

Acknowledgements

A book project – though it is written and elaborated by a specific author – is seldom feasible without the support of others. The same goes for this book, for which a lot of people have provided the work context I needed.

Thanks to all of you for your support!

To Rosa and Fabian, for standing this time with me, in which I often was not there for you as a husband and father.

To my parents and my grandmother, who helped wherever they could during these years.

To Enzo, Serena, Matteo at the University of Milan-Bicocca, who believed in this research project and made it possible through the URBEUR scholarship.

To Michela, Francesca Buonocuore, Francesca Menichelli, and all other URBEUR colleagues; Marianna and Silvia, my former ACRE colleagues; and everyone else in the Bicocca cosmos, who helped me to orientate and accommodate in Milan and the Italian scientific world.

To Sebastian Lentz, Joachim Burdack, Thilo Lang, Beata Kirchner and all other colleagues at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL), who supported me in going to Milan, and who made my fieldwork and the elaboration of this book possible through my flexible affiliation to the IfL.

To Gladys and Gianni, for hosting me in Milan; and to all my neighbours in the backyard in Sesto San Giovanni, who took care for me.

To all my interview partners, without whom it would have been very difficult to gather data on my topic.

To Stephanie Voigt, Stephanie Urban, Frank, Claudia, Rosa, who assisted with interview transcription.

To Eric Losang, who helped me with the cartographic illustrations.

To Stephanie Urban and Alexandra Vinson, who had to read through all this violation of their mother tongue and who helped me to fine tune my English in this document. Thanks for sitting that through!

To Elli, alias lagqaffe, who has drawn the wonderful cover illustration. I am happy that you decided to quit engineering and dedicate yourself to graphic design. Thanks for the cover!

To Anja and Andrea at De Gruyter Open, who were patient and flexible with deadlines for finishing this book. To the reviewers of the manuscript for their valuable comments.