

Social Class, Political Voice and Access to Land around Kampala – A Century Long View

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How did the mailo form of land tenure contribute to the creation of the distinct social classes that emerged in southern Uganda in the 20th century? And how did colonial and post-colonial visions of social order (and the corollary regimes of political voice) shape the implementation of mailo law? This paper seeks to complicate the obvious connection of mailo with an entrenched elite by showing the different ways that mailo has been interpreted over the past century, using court cases, government white papers, and family histories.