

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book has been in the making for so long that I couldn't possibly name each and every one to whom I am indebted for support, advice, help, or simply for so generously providing their valuable time. Rather than committing the crime of omission (to which acknowledgment sections tend to fall prey), I shall refrain from mentioning individual names here, expressing my thanks to collectivities instead.

My most immediate debts are to the many people in Colombia who over the years opened their doors to me and my inquiries. In particular I want to thank the people of Guapi and the surrounding river basins on the Pacific Coast among whom I lived during 1998–99 and whom I have visited on repeated occasions since. I am most grateful to the many activists of the organizations of black communities in Colombia with whom I interacted over the past twenty years; they include the Proceso de Comunidades Negras, PCN; the National Movement for Human Rights of Afro-Colombian Communities, CIMARRÓN; the Association of Displaced Afro-Colombians, AFRODES; the Guapi-based groups of COCOCAUCA and MATAMBA Y GUASÁ; and the many community council leaders who shared their valuable time and opinions with me on the collective land titling process. Their activism, often in the face of threats to their lives, is utterly inspiring.

Very special thanks to everyone at the Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History (ICANH) in Bogotá, where I was based during my

fieldwork and was appointed associate researcher. I also received invaluable support at the National Geographic Institute Agustín Codazzi (IGAC), the Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform (INCORA), and the Institute of Environmental Research for the Pacific Coast (IIAP). I thank the staff of the biodiversity conservation plan Proyecto Biopacífico for their always open doors, thought-provoking conversations, and help with logistics of traveling in the Pacific lowlands.

The basic idea of this book began as a PhD project at the University of Glasgow in the late 1990s. I am grateful to my mentors for their unwavering commitment and to everyone in what was then the Department of Geography for their support and encouragement. For over twenty years I called Glasgow my home, and it always felt good to return after longer absences spent in the field in Colombia, in no small part thanks to my Glaswegian pals.

I have since had the pleasure of working at a number of academic institutions in the United States and have benefited tremendously from their intellectually stimulating and hospitable environments. Between 2005 and 2007 I spent time as a Marie Curie Research Fellow at the University of California in Los Angeles, where I enjoyed the privilege of working alongside true giants of political and cultural geography. I would like to thank everyone at the UCLA Department of Geography for providing an extraordinarily warm welcome during my time there.

Since fall 2010 Florida International University in Miami has been my academic home, where the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies has proved to be a wonderful space of interdisciplinary collegiality. The generous support offered to junior faculty there included a teaching-free semester in fall 2011, which I spent writing as a visiting fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where I found an intellectually inspiring atmosphere and much friendship.

Over the years I have incurred many debts to colleagues working on all things Afro-Colombian. What was a relatively small community of scholars in the early 1990s has since grown exponentially to become a dynamic field of study, and I have benefited tremendously from conversations, workshops, and collaborative research projects with colleagues and friends in Colombia and beyond.

In a more material sense writing this book was made possible by funding from several sources. As a graduate student I was funded by the Princi-

pal's Strategic Development Fund at the University of Glasgow (1997–2001). Two research grants by the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland helped offset fieldwork expenses in Colombia in 1998 and 2003. Further support was provided by an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship (2002–3), an ESRC Research Grant (2004–5), a Marie Curie International Fellowship supported through the 6th European Community Framework Programme (2005–8), a Summer Faculty Development Award (2011) from the College of Arts and Sciences at Florida International University (FIU), and two Morris and Anita Broad Research Fellowships awarded by FIU's School of International and Public Affairs (2012 and 2015).

A book is a collaborative effort, and it wouldn't look half as good without the committed and enthusiastic support of the wonderful editorial team at Duke University Press. I also want to thank two anonymous reviewers for their extraordinarily close reading of the initial manuscript and their sharp and insightful observations that helped to clarify some of my arguments.

Finally, I do want to mention two people in particular to whom I dedicate this book: Doña Celia Lucumí Caicedo, traditional healer and midwife from Guapi, who passed away on December 21, 2013. *¡Que la Santísima Virgen del Carmen le bendiga, comadre!* And Don Manuel Zapata Olivella, giant of Spanish American literature, who joined his ancestors on November 19, 2004. *Ekobío sabio, ya no eres prisionero.*

This page intentionally left blank