

Acknowledgements

Funding for my research was provided by grants from the Population Council's Middle East Research Awards in Population and the Social Sciences (MEAwards) and the Social Science Research Council. The staff of the Population Council's WANA office in Cairo offered both moral and intellectual support, and I would like to thank Barbara Ibrahim, Seteney Shami and Moushira Elgeziri in particular. I am very grateful to the Ford Foundation for funding my research through the Sudanese Research Group on Female Genital Mutilation, especially to Jocelyn DeJong. Thanks to Panos Moutzidis at the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and Carolyn Ennis at the US Embassy for their help in understanding the issues around refugee protection and status determination in Egypt.

This book has gone through a number of stages, each of which is associated with a key set of people who helped me formulate ideas, questions, and analyses. I was nurtured through the doctoral research and writing process by the faculty and students at Boston University's anthropology department and African Studies Center. In particular, I am grateful to my doctoral committee – Shahla Haeri, Lidwien Kapteijns, Charles Lindholm, Fredrik Barth and Jenny White – for the intellectual support and rigour with which they guided me. In Cairo, I had the good fortune to find an institutional home for the duration of my research at the Office of African Studies at the American University in Cairo. Thanks to Ken Menkhaus, William Cyrus Reed, Mulki Al-Sharmani, Angie Gabr, and Tayba Sharif for many years of support. Special thanks to Enid Hill, the late Cynthia Nelson, and Cy Reed for mobilizing university resources on my behalf. Barbara Harrell-Bond, Elizabeth Coker, Mike Kagan, Nancy Peterson, and Oroub El-Abed at the American University in Cairo's Forced Migration and Refugee Studies Program, as well as Dean Nicholas Hopkins, all contributed insights into the experiences of forced migrants. My colleagues at the University of East London's Refugee Studies programme – Giorgia Doná, Maja Korac, Phil Marfleet, and Siraj Sait – have helped me to flesh out some of the key themes around displacement and citizenship. Special thanks to Alia Arafa and Diane Ball, who held things together in Cairo and in London.

I am forever indebted to the hundreds of Sudanese women and men in Cairo who welcomed me as a researcher and community member. I am especially grateful to the young women of Ain Shams and their families; Mustafa Mekki and his family; the staff of the Sudan Culture and Information Center; the Sudanese Victims of Torture Group, and Ali Awad in particular; Ali Tom and the staff of Al-Tanmia, especially 'Atta Muhammad; Abu-Mutallab Zahran Balla and Nawal Fadl; the family of Muhammad Al-Fatih; members of the Karma Art Group, in particular Muhammad Said; the Sudanese Cultural Digest Project; Abd al-Rahman al-Mahdi, Elham Osman Abd al-Razig, and the entire staff of SUDIA; the women of Ma'an; Haidar Ibrahim Ali and the Sudan Studies Centre; Majdy Al-Naim; the late Horeya Hakim; Sarah and Hoda Bukhari; Hanan Abou Zeid and Muhammad Osman El-Obeid; and Zakaria Deng. Their struggles and achievements in the face of such difficult circumstances will always inspire me; my interpretation of their stories in these pages represents my limited understanding of the goals, aspirations, and dreams of Sudanese in Cairo. Very special thanks go to Amira Abderahman Ahmed and Amal Al-Bashir, whose research assistance, intellectual contributions, and companionship were indispensable.

Many other colleagues and friends offered advice and support over the years. I am especially grateful to Majda Ali, Nada Mustafa Ali, Fateh Azzam, Iman Bibars, Chang-hui Chi, Carla Daughtry, Kristina Nelson, Ibrahim El-Nur, Nadine Fernandez, Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, Sondra Hale, Steve Howard, Abdou Agou Jok, ElWathig Kameir, Sandra Lane, Richard Lobban, Khalid Medani, Catherine Miller, Eve Troutt Powell, Beth Anne Pratt, Robert Rubinstein, Heather Sharkey-Balasubramanian, and Manjari Wijenaiké. For their close reading of earlier drafts of the manuscript, I would like to thank Nadjé Al-Ali, Dawn Chatty, Elizabeth Colson, Barbara Harrell-Bond, and Seteney Shami. A special thank you to Elizabeth Bishop for her critical analysis and gracious consideration of my prose, and to David Wilmsen for help with Arabic transliteration.

I could not have done without the friendship of Anne Belt, Patricia Billings, Jessica Bowles, Paola De Angelis, Pat Fitzsimmons, Sarah Gauch, Sheila Munot Gaunt, Sumaiya Hamdani, Siona Jenkins, Louise and Jeff Kemprecos, Carol King-Reed, Nathaniel Mulcahy, Khalil Nasrallah, Linda Oldham, Suzanne Sloan, Jennifer Thayer, and Sedat Turhan. Heartfelt thanks to Muhammad Abd al-Wadoud, Mahasin Abd al-Wadoud, and Hala Erfan for all they have contributed to this project. I wish to thank Adrian Fábos, Bettina Fábos, Christopher Martin, Karim Sumun, Musa Sumun, and my parents Edith Fábos and Julius Fábos for their unwavering support. Finally, to my sweet and funny daughter Maya whose birth marked an end and a beginning.