

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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*Reproductive Politics and Practice on Four Islands,
1930–1970*

NICOLE C. BOURBONNAIS

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva



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For my grandparents

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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

TECA	Teacher's Educational and Cultural Association
TLP	Trinidad Labour Party
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIA	Universal Negro Improvement Association
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization
WIFLP	West Indies Federal Labour Party