

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



This project accompanied me for more than a decade, and on this long journey I moved from Graz to Berlin and temporarily to Jena, got a new job in Frankfurt (Oder) and, besides a lot of commuting to these places, made many longer and shorter trips to Kosovo, where I started my fieldwork in 2011, and to different cities in Germany and Austria, where I visited migrants from the Opoja region. This was also a time when I spent many days in the philological library of the Free University of Berlin, also called ‘the brain’, which became my second home before Covid-19 began, and which provided me with the spirit to write this manuscript.

This book is based above all on the hospitality of the families I met in Opoja, who warmly welcomed me from the beginning of my fieldwork, included me in their family life and increasingly made me feel like a family member. Especially the children and the many nice evenings together with the women of the families, where we laughed a lot, made the time in Opoja very joyful and unforgettable for me. I am also very grateful for the openness of my interlocutors, who told me about the concerns they face in their daily lives, let me participate in family celebrations and helped me establish contact with various relatives and other villagers. I would also like to thank the Opoja families living in Germany and Austria who welcomed me into their homes.

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However, my contacts with the University of Prishtina began earlier, in 2009, with a pilot study on kinship and social security funded by the Austrian Research Liaison, in which I collaborated with Anton Berishaj, Shemsi Krasniqi, Kristë Shtufi, Artan Krasniqi and Muhamer Hasani.

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