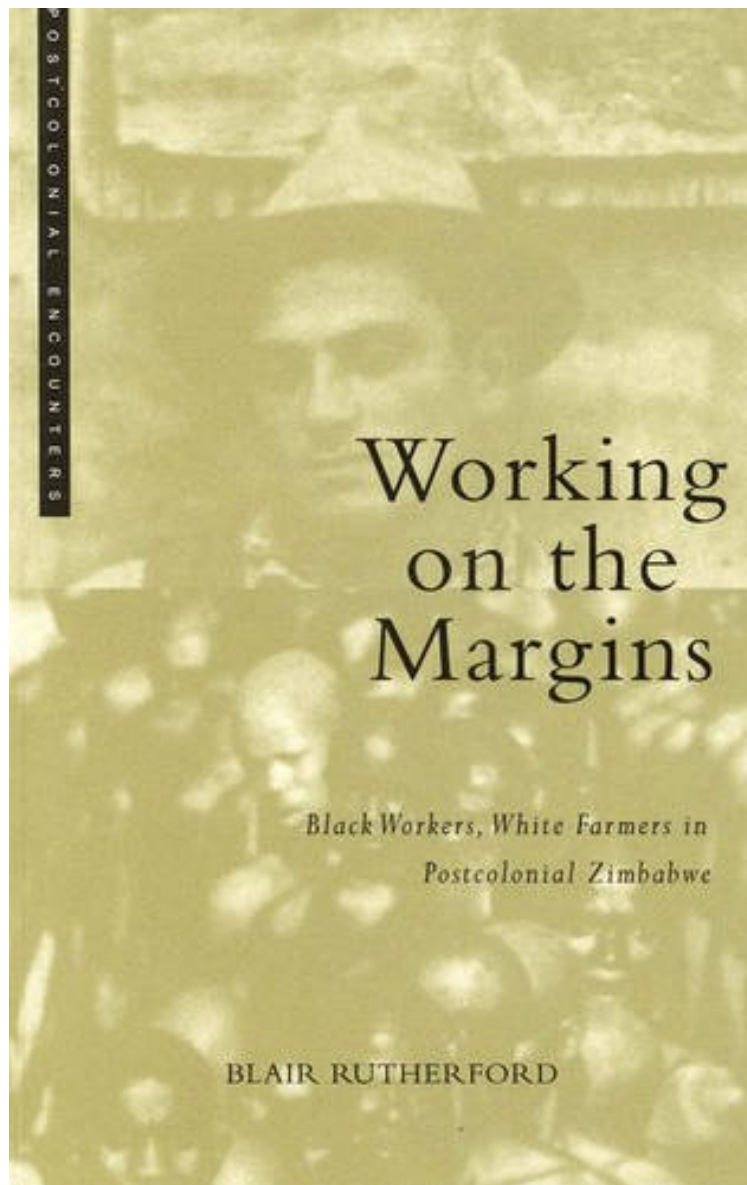


(Download) Working on the Margins: Black Workers, White Farmers in Postcolonial Zimbabwe (Postcolonial Encounters)

Working on the Margins: Black Workers, White Farmers in Postcolonial Zimbabwe (Postcolonial Encounters)

Blair Rutherford

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praised *Working on the Margins: Black Workers, White Farmers in Postcolonial Zimbabwe (Postcolonial Encounters)*:

This is the first ethnographic analysis, from the colonial past to the postcolonial present, of those who live and work on predominantly white-owned commercial farms in Zimbabwe - almost a fifth of the national population. The land question, rural development and labour exploitation are re-thought through a nuanced cultural analysis of the lives of farm workers, their families and their white bosses. Building on Foucault's concept of 'government', the book addresses the arrangements of power, points of struggle and strategies of accumulation on commercial farms and nearby communal lands. The author suggestively analyses the historical and current dimensions of marginalization of farm workers through state administrative practices of development and farm-based forms of authority, farmer paternalism and newly invented patriarchy, and locates strategies for amending traditions of domestic government within existing social practices and social identities.

'Rutherford's book is an excellent analysis of the complex political relations that have been faced by farm workers. It is a theoretically sophisticated and nuanced study of the problem, which stands almost alone in this area of study. The book is essential reading for an understanding of the politics of land in Zimbabwe.' Brian Raftopoulos, University of Zimbabwe 'For Zimbabwe, Blair Rutherford's *Working on the Margins* is arguably the most important - and most courageous - book published in the last ten years. Rutherford takes as his subjects the workers on white owned commercial farms. Neither scholars nor policy-makers have devoted very much attention to this category of people...A seminal publication.' *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, September 2005
About the Author Blair Rutherford is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Regina, Canada.