

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to my teachers. Michael Davidson and Page duBois, my mentors from the Department of Literature at the University of California–San Diego, have been consistent supporters of this book. I am inspired by them and by other feminist thinkers whose writings have taught me to envision politics beyond the fear of death and the skin of the human: Octavia Butler, Lauren Berlant, Mel Chen, Colin Dayan, Jack Halberstam, Donna Haraway, Lisa Lowe, Renisa Mawani, Jasbir Puar, Denise Ferreira da Silva, and the late Rosemary Marangoly George. Special thanks to Cindy Burgett, Diana Davis, Ji-Yeon Yuh, and Jillana Enteen, who nurtured my interests in literature and politics when I was a high school student in Topeka, Kansas, and an undergraduate at Northwestern University. Everything I know about power I learned from fellow activists working on international labor, animal, and antiwar campaigns; during my time in Chicago, Jenny Abrahamian, Desiree Evans, Mischa Gaus, Dana Lossia, Pete Micek, Chris Sherman, Jake Werner, and many others taught me through shared struggle. My interests in health, medicine, and migration have also been deeply shaped by the stories of my father, Sain Ahuja, and his experiences as both a medical physicist and a refugee of the war of Indian partition in 1947.

I could not have written this book without learning from brilliant graduate and undergraduate students including Aisha Anwar, Nicole Berland, Laura Broom, Patrick Dowd, Adam Faircloth, Wayland Ferrell, Tegan George, Amanda al-Raba'a, Kriti Sharma, Pavithra Vasudevan, Peter Warrington, and L. Lamar Wilson. I also owe thanks to the many faculty colleagues who gave me encouragement, feedback, or other support during the writing process: Aimee Bahng, Colleen Boggs, Michael Davidson, Zulema Diaz, Page duBois, Steven Epstein, Rebecka Fisher, Carla Freccero, Rosemary George, Minrose Gwin, Jennifer Ho, Julietta Hua, Alexandra Isfahani-Hammond, Jinah Kim, Michael Lundblad, Tim Marr, John McGowan, Chandan Reddy, Peter Redfield, Jamie Rosenthal, Ruth Salvaggio, Kyla Schuller, Nayan Shah, Nityasha Sharma, Denise Ferreira da Silva, Kathryn Shevelov, Elizabeth Steeby,

Shelley Streeby, Matt Taylor, Jane Thraikill, Priscilla Wald, Winnie Woodhull, Kathleen Woodward, and Ji-Yeon Yuh. I received feedback from faculty, students, librarians, and independent scholars following presentations of parts of this work at the University of British Columbia, the University of California–Davis, the University of California–San Diego, the University of California–Santa Barbara, the University of Chicago, Duke University, the University of North Carolina, Yale University, and the meetings of the Association for Asian American Studies, the Society for Caribbean Studies, and the American Studies Association. The revision of the manuscript benefited from my participation in a seminar on Sex, Gender, and Species facilitated by Ranjana Khanna and Kathy Rudy in the Women’s Studies Department at Duke University and from a series of events organized by María Elena Garcia and Louisa Mackenzie of the Postcolonial Animal Working Group at the University of Washington.

My research was funded by the University of California President’s Dissertation Fellowship Program, California Cultures in Comparative Perspective, UCSD Center for the Humanities, the Junior Faculty Development Award Program of the UNC Provost, the UNC University Research Council, and the UNC Department of English and Comparative Literature, where department chair Beverly Taylor was instrumental in helping me secure writing time and resources. I relied heavily on the staffs at the University of California Libraries, the University of North Carolina Libraries, the Library of Congress Newspapers and Periodicals section, the India Office Records at the British Library, the Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Duke University, and the History of Medicine Reading Room at the National Library of Medicine. Chapter 3 would not have been possible without the input and assistance of Claud Bramblett, formerly of the Darjani primate station, Kenya; Gabriel Troche, formerly of Cayo Santiago station, Puerto Rico; George Siebert, film collector; and the staff at Kensington Video, San Diego. Thanks to D. A. Henderson and John Wickett for assistance with an image for chapter 4.

Early drafts of sections of chapters 1 and 3 appeared in a different form as “The Contradictions of Colonial Dependency: Jack London, Leprosy, and Hawaiian Annexation,” *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 1, no. 2 (2007): 15–28; “Macaques and Biomedical Discourse: Notes on Decolonization, Polio, and the Changing Representations of Indian Rhesus in the United States, 1930–1960,” in *The Macaque Connection: Cooperation and Conflict between Humans and Macaques*, edited by Sindhu Radhakrishnan, Michael A. Huffman, and Anindya Sinha (New York: Springer, 2013), 71–91; and “Notes on Medicine, Culture, and the History of Imported Monkeys

in Puerto Rico,” in *Centering Animals in Latin American History*, edited by Martha Few and Zeb Tortorici (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2013), 180–205.

I am especially thankful for the assistance of Duke University Press in supporting me as a first-time author. Series editors Jasbir Puar and Mel Chen were supportive of the project from the beginning. Courtney Berger was an incisive and supportive editor who made the revision process both rigorous and humane. I am grateful for the generous and patient feedback of Colleen Boggs and one other anonymous manuscript reviewer. Their meticulous comments and multiple readings of the complete manuscript were pivotal in sharpening the arguments, structure, and critical voice of the book. Erin Hanas, Liz Smith, and Christine Riggio made important contributions during the production process.

I acknowledge that this book was written on lands traditionally occupied and transited by the Kumeyaay, Potawatami, Miami, Eno, Shakori, and Sissipahaw peoples of California, Illinois, and North Carolina. It is my hope that it may in some small way contribute to decolonial struggles in North America and beyond.

Finally, I must thank those kin—human, canine, and feline; living in the United States and India; related by blood, friendship, pleasure, cohabitation, and political community—who offered me space, food, laughter, affection, resources, and patience during the ten years I spent writing. Special thanks to my entire extended family—especially to Parmod Dewan, Mamta Dewan, Sheenu Dania, Rano Ummat, Tarun Ummat, Harsween Ummat, and Anand Verma, who helped me pursue archival research and language study in India. I am grateful for the love and support of Jamie Rosenthal, Chef, Keiki, Jenny Abrahamian, Usha Ahuja, Sain Ahuja, Sonia Ahuja, Shyla Ahuja, Sarita Ahuja, Andras Ambrus, Dana Lossia, Jinah Kim, Peter Holderness, Chris Sherman, Neha Bhardwaj, Meghann Wilkinson, Julietta Hua, Aimee Bahng, Chuong-Dai Vo, Kyla Schuller, Elizabeth Steeby, Denise Khor, Sara Forrest, Brenda Lehman, Cheryl Taruc, Jake Peters, Zulema Diaz, Rohan Radhakrishna, Nina Martin, Jean Dennison, Mike Ritter, Sara Smith, Tonyot Stanzin, Erika Wise, Aaron Beyerlin, Jocelyn Chua, Jennifer Ho, Matthew Grady, Ariana Vigil, Laura Halperin, Heidi Kim, Jes Boon, Sarah Bloesch, Hong-An Truong, and Dwayne Dixon. As this book went into press, I welcomed my daughter and comrade Naya to the world. And as life somehow persists in this age of extinction, I think finally of elders who nurtured me across oceanic expanses: this book is dedicated to the memory of my grandfather, Prem Nath Dewan.