

PREFACE

This book emerges from an interdisciplinary and collaborative project called “Race, Genomics and *Mestizaje* [mixture] in Latin America: A Comparative Approach,” which ran from 2010 to 2013. The project had two funding phases, each running for eighteen months. The project team consisted of myself, as overall director, and three teams, focusing on Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico, respectively. In each country, there was a senior coinvestigator (COI), who worked with a postdoctoral researcher (employed by Manchester University for the duration of the project) and a locally hired research assistant. The teams were as follows, listed in order as COI, postdoctoral researcher, and research assistant:

BRAZIL · Ricardo Ventura Santos (biological anthropologist at Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, Fiocruz, in Rio de Janeiro); Michael Kent (PhD in social anthropology from the University of Manchester, now an independent development consultant based in Bolivia); and Verlan Valle Gaspar Neto (during the project he finished his PhD in cultural anthropology at the Universidad Federal Fluminense; he is currently a professor at the Universidad Federal de Alfenas).

COLOMBIA · Eduardo Restrepo (social anthropologist at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá); María Fernanda Olarte Sierra (PhD in social sciences from the University of Amsterdam, currently a professor at the Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá) for phase one of the project, followed by Ernesto Schwartz-Marín (PhD in genomics in society from the University of Exeter, currently a research fellow at the University of Durham); and Adriana Díaz del Castillo (MA in medical anthropology from the University of Amsterdam, now a researcher at the Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá) for phase one, followed by Roosbelinda Cárdenas (during the project she finished her PhD in anthropology at the University of California, currently a visiting professor at Hampshire College).

MEXICO · Carlos López Beltrán (historian of science at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México [UNAM] in Mexico City); Vivette García Deister (PhD in philosophical and social studies of science and technology from UNAM, where she is now a professor), replaced during her maternity leave by Sandra González Santos (PhD in sociology from the University of Sussex, currently teaching at the Universidad Iberoamericana, the Centro Nacional de las Artes, and UNAM); and Mariana Ríos Sandoval (MA in medical anthropology from the University of Amsterdam, now a PhD student at the same university).

In each team, the roles of the three members varied in terms of hands-on data collection, but in general the postdoctoral researcher was the main investigator. During phase one of the project, the focus was primarily on a small number of labs and scientists in each country and secondarily on the way genetic information circulated outside the labs; during phase two, the balance was the other way around, including data collection (e.g., through focus groups) on how nonscientists reacted to genetic information.

Although I appear as the sole author of this book, I have depended on the data collected by the other team members and am also indebted to the many discussions we had during the project, at the several project workshops we ran, and during the process of producing a number of collaborative publications, foremost among which are *Mestizo Genomics* (Duke University Press, 2014, coedited by Wade, López Beltrán, Restrepo, and Santos) and a special issue of *Social Studies of Science* (December 2015, coedited by Wade, López Beltrán, and Santos). In this book, I cite these and other publications where relevant. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all the team members for what was an exhilarating intellectual experience—shared, I believe, by all.

The material in this book draws together the different strands of the project—plus some additional material (e.g., chapter 2)—into a single narrative, while also framing them in a new way, integrating them all into a single and, I hope, innovative argument about the relations and tensions between ideas of purity and mixture, and hierarchy and democracy. My aim has been to produce a deep analysis of the interweaving of ideas about the governance and imagination of cultural diversity/mixture with ideas about biological diversity/mixture. I use the concepts of assemblage and topography as conceptual tools in an analytical integration that seeks to avoid science–society dualisms, including the remnants of this opposition detectable in “coproduction” approaches. The main focus of *Mestizo Genomics*—which can be boiled down

to the question of how much the practice of genomic science reproduces familiar race-like concepts—has been submerged in the broader question of how genetic science has been and is connected to nodes in an assemblage that encompasses ideas and practices around the governance and imagination of human diversity. In the process, the comparative view inherent in the project—across Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia, but also of Latin America in a global context—is sharpened, and the analysis is more sustained in an effort to grapple with both the insights afforded by comparison and the pitfalls it presents in terms of bringing some things into focus while moving others into the background.