

ABSTRACT

Crown Colony and the Problem of Ganja in Nineteenth Century Trinidad: A Sociology of Knowledge on Cannabis in Colonial Context

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This thesis examines the relationship between the administrative structure and subordinate social groups in colonial Trinidad and how this constituted, legitimated and shaped colonial knowledge of Cannabis. It is concerned with governance through the Crown Colony form and how this privileged paternal discourses which defined social problems in Trinidad. How these social problems were identified and defined in turn determined the forms of knowledge of disapproved social practices. As such Cannabis came to be constructed as *Ganja* a smoked, narcotic form consumed in hidden spaces, constituted and surrounded by disapproved behaviours, which in the last decades of the nineteenth century became officially accepted as a cause of insanity, violence and crime. The contingent nature of knowledge on Cannabis is evidenced through the use of comparative studies of other colonial societies within the British Empire.

keywords: *Cannabis, ganja, colonialism, crime, knowledge, discourse, Crown Colony, medicine, indentureship*