



## *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.

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# Living for the City

Social Change and Knowledge Production  
in the Central African Copperbelt

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*For my mother, Gillian Larmer (1946–2020)*

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

|         |                                                                                                           |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AAC     | Anglo-American Corporation                                                                                |
| AAI     | <i>Amis de l'Art Indigène</i>                                                                             |
| AGRI    | <i>Société Agro-Industrielle</i>                                                                          |
| AMWU    | African Mineworkers' Union                                                                                |
| ANC     | Congolese National Army                                                                                   |
| Asadho  | <i>Association africaine des droits de l'homme</i>                                                        |
| BAA     | <i>Archives Africaines</i> , Belgium                                                                      |
| BCK     | <i>Chemin de fer du bas Congo au Katanga</i>                                                              |
| BFr     | Belgian Francs                                                                                            |
| CAF     | Central African Federation                                                                                |
| CBE     | Citizens for a Better Environment                                                                         |
| CBU     | Copperbelt University                                                                                     |
| CCTA    | Combined Commission for Technical Cooperation in<br>Africa South of the Sahara                            |
| CEC     | <i>Centres Extra-Coutumier</i>                                                                            |
| Ceproma | <i>Cercle pour la Promotion de Marungu</i>                                                                |
| CEPSE   | <i>Centre D'Exécution des Programmes Sociaux et<br/>Économiques</i>                                       |
| CEPSI   | <i>Centre d'Études des Problèmes Sociaux Indigènes</i>                                                    |
| CIE     | Indigenous Enterprise Council                                                                             |
| CIPEC   | Intergovernmental Council of Copper-Exporting<br>Countries                                                |
| CNS     | Sovereign National Conference                                                                             |
| Conakat | <i>Confédération des associations tribales du Katanga</i>                                                 |
| Coscet  | <i>Le Comité de Suivi pour la Contribution des<br/>Communautés et Eglises à la Transformation Humaine</i> |
| DRC     | Democratic Republic of Congo                                                                              |
| DSP     | <i>Division Spéciale Présidentielle</i>                                                                   |
| ECZ     | Environmental Council of Zambia                                                                           |
| EIA     | Environmental Impact Assessment                                                                           |
| EIS     | Environmental Impact Statement                                                                            |

|          |                                                                                                                |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| EPA      | Environmental Protection Agency                                                                                |
| FULREAC  | <i>Fondation de l'Université de Liège pour les Recherches Scientifiques au Congo Belge et au Ruanda-Urundi</i> |
| Gassomel | <i>Groupement des associations de l'empire lunda</i>                                                           |
| GCM      | <i>Gécamines La Générale des Carrières et des Mines</i>                                                        |
| GRZ      | Government of the Republic of Zambia                                                                           |
| IAS      | Institute for African Studies                                                                                  |
| IBRD     | International Bank for Reconstruction and Development                                                          |
| ICI      | International Colonial Institute                                                                               |
| IFI      | International Financial Institution                                                                            |
| ILAM     | International Library of African Music                                                                         |
| ILO      | International Labour Organisation                                                                              |
| IMF      | International Monetary Fund                                                                                    |
| IMNZ     | Institute of National Museums of Zaire                                                                         |
| Indeco   | Industrial Development Corporation                                                                             |
| INÉAC    | <i>Institut National pour L'Étude Agronomique du Congo Belge</i>                                               |
| JMPR     | <i>Jeunesse du Mouvement Populaire de la Révolution</i>                                                        |
| KCM      | Konkola Copper Mines                                                                                           |
| KPC      | Katanga Provincial Council                                                                                     |
| MASA     | Mines African Staff Association                                                                                |
| MMD      | Movement for Multi-party Democracy                                                                             |
| MNC      | <i>Mouvement Nationale Congolaise</i>                                                                          |
| MPR      | <i>Mouvement Populaire de la Révolution</i>                                                                    |
| MUZ      | Mineworkers' Union of Zambia                                                                                   |
| MWU      | [European] Mineworkers' Union                                                                                  |
| Namboard | National Agricultural Marketing Board                                                                          |
| NAZ      | National Archives of Zambia                                                                                    |
| NCCM     | Nchanga Consolidated Copper Mines                                                                              |
| NGO      | Non-Governmental Organisation                                                                                  |
| NRANC    | Northern Rhodesian African National Congress                                                                   |
| NRCSS    | Northern Rhodesian Council for Social Services                                                                 |
| PCBs     | Polychlorinated Biphenyls                                                                                      |
| PF       | Patriotic Front                                                                                                |
| RLI      | Rhodes-Livingstone Institute                                                                                   |
| RMCA     | Royal Museum of Central Africa                                                                                 |
| RRC      | Race Relations Committee                                                                                       |
| RST      | Rhodesian (later Roan) Selection Trust                                                                         |

*List of Abbreviations and Acronyms*

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|         |                                                                           |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SGM     | <i>Société Générale des Minerais</i>                                      |
| SNCC    | <i>Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer du Congo</i>                      |
| SNCZ    | <i>Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer du Zaïre</i>                      |
| SNEL    | <i>Société Nationale d'Electricité</i>                                    |
| Somika  | <i>Société Minière du Katanga</i>                                         |
| SOZACOM | <i>Société Zaïroise de Commercialisation des Minerais</i>                 |
| SRK     | Steffen, Robertson and Kirsten                                            |
| TEPSI   | <i>Commission Provinciale pour le Travail et le Progrès des Indigènes</i> |
| UCS     | <i>Usines Chimiques de Shituru</i>                                        |
| UFERI   | <i>Union des Fédéralistes et Républicains Indépendants</i>                |
| UMCB    | United Missions to the Copperbelt                                         |
| UMHK    | <i>Union Minière du Haut-Katanga</i>                                      |
| UMHKA   | <i>Union Minière du Haut-Katanga Archives</i>                             |
| UMU     | United Mineworkers' Union                                                 |
| UNAZA   | University of Zaïre                                                       |
| UNESCO  | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization          |
| UNIP    | United National Independence Party                                        |
| UNTZA   | <i>Union Nationale des Travailleurs du Zaïre</i>                          |
| UNZA    | University of Zambia                                                      |
| UPP     | United Progressive Party                                                  |
| WB      | World Bank                                                                |
| WHO     | World Health Organization                                                 |
| ZBS     | Zambian Broadcasting System                                               |
| ZCCM    | Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines                                          |
| ZCCM-IH | Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines – Investment Holdings                    |
| ZCTU    | Zambia Congress of Trade Unions                                           |
| ZIT     | Zambia Institute of Technology                                            |
| ZMU     | Zambia Mineworkers' Union                                                 |
| ZNBC    | Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation                                  |