

Acknowledgement

Over time, the work on this thesis was accompanied by many, who have contributed to the completion of this research in their own way. I would like to express my appreciation for their trust and patience and thank my family and friends for being there.

As special mentions, I wish to thank all the interviewees for giving me their personal insights and the people of Bahir Dar who introduced me to how they live. I am most indebted to my supervisors Prof. Dr. Dieter Läßle and Prof. Dr. Einhard Schmidt-Kallert for their guidance throughout the ups and downs of the project. I thank Getie Gelaye from Hamburg University for giving me some insight into Ethiopia's rich culture and Genet Alem from Dortmund University for her insights into Ethiopia's planning system. Genet GebreEgziabher from the Regional Urban Planning Institute facilitated many of the expert interviews during data collection. Thank you to my research assistants Abnet Tarekegn, Henok Tsegaye, Lukas Grellmann, Konrad Putzier, and Janko Vollmer for their valuable contributions during the fieldwork. Special thanks to Benjamin Stähli for his companionship and hospitality. My thanks also to Kumneger and Tirufat Adane, Zerai Mesfin and Amare Tsedal for showing me around in Bahir Dar and for the many conversations. I thank Zegeye Cherenet and his colleagues at EiABC in Addis Ababa for backing me in my research endeavours and the staff members at Bahir Dar University for their support. I would like to thank my peers Heike Derwanz, Katja Heinecke, Katrin Klitzke, Dietmar Weiß and Verena Gernert for their thoughtful comments and helpful suggestions. Hauke Seeger and my sister Yasmin Appelhans offered their help in the finishing of the document, for which I am very grateful. Astrid Preuß has continuously supported the administrative side of writing this PhD on behalf of the HCU and through her interest and kindness.

Without the two scholarships of the IPSWaT Programme of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and of the City of Hamburg this research would not have been possible.

Despite careful inquests, all errors are mine.