

University of London Southern Africa Seminar

Book Launch:

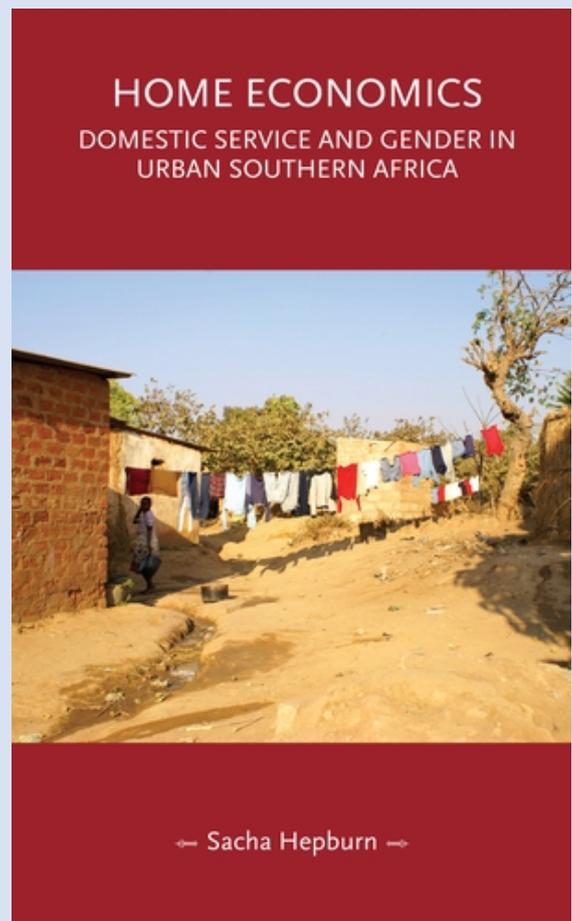
Sacha Hepburn, *Home Economics: Domestic Service and Gender in Urban Southern Africa* (Manchester University Press, 2022).

15 February 2023

17:00-18:30 GMT

Dreyfus Room, 28 Russell Square, London, WC1B 4HS and online via Microsoft Teams

At this launch event, **Sacha Hepburn** will be joined by a panel of historians to discuss her new book, *Home Economics: Domestic Service and Gender in Urban Southern Africa*. Domestic service has long been one of the largest forms of urban employment across southern Africa. *Home Economics* provides the first comprehensive history of this essential sector in the decades following independence and the end of apartheid. Focusing on Lusaka and drawing wider comparisons, the book traces how Black workers and employers adapted existing models of domestic service as part of broader responses to changing gendered employment patterns, economic decline, and endemic poverty. It reveals how kin-based domestic service gradually displaced wage labour and how women and girl workers came to dominate kin-based and waged domestic service, with profound consequences for labour regulation and worker organising. Theoretically innovative and empirically rich, the book provides essential insights into debates about gender, work, and urban economies that are critical to understanding southern Africa's post-colonial and post-apartheid history.



Sacha Hepburn is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at Birkbeck, University of London. At this event, she will offer an overview of her book and converse with fellow historians **Miles Larmer** and **Sarah Duff**. Miles Larmer is Professor of African History and Director of the African Studies Centre at the University of Oxford and author of, amongst others, *Living for the City: Social Change and Knowledge Production in the Central African Copperbelt* (Cambridge University Press, 2021). Sarah Duff is an Assistant Professor of History at Colby College and author of, amongst others, *Childhood and Youth in African History* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022). Your questions and a broader discussion will follow. All are welcome to attend and to participate.

This will be a hybrid event, hosted in person at Birkbeck, University of London and online via Microsoft Teams (accessible using [this link](#)). If you have any questions, please contact the organisers at s.hepburn@bbk.ac.uk