

Acknowledgements

This book is indebted to the inputs, analyses, theoretical discussions and attentive criticism of many. I would like to start with Mrs. Magdalene George, Jerome Daniels and Faeza Meyer Fouri. Their openness and analyses of their struggles, the ways in which they relate to their communities and their recalling of their memories allowed me to develop the analysis of this study. Their words lived with me throughout the years. Their resoluteness and above all, their power of endurance, will remain a life-time reminder of fight and hope. Their critical stance towards the role of research and researchers have essentially shaped the book's entire approach. This study would have been impossible without our conversations and the amount of what I have learned from them.

Heidi Grunebaum has shaped and challenged this work over almost six years. The time she invested in our conversations and the ways in which she supervised the work throughout all its critical stages, cannot be compensated. Especially the methodology this book undertook has been thoroughly influenced by her painstakingly deconstructing imprecise assumptions, use of sources and theoretical framings. Ulrike Schultz's extensive and committed supervision is irreplaceable for the direction this book undertook. Her straightforwardness and at the same time, humanness, became the most productive sources. Oddveig Nicole Sarmiento accompanied this work from its very beginning. Conversations with her contributed to various frameworks and concepts. I remain indebted to her guidance and intellectual generosity she invested down through the years. Sara Abbas's patience and analytical interventions made me rethink the book's structure and use of method and has influenced my whole understanding of the themes I was working on. I am deeply grateful for her sincere friendship. Countless conversations with Ilham Rawoot have enabled a whole set of subjects related to exclusion and criminalisation to impact this work. I do not want to miss one single of them.

Ala Hourani has enriched this work in many different ways. To list all of them is impossible, although it would make the reader sincerely laugh, because his humour is a gift to anyone who wants to learn how making fun of ourselves releases the uptightness that our everyday imposes on us. His scholarly input and ways of articulation has made me rethink many of my own fixed notions and paradigms. Donovan Ward's contributions in conversations and discussions and his commitment to the themes this book focuses on, tremendously helped the idea of this book to emerge. My deepest gratitude to his analysis and humbleness in all these years. From Xolile Masoqoza I learned the anti-apartheid struggle songs. His tireless commitment has, I think without him knowing, helped me through the different stages of this work. Sabelo Mcinzi's political analysis has strongly influenced the angle from which the book's themes were chosen. I cannot thank him enough for our theoretical debates. I also would like to express my profound respect and gratitude to Andreas Feldtkeller. His motivating words have enabled me to continue at times when I became doubtful.

I am deeply indebted to Manjanigh Collective and our comradeship over the years. Would we not have approached countless discussions and working methods together, I would have lacked the theoretical and practical means that were essential to conduct this study the way it was done.

Different contents of this book have been strongly nurtured by the scholarly generosity of the Centre for Humanities Research – University of the Western Cape, during my time at the Centre as a visiting fellow. Discussions at the Centre on theory and method have been substantial to the whole path this book undertook. The study leading to this book was conducted through the Otto Suhr Institute of Political Science of the Free University Berlin. It owes much to the institute's manner in which doctoral fellows are encouraged to continue their studies despite all kinds of social and economic hardships. I would like to thank Bettina Engels and Daphne Stelter for exceptional mentoring and administrative guidance.

Hardly can I find words for expressing my gratitude to my husband, best friend, and comrade, Behzad Yaghoobpour, who has taught me to remain calm and never surrender. His ability to conceptualise thought, to allow emotions to flow the way they have to, and to hold theoretical discussions until the early morning, enabled me to constantly reflect on content and approach. Asal Akhavan, Greer Valley, Chrisoula Lionis, Dror Dayan and Renate and Kiana Klysch have been great companions who supported this work particularly in the moments when I lost my ability to think clear.

This book owes much to Schohreh Baddii, my mother, and to Masoumeh Fooladpour and Maryam Zia, my late grandmothers, whose strength and truthfulness have determined the whole path through.

