
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work would not have been possible without the kindness and generosity of the people I met in the field, many of whom appear in this book under pseudonyms. In particular I want to thank the family with whom I resided in “Longyan,” as well as the local middle school there for providing me with a secure institutional home. I owe a special debt to the more than two hundred students at the middle school, who always kept me on my toes and who led me to various, unexpected destinations throughout my fieldwork. In nearby Fuzhou City, I am extremely grateful to Lin Guoping and his wife and daughter for their unfailing support, both scholarly and otherwise. I also would not have gotten much done without my dearest friend and occasional research assistant, Zheng Xiaojuan. My Fuzhounese language teacher, Liang Yuzhang, was not only a true role model, but also another crucial anchor for me in China. Other friends, including Deng Qikai, Zhang Yan, Lan Weifang, and Liu Haiyan, made my time in Fuzhou infinitely more welcoming and enjoyable. I also thank Xie Bizhen and Cai Xiuling for their friendship and support. Finally, I am grateful to Fujian Normal University for providing me an academic base as a research fellow for 2001–2002 and for hosting me at the International College during the summer of 2000.

On the U.S. end of things, Faye Ginsburg and Eric Manheimer were instrumental in enabling me to develop my initial interests in Fuzhounese migration during the MA phase of my research. This book would also not have been possible without Angela Zito, whose timely arrival at New York University at the tail end of my MA gave me the necessary boost of confidence and intellectual inspiration to follow the Fuzhounese back to China for further PhD fieldwork. Once I turned my attention to China, I benefited tremendously from conversations with Ko-lin Chin and Michael Szonyi, both of whom were exceptionally generous in sharing knowledge and resources for getting research done in Fuzhou. Several other scholars also gave me valuable insights and advice about doing fieldwork in China,

including Kenneth Dean, Leo Douw, Lisa Rofel, Murray Rubenstein, Louisa Schein, Frank Pieke, and Li Minghua. My actual fieldwork was supported by fellowships from the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange and from the International Migration Program of the Social Science Research Council, with funds provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Various stages of writing were given institutional support by anthropology departments at New York University, the University of California at Santa Cruz, Wellesley College, and the University of Chicago, as well as the American Anthropology Association's Minority Dissertation Fellowship, the University of California's Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship, and the Irmgard Coninx Foundation.

Many people helped see me through the writing and rewriting of this book. During the initial dissertation phase at NYU, my thanks go out to Jessica Cattelino, Omri Elisha, Faye Ginsburg, Sherine Hamdy, Adria Imada, Jong Bum Kwon, Emily Martin, Fred Myers, Ayse Parla, Ramona Perez, Lok Siu, Elizabeth Smith, Winifred Tate, and Angela Zito. I am especially grateful to Winifred and Sherine for allowing me to subject them to various half-baked drafts of chapters over the long haul from dissertation to final book manuscript. Lisa Rofel also provided invaluable support and feedback on the entire manuscript during the post-dissertation phase of writing. I thank her not only for her sharp insights, but also for generously circulating my work-in-progress among her graduate students at UC Santa Cruz, who gave me many additional ideas for revisions. Similarly, this book benefited from feedback from graduate courses taught by Angela Zito at NYU and Kesha Fikes at the University of Chicago. I also received much needed comments for revising individual chapters and discrete parts of the book from Amahl Bishara, Summerson Carr, Jessica Cattelino, Sealing Cheng, Sara Friedman, D. J. Hatfield, Eleana Kim, John Osberg, Gilberto Rosas, Greg Ruf, and Robin Shoaps, as well as from various colloquium and workshop audiences at UC Santa Cruz, UC San Diego, Brown, the University of Chicago, the University of Texas at Austin, the New School, Tufts, Brandeis, Johns Hopkins, and the Berlin Roundtables for Transnationality. I am also grateful to the two anonymous readers from Duke University Press for their careful readings and thoughtful suggestions for revisions, as well as to my editor, Ken Wissoker, for his Zen-like patience and support for seeing this book to publication. My thanks also go out to assistant managing editor Tim Elfenbein, copy editor Bojana

Ristich, and J. Naomi Linzer Indexing Services for helping me through the final stages.

Last but not least, two people have been my most stalwart supporters throughout the research and writing of this book. First, I want to thank my mother for putting her own doubts aside to travel to China with me when I first embarked on this project. We literally took the slow boat down the Yangtze on the way to Fuzhou, and as I describe in the introduction, this project would not have gone nearly as smoothly if I had not been my mother's daughter. Finally, I thank my partner, Matthew Harris, for providing all the little things that helped make the good days great and the bad days forgettable.

• • •

An earlier version of chapter 1 appeared in *Identities* 13, no. 3 (September 2006).