

Assembling the Tropics

From popular fiction to modern biomedicine, the tropics are defined by two essential features: prodigious nature and debilitating illness. That was not always so. In this engaging and imaginative study, Hugh Cagle shows how such a vision was created. Along the way, he challenges conventional accounts of the Scientific Revolution. The history of “the tropics” is the story of science in Europe’s first global empire. Beginning in the late fifteenth century, Portugal established colonies from sub-Saharan Africa to Southeast Asia and South America, enabling the earliest comparisons of nature and disease across the intertropical world. *Assembling the Tropics* shows how the proliferation of colonial approaches to medicine and natural history led to the assemblage of the tropics as a single, coherent, and internally consistent global region. This is a story about how places acquire medical meaning, about how nature and disease become objects of scientific inquiry, and about what is at stake when that happens.

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Science and Medicine in Portugal's Empire,
1450–1700

HUGH CAGLE
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UNIVERSITY PRESS

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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
79 Anson Road, #06-04/06, Singapore 079906

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/9781107196636

DOI: 10.1017/9781108164856

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First published 2018

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd. Padstow Cornwall

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

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Cagle, Hugh, author.

TITLE: Assembling the tropics : science and medicine in Portugal's empire, 1450-1700 / Hugh Cagle.

OTHER TITLES: Studies in comparative world history.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2018. | Series: Studies in comparative world history | Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2018021310 | ISBN 9781107196636 (hardback : alk. paper)

SUBJECTS: | MESH: Tropical Medicine—history | Colonialism—history | Public Health Practice—history | Science—history | History, 15th Century | History, 16th Century | History, 17th Century | Portugal

CLASSIFICATION: LCC RC961 | NLM WC 11 GP7 | DDC 616.9/883—DC23
LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2018021310>

ISBN 978-1-107-19663-6 Hardback

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For Leslie.
Anumang bagay ay maisasakatuparan niya.

The double, the shadow, the negative image of the great adventure of
the New World.

Caetano Veloso, *Verdade tropical*

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Acknowledgments

This book has taken a long time to write. It began at Rutgers in 2008 as an entirely different project. In the intervening years, I have carried it with me – writing and then revising it – virtually everywhere I’ve been. I remember where fragments of chapters finally came together. On a plane to Goa. On another to Barcelona. A bus in Lima. Trains between New York and New Brunswick, London, and Cambridge, and Lisbon, Guimarães, and Porto. There were late nights at coffee shops scattered across Manhattan, long days at another in Sunnyside (Queens), and early mornings at several others in Rio and Salt Lake. I imagine the book still bears the traces of its disjointed authorship. But I really have no idea. It has been with me for too long, and I am now much too close to it, to know for sure. For its errors and failings, I alone am responsible. But much that is good about it has come from the wisdom, kindness, and generosity of very many people.

Michael Adas is first among them. Perhaps more than anyone else, Michael understands what a circuitous path mine has been. I never would have begun the project were it not for his encouragement, unwavering support, and his subtle, brilliant mentorship. James Delbourgo’s candor, imagination, and good will have made this book, and the intellectual life around it, immeasurably better. The late Philip Pauly first introduced me to the history of science. Gail Triner and Chris Brown generously signed onto the project as it was just getting underway and were patient enough to see me through it even as I struggled to match feasible questions with archival evidence.

I never would have found my way to Rutgers had it not been for two people. Steve Marks encouraged me long ago to travel adventurously and

to take my writing more seriously. I can finally thank him in print. Betsy Kuznesof took a chance on me as a Latin American Studies student and has remained a dear friend ever since. Her professionalism, grace, and unfailing intellectual rigor continue to inspire.

Historical research, not to mention writing, is a long and lonely business. But I've had the good fortune to share time in Lisbon and elsewhere with Palmira Fontes da Costa, Mariana Cândido, Yacine Daddi Addoun, Drew Thompson, Jelmer Vos, Kalle Kananoja, Claudia Souza, Alfredo César Melo, and Tim Walker. Years ago, on my first trip to Lisbon, Liam Brockey was kind enough to advise me on archival research there and to help me think through some preliminary questions about Jesuit networks. One memorable morning in July 2015, António de Almeida Mendes helped me reconstruct the footprint of medieval Lisbon and then showed me how to navigate its streets. Across the Atlantic in Rio, I thank Vera Santos and João Duarte for a delightful evening just as this project was winding down.

In London and beyond, I have benefited from the friendship and expertise of Bridie Andrews, Winston Black, Ann Carmichael, Fabian Crespo, Luke Demaitre, Theresa Earenfight, Nahyan Fancy, Carol Pal, Stephen Pemberton, George Sussman, Carlos da Silva Junior, Dora Vargha, and the incomparable Monica Green. I first met Monica through the 2012 NEH seminar that she ran with Rachel Scott at the Wellcome Collection. Monica's work is a model of genuine interdisciplinarity. I thank her in particular for helping me get a handle on medieval medicine, the biomedical literature pertaining to the diseases mentioned in the text, and the interpretive dilemmas of retrospective diagnosis.

In Goa, the inimitable Blossom Madeira made my time at the Historical Archives of Goa (HAG) far more productive than I could possibly have hoped. Agnelo Fernandes offered good cheer and indispensable guidance to the content and organization of the archive. Special thanks to Rameshwar and to Bapa, who made sure I knew where to go and got me there safely. To pin down details on Goa's topography, a very kind gentleman helped me find my way to Carambolim Lake. I never knew his name but the collection of certain details in Chapter 3 would have been impossible without his help. My time in Goa and elsewhere would have been much less fruitful were it not for Tim Walker, whose guidance and knowledge of so many aspects of early modern Portuguese medicine I have been the grateful beneficiary of on numerous occasions.

Iona McCleery has been an insightful colleague and stalwart collaborator ever since I began working in the history of medicine. I thank her here for the conversations and good company in London, Lisbon, St. Albans,

Acknowledgments

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and Kalamazoo. Conversations with Allison Bigelow, Surekha Davies, Pablo Gómez, Felipe Valencia, Matt Crawford, and Molly Warsh kept me reading, reflecting, and writing even when the will was wanting and the way was uncertain. Tom Robertson and Carmen Gitre, too, offered advice and encouragement when it was sorely needed. With a single, well-placed question, Jorge Cañizares helped me reconceptualize cross-cultural interaction in Brazil. My interpretation of missionaries and disease is significantly better thanks to Linda Newson. Luce Giard showed me how to disagree with grace and compassion. A very special thanks to Ramón Oteo, whom I met long ago at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili: *Dondequiera que estés, sé que todavía sigues leyendo. Espero que te llegue esto.*

Many other friends and colleagues have commented on the manuscript in whole or in part, responded patiently to hasty emails, shared material, made recommendations, and otherwise offered much-needed guidance. Sincerest thanks go to Crislayne Almagali, Arturo Arias, Santa Arias, Antonio Barrera, Luís Filipe Barreto, Herman Bennett, Joe Blackmore, Ann Blair, Pedro Cardim, Judith Carney, Tito Carvalho, Fiona Clark, Tim Coates, Diogo Curto, Greg Cushman, Júnia Ferreira Furtado, Luis Fernando Restrepo, Anita Guerrini, Annemarie Jordan Gschwend, Stefan Halikowski-Smith, Florence Hsia, Henrique Leitão, Kate Lowe, Dániel Margócsy, Stuart McManus, Joe Miller, Eric Myrup, Marcy Norton, Katrina Olds, Ricardo Padrón, Juan Pimentel, Cynthia Radding, Gabriela Ramos, Maria Leônia Chaves de Resende, Isabel dos Guimarães Sá, Neil Safier, Fernando Salmón, Kevin Sheehan, Jim Sweet, John Thornton, José Pardo Tomás, Camilla Townsend, Paula de Vos, Chi-ming Yang, and Ines Županov.

Special thanks as well to Gary and the crew at Aubergine, where so many of the ideas here were first written up – how I miss the coffee and good cheer, the morning foot traffic and the crowds of a spring afternoon. Tremendous thanks to Pedro Pinto in Lisbon for helping me secure permission to reproduce images from the Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo and the Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal. I am grateful as well to Maria Inês Cordeiro at the BNP, Silvestre Lacerda and Aura Carrilho at the ANTT, Maria Ana Paiva at the Krishnada Shama Goa State Central Library, Elizabeth Bray at the British Museum, Domniki Papadimitriou at the Cambridge University Library, Ian Graham at the John Carter Brown Library, and Brigitte Brot at the Bibliothèque et archives de l'Assemblée Nationale in Paris.

Audiences in Atlanta, Baltimore, Belfast, Lima, London, Seattle, New York, Philadelphia, Lisbon, Heidelberg, Charleston, New Brunswick, Chicago, Park City, Salt Lake City, Toronto, Lawrence, Madison, New Orleans, San Diego, Sussex, Charlottesville, Rio de Janeiro, Guimarães,

and Porto offered insightful and challenging questions that variously improved this book.

Travel and research are costly affairs. Generous support for this project came from the Fundação Luso-Americano, the Gulbenkian Foundation, Harvard University, the Mellon Foundation, Rutgers University, and the University of Texas – Austin. I also benefited from faculty fellowships from the University Research Council and the Tanner Humanities Center, both of the University of Utah. Directors and staffs at libraries and archives on four continents were incredibly generous with their time and – what is often forgotten in a world of digital databases – their incomparable archival expertise. Tremendous thanks to the library and archival staff at the following institutions: the University of Cambridge, the University of Kansas, NYU, Princeton, Rutgers, Queens College, UT-Austin, the New York Academy of Medicine, the Historical Archives of Goa, the Goa Public Library, the Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal, the Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo, the British Library, the British Museum, the John Carter Brown Library, the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University, the French Bibliothèque et archives de l'Assemblée Nationale, and the Wellcome Collection. The interlibrary loan staff at the University of Utah deserve special recognition for their patience and persistence over these last years.

Tremendous thanks, too, to my colleagues in the departments of History, Languages and Literature, and Art History at the University of Utah. I am especially grateful to Jim Lehning, Ben Cohen, Nadja Durbach, Gema Guevara, Eric Hinderaker, Becky Horn, Jessen Kelly, Chris Lewis, Colleen McDannell, Isabel Moreira, Bradley Parker, Susie Porter, Jerry Root, and Elena Shtromberg, and to graduate students Mariana Alliatti and Travis Ross.

At Cambridge University Press, Debbie Gershenowitz and Kristina Deusch were unfailingly patient and supportive as the final manuscript came together, and as I flooded them with sundry last-minute questions. Special thanks to Andreia Carvalho, whose close reading and subject expertise made the book materially better. Julie Hrischeva, Niranjana Hari Krishnan, and Laura Lawrie moved the book through the final phases of production with skill and efficiency.

My deepest gratitude must go to Leslie; to Hugh and Nan; to Alex and Pelin, Aubrie, and Casey and Megan; to Eva, Antón, and Carmen; to Chris, Maite, and Pere; and to Valerie, Gary, and Rose. This project is finally finished. Thank you.

A Note on Spelling and Translation

Portuguese orthography is notoriously irregular. In the pages that follow – and with occasional exceptions – I have changed the spelling and accentuation of various Portuguese words to correspond to the guidelines set forth in the orthographic accord of 1990. For personal names, I have generally followed the spelling currently used to catalog materials at the Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal in Lisbon. Where Spanish is concerned, I have – again, with some exceptions – followed the *Diccionario Real de la Lengua Española*. All translations are my own unless otherwise noted. Where the Spanish Hapsburgs are mentioned, I have followed convention and used the Anglicized version of their names, with roman numerals indicating their succession in the Portuguese line (so I use “Philip I” not “Filipe I” or “Philip II of Spain”).

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-19663-6 — Assembling the Tropics
Hugh Cagle
Frontmatter
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Abbreviations

APO	Cunha Rivara, ed., <i>Arquivo Portuguez-Oriental</i> , 6 vols.
BL	Machado, <i>Bibliotheca Lusitana</i> , 4 vols.
DHAM-AC	Diretoria do Arquivo, <i>Documentos históricos do Arquivo Municipal. Atas da Câmara</i> , 10 vols.
DI	Wicki, ed., <i>Documenta Indica</i> , 18 vols.
HCJB	Leite, <i>História da companhia de Jesus no Brazil</i> , 10 vols.
MB	Leite, ed., <i>Monumenta brasiliae</i> , 5 vols.
MH	Comissão Executiva das Comemorações do V Centenário da Morte do Infante D. Henrique, ed., <i>Monumenta Henricina</i> , 14 vols.
MMA ser. 1	Brásio, ed., <i>Monumenta Missionaria Africana</i> , 1st series, 15 vols.
MMA ser. 2	Brásio, ed., <i>Monumenta Missionaria Africana</i> , 2nd series, 5 vols.
MRP	Andrade and Duarte, ed., <i>Morão, Rosa e Pimenta</i> .
PVCB	Abreu, ed., <i>Primeira visitação do Santo Ofício às partes do Brasil. Confissões da Bahia, 1591–1592</i> .
PVCP	Mello, ed., <i>Primeira visitação do Santo Ofício às partes do Brasil. Confissões de Pernambuco, 1594–1595</i> .
PVDB	Abreu, ed., <i>Primeira visitação do Santo Ofício às partes do Brasil. Denúncias da Bahia, 1591–1593</i> .
PVDP	Garcia, ed., <i>Primeira visitação do Santo Ofício às partes do Brasil. Denúncias de Pernambuco, 1593–1595</i> .
SVB	França and Siqueira, eds., <i>Segunda visitação do Santo Ofício às partes do Brasil</i> .

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-19663-6 — Assembling the Tropics
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