Acknowledgments

This book is about a fascinating world that I have been privileged to share over a period of more than a decade of my life. It is the world of the Ho people who inhabit India’s interior as one of the numerous ‘tribes’ and who to this day claim to be living in a world of plenty – despite their being faced with all different kinds of pressure, discrimination, and state interventions.

Research during long-term stays and frequent return visits to Ho country resulted in a doctoral thesis handed in at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University Frankfurt/Main in 2018 which was then turned into this book. All of this would have been impossible without the commitment, guidance, and encouragement of many people, the incredible hospitality of all of my hosts in various parts of India and the generous help and support I have received over many years. I apologize that I will be unable to name all who have contributed in manifold ways – at home and in the field.

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and kept working on my pronunciation. In fact, my Ho (grand-) children, their social competence and self-confident growing into the world of the adults impressed me more than I can say. Just by their being the way they were they inspired me to learn more about Ho culture and become part of it myself.

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