

# The Politics of Decolonisation: Archives and Evidence

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## Introduction:

While decolonisation represented a seismic change for the political autonomy of states, its consequences for governance in Africa remain contested.

The study with which this research project collaborated investigates how Tanzania's administrative power, particularly its bureaucratic capacity, was affected by the state's transition to independence in 1961.

This research project contributed in two broad ways:

- (1) Undertaking original archival research to collect data related to bureaucratic composition and social outcomes in Tanzania
- (2) Digitising and statistically analysing this data to understand how decolonisation affected welfare outcomes in Tanzania in myriad ways.

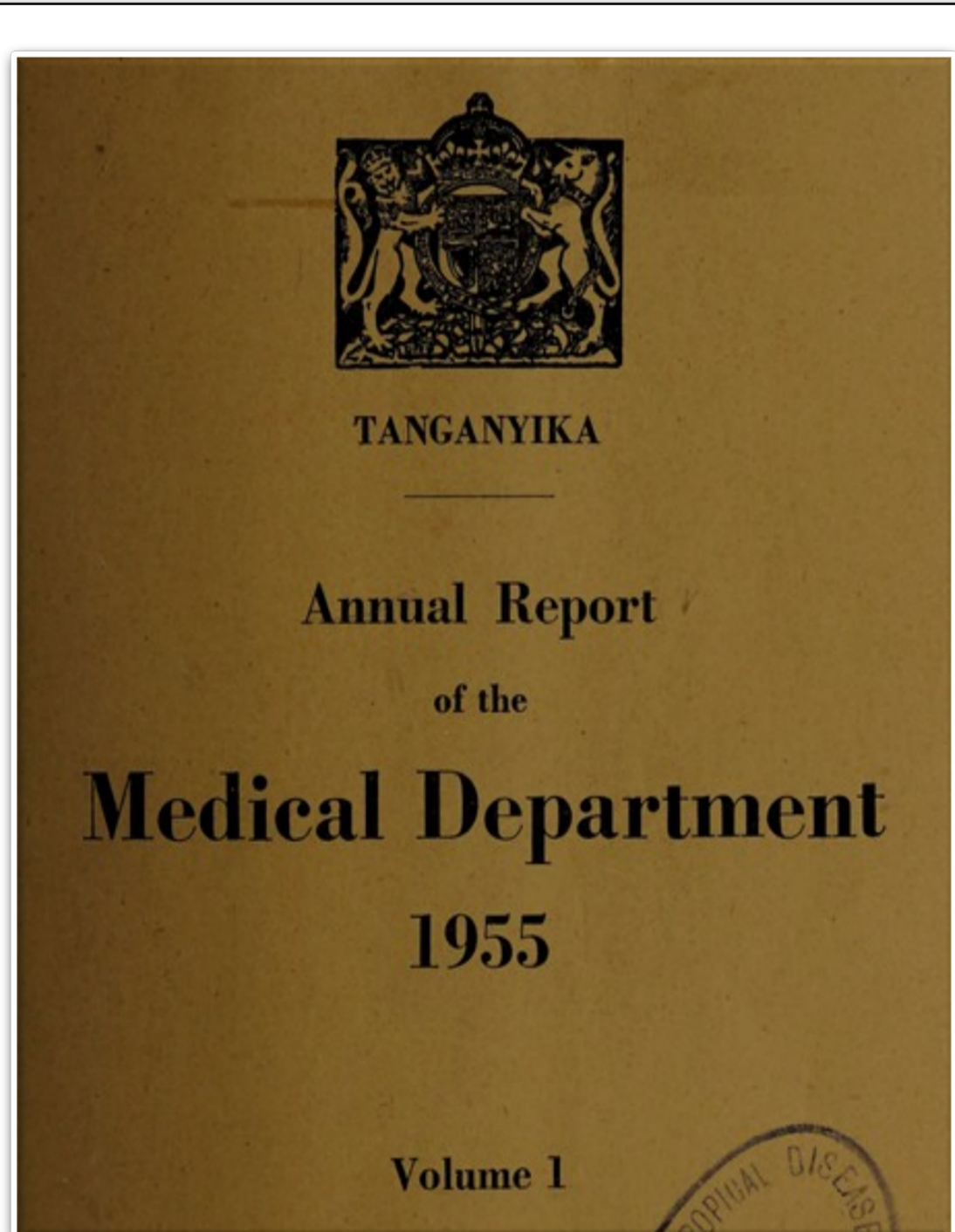
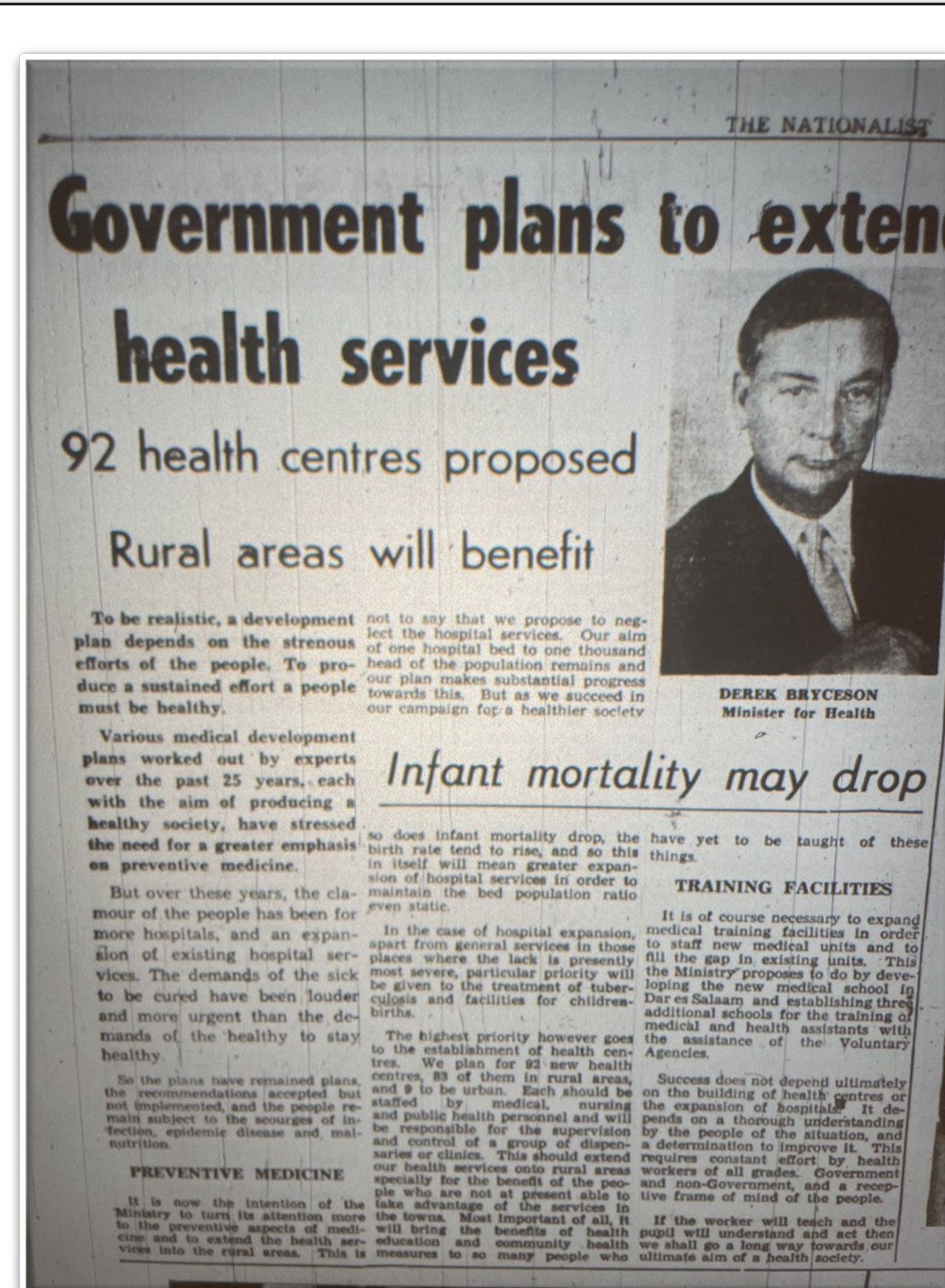
## Archival Research



Archival research consisted of the analysis and digitisation of original newspaper microfilms, government annual reports, and original staff lists comprised of all civil servants working in Tanzania during the examined period(1954–1976).

The extracted data was digitised both manually using the Nanonets software and Python.

The most thorough datasets – on the healthcare, judiciary, and prisons sectors - were combined with bureaucratic data for statistical analysis.



## Statistical Analysis

Data on healthcare in Tanzania included the number of beds and admitted patients per region per year, whilst data on the judiciary and prisons sectors included the number of civil/criminal cases and inmates arrested per region per year. The tables below depict the expansion of these sectors over the examined period, as well as the average correlation coefficients between the number of beds and admitted patients and number of court cases and arrested inmates per region.

Year:	PatientsAdmitted:	YearlyGrowthRate:
1954	90,981	
1955	100,377	9.3600%
1956	120,317	16.5700%
1957	116,778	-3.0300%
1958	123,519	5.4600%
1959	118,133	-4.5600%
1960	129,714	8.9300%
1961	131,948	1.6900%
1962	145,287	9.1800%
1963	159,182	8.7300%
1964	164,538	3.2600%
1965	179,631	8.4000%
1966	198,669	9.5900%
General Growth Rates:		
Pre-Independence(1954-60): 29.9%		
Post-Independence(1961-66): 33.6%		
Total Growth Rate: 54.2%		

Year	Total Inmates	Percentage Growth
1953	32,950	
1954	37,054	12.46%
1955	36,306	-2.02%
1956	35,253	-2.90%
1957	47,312	34.21%
1958	53,629	13.35%
1959	57,210	6.68%
1960	58,920	2.99%
1961	71,425	21.22%
1963	79,744	11.65%
1973	93,875	17.72%

Total Civil District Court Cases Pre-Independence Regions

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Eastern	2388	2587	2538	2746	2969	3890	5001	4915	4663
Tanga	873	886	872	992	1032	1246	1056	1197	971
Lake	1027	929	1150	1600	767	622	784	414	251
Northern	961	962	1132	865	1099	1198	1088	1366	1574
Southern	373	406	295	284	366	384	372	461	301
Southern Highlands	219	362	219	310	479	671	503	525	541
Central	130	224	153	198	275	305	251	214	320
Western	308	590	265	284	370	326	396	358	405

Data on these regions' expansions were then correlated with data on bureaucratic investments into each sector in every region. A moderate positive correlation was found between bureaucratic expansion and welfare expansion per sector per region.



Table 12: Average Correlation Coefficient Staff Lists v. Respective Department

	Including observations with no correlation	Not including observations with no correlation
Health	0.28895	0.39264
Justice	0.2777	0.3929
Prisons	0.3512	0.5060

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Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs	=	5
Model	89.8542606	1	89.8542606	F(1, 3)	=	80.57
Residual	3.34573935	3	1.11524645	Prob > F	=	0.0029
Total	93.2	4	23.3	R-squared	=	0.9641
				Adj R-squared	=	0.9521
				Root MSE	=	1.0561

PrisonsStaff	Coefficient	Std. err.	t	P> t	[95% conf. interval]
SongeaPrisoners	.0092565	.0010312	8.98	0.003	.0059746 .0125383
_cons	-2.833297	.8398181	-3.37	0.043	-5.505973 -.160621

## Conclusion:

Welfare expansion in Tanzania was found to positively correlate with bureaucratic expansion, yet certain observations had no correlation due to lack of bureaucratic expansion over time. The greater study into which this project is integrated will aim to explain these inconsistencies using data on bureaucrats' geographic allocations, qualifications, and other characteristics.

This project contributed to this study not only through this statistical analysis which supports the study's hypothesis, but also by increasing their pre-existing database from 34,000 to 45,000 observations through the results of the archival research undertaken during this summer.