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## ADVANCE INFORMATION ON NEW BOOK



# Queer Mozambique

From the Mines to the Manas\*

Edited by Francisco P V Miguel and Marc Epprecht

Foreword by Danilo da Silva

**Examining sexual and gender dissent in Mozambique, from colonial histories to contemporary LGBTQIA+ movements, *Queer Mozambique* foregrounds Lusophone African perspectives in Global South queer theory.**

Postcolonial Mozambique decriminalised homosexual acts in 2015. Unlike in South Africa, Botswana and much of the West, this legal reform was not a response to litigation or public pressure, but came from a parliamentary initiative and lobbying by a few organisations. Subsequent public opinion polls show that Mozambique is an outlier in Africa in its relatively tolerant behaviours and attitudes toward non-heterosexual relationships.

What are the cultural and historical specificities toward gender and sexual dissidence in Mozambique that might explain its distinctive path, and what can we learn from them? *Queer Mozambique* provides a lively response to these questions.

No definitive answer is given. Contributors employ different modes and styles – ranging from photographs to storytelling to text interpretation – to tell stories of Mozambique’s distinctive cultures of sexual and gender dissent and fluidity, from the South African mine compounds of the late nineteenth century to the current LGBTQIA+ movement and the formation of new sexual and gender identities, such as those of the manas trans women.

The first book in English on queer issues in a Portuguese-speaking African country, *Queer Mozambique* not only assembles and interprets empirical evidence for the Anglophone reader, but also brings new debates and theories from the Global South. It aims at a truly global dialogue between international and Mozambican scholars of queer studies.

\* *Manas* means sisters in Portuguese. In Mozambique, *manas* has historically been used as a form of self-identification for people who challenge traditional gender roles or sexual orientation.

### About the Editors

Francisco P V Miguel holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Brasília. He is a FAPESP postdoctoral fellow based jointly at the State University of Campinas (Unicamp), Brazil and the Department of Global Development Studies at Queen’s University, Canada.

Marc Epprecht is Professor in the Department of Global Development Studies at Queen’s University. He is a visiting research professor at the History Workshop at University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

### Foreword by Danilo da Silva

Danilo da Silva is founding executive director of LAMBDA, Mozambique’s national LGBTI organization

**Keywords:** Queer studies; LGBTQ+ in Africa; Lusophone Africa; Mozambique history; Gender and sexuality; Postcolonial studies; African cultural studies; Sexual diversity; Global South perspectives; Decolonial queer theory

## What makes this book unique?

### 1. A Landmark Study That Challenges Simplistic Narratives of “Homophobic Africa”

This groundbreaking national case study of Mozambique disrupts the enduring “Africa-is-a-country” stereotype, showing how histories of sexuality and tolerance vary dramatically across the continent.

### 2. A Rare Political Story of Decriminalisation Outside Western Culture-War Models

Mozambique’s 2015 decriminalisation of homosexual acts occurred not through court rulings or mass protest, but through parliamentary reform and local advocacy – offering an exceptional global example of change beyond dominant Western frameworks.

### 3. A Queer History Situated in the Indian Ocean World

The book places Maputo within a rich Indian Ocean cultural geography shaped by Portuguese colonialism, migration, carnival circuits, Brazil, and transnational exchange – expanding queer history into new global terrains.

### 4. An Innovative Engagement with Silence, Absence, and Queer Archives

Rather than relying on a visible archive, the study confronts the “curated silence” of historical records, making a major contribution to queer historiography and African archival politics.

### 5. Cutting-Edge Scholarship Bridging Lusophone Africa and Queer Theory

Bringing Mozambique and Lusophone Africa into dialogue with queer theory long dominated by Anglophone contexts, the book reshapes what “queer Africa” means for scholars, students, and intellectually engaged general readers.

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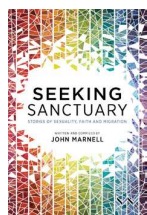
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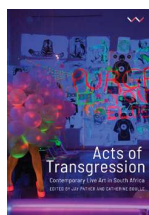
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