

Acknowledgements

This book is a compilation of more than 10 years of several collective work that would not be possible without the amazing students, colleagues, cooperation partners and communities I have collaborated with. All of the presented methods, tools, reflections, challenges were collectively built and summarizing them into this book is also my way of honoring those people and the uncountable learnings I got from them.

It is impossible to mention all the names of the people who were part of this long process, but I need to mention some important ones that have helped me shape my perspective as an architect, urbanist, scholar and most of all as a citizen and human.

First of all, I would like to thank my friend, colleague and former PhD and Master Supervisor Luciana Andrade, who not only supported and encouraged me in my first steps towards this complex field, but also inspired me to understand myself as a political academic, not separating me as a political being from the scholar and professional.

Secondly, I would like to thank my dear partners in the COLLOC workshop series: Kathrin Wieck, Fernanda Petrus, Manuel Meyer, Natacha Quintero, Toni Karge, Ana Slade and Jorge Fleury, with whom I learn so much every year.

I also would like to thank my colleagues from TU-Berlin and UFRJ that inspired me and with who I developed since 2014 different teaching formats where we could experiment collaboration with different communities: Maria Paula Albernaz, Qusay Amer, Francesca Ceola, Maureen Abi-Ghanem, Tuanne Monteiro, Claudia Seldin, Moritz Ahlert and Hassan Elmouelhi. To my former colleague and cooperation partner Ayham Dalal for the inspiring talks and cooperation in Egypt. To Anke Hagemman and Philipp Misselwitz for all the support through the years at Habitat Unit.

To the many students that crossed my path through the years and with who I learned more than I can tell. Special thanks to the students from Abriçó.

To the residents of Solano Trindade: Izabel, Juliana, Naiara, Chiquinho, Fred, and leaderships of the social movement MNLM Edivaldo Gomes, Noêmia Magalhães and Gelson Almeida. It has been an incredible privilege to be able to take a small part in this beautiful project.

To the residents of Indiana, especially Dona Clarice, S. Antônio, Marcelo, Socorro, Inês. Maria Lúcia Pontes and José Simões.

To all other communities I have cooperated and that have taught me most of what I know, from small favelas in Rio de Janeiro, to an informal settlement in Cairo and refugees shelters in Berlin.

To the organizations that I cooperated with in the past years, especially BENN Märkisches Viertel and Marzahn Süd, represented by Mohamed Amer, Johana Eichstädt, Svenja Kück, Sarah Krüger and Khalil Sharaf. Also to Anja Barmeyer-Grünke from the GU Paul Schwenke-Str. for her support and collaboration.

This book would also not have been possible without the support of the funding organizations of DAAD and DFG, that supported the past 5 years of the research and most of the workshops and activities described here. I also acknowledge the support by the Open Access Publication Fund of Technische Universität Berlin. I thank Peter Fogarty from Scribendi (<http://www.scribendi.com>) for editing a draft of this manuscript.

Last but not least, to my family for the understanding and support and especially for my two daughters that inspire me to keep dreaming of better futures for us all.