Illustrations

Maps

Map 0.1. The Southwest and Northwest Regions of Cameroon. United Nations map, public domain. xiii

Figures

Figure 0.1. Half-time rest during a friendly match. Buea, Cameroon, October 2014. Photo by the author. 17

Figure 1.1. Almost every training session starts and ends with a collective prayer. Buea, Cameroon, September 2014. Photo by the author. 36

Figure 1.2. A billboard in downtown Buea announcing the beginning of the selection process for the most prominent football academy in Cameroon. June 2015. Photo by the author. 44

Figure 3.1. Interquarter match on a muddy field in Buea Town. Buea, Cameroon, July 2015. Photo by the author. 77

Figure 3.2. A Nigerian footballer and his Cameroonian teammate (in the background), recent arrivals on a third-division club in a village in Slovakia. June 2016. Photo by the author. 87

Figure 4.1. Pentecostal stickers, ubiquitous in cars and homes. Buea, Cameroon, May 2015. Photos by the author. 112

Figure 5.1. Whoever forces his opponent to touch the ground with his back or belly wins. The sanja or “wrapper” that one of the wrestlers is wearing around his waist indicates that he is
representing his village Bokwai, the standing champions. Bova, Cameroon, May 2015. Photo by the author. 130

**Figure 5.2.** A Cameroonian footballer in deep prayer before a training session with his new team in Southern Poland. May 2016. Photo by the author. 137

**Figure 6.1.** Taking a selfie: the author with the famous Cameroonian midfielder Eyong Enoh. Amsterdam, the Netherlands, June 2016. Photo by the author. 143

**Figure 6.2.** Three generations of family members gathered in a kitchen around a three-stone cooking fire. Fundong, Cameroon, January 2015. Photo by the author. 152