

Acknowledgements

I owe the greatest debt of gratitude to the people of Cala Cala. Without their friendliness, patience and welcoming spirit, none of this would have been possible. They kindly shared their homes, their stories and their time, allowing me, albeit temporarily, to feel part of a truly exceptional community. ¡Muchas Gracias!

Research for this dissertation was made possible by a PhD grant from the *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes*. I am especially grateful for the generous support of my fieldwork in Bolivia. Additional funding for proofreading was provided by the *a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School for the Humanities* in Cologne.

Michaela Pelican was the kind of supervisor any PhD candidate can only hope for. I thank her for her patience and for personally and intellectually engaging with my work. Her personal dedication and her pragmatic advice in all phases of this project have been truly exceptional. I also thank Heike Drotbohm for her yearlong guidance since my very first steps as an anthropology student, and for her encouragement and support in the early stages of this project. Many thanks also go to Barbara Potthast who provided important contextualization and interdisciplinary input for my project. At the University of Cologne and the *a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School*, I would like to thank all fellow PhD students and colleagues who read and commented on parts of my work.

In Bolivia, I thank the staff at *CESU-UMSS* for allowing me to be part of their institution in Cochabamba during the preparatory stages of my field research. I thank all the people at *CONAFRO*, *CADIC*, *ILC-Afro*, *IPELC*, *MOCUSABOL*, *ORISABOL*, *Mauchi*, *Comunidad Afroboliviana Cochabamba*, *CABOLS*, *AfroCruz*, and *Unión Afro* for allowing me to participate in their meetings and activities, sharing documents, travels and many hours of their time with me. I am especially grateful to Martín Ballivián, Juan Angola, Jorge Medina, Edgar Vázquez, Sandy Pinto, Juan Carlos Ballivián, Mónica Rey and Vianka Vargas whose support and guidance have been crucial in many ways.

Most importantly, I thank my wife and children who have faithfully accompanied me throughout all those years. They endured my prolonged absences and many dissertation writing-induced mood swings, but nonetheless always provided the support and encouragement that made this book possible.

Note on the use of names

To protect my interlocutors' anonymity I have used pseudonyms for all individuals, except for public figures like activists, politicians, and authors who have publicly spoken or written about the topics I discuss.

I have not used a pseudonym for my field research site, since my discussion of local history and geography make the *comunidad* easily identifiable as Cala Cala/Nogalani.