA Barbados Family Planning Association
BITU Bustamante Industrial Trade Union
BLP Barbados Labour Party
BPL Barbados Progressive League
CDC Colonial Development Corporation
CDW Colonial Development and Welfare
DLP Democratic Labour Party
DWO Development and Welfare Organization
FDLP Federal Democratic Labour Party
FPATT Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago
IPPF International Planned Parenthood Federation
IPPF-WHR International Planned Parenthood Federation, Western Hemisphere Region
IUD Intra-Uterine Device
JBCL Jamaica Birth Control League
JFLP Jamaica Family Life Project
JFPA Jamaica Family Planning Association
JLP Jamaica Labour Party
JWL Jamaica Welfare Limited
PDP People’s Democratic Party
PNM People’s National Movement
PNP People’s National Party
POPPG Party of Political Progress Groups
PTA Parent Teacher Association
List of Acronyms

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TECA</td>
<td>Teacher’s Educational and Cultural Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLP</td>
<td>Trinidad Labour Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNIA</td>
<td>Universal Negro Improvement Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>WIFLP</td>
<td>West Indies Federal Labour Party</td>
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