

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cooking up this book has not been easy; the labor of turning raw curiosity, excitement, and ideas into words was helped by many people and things along this book's life course.

Zikomo kwambiri to colleagues and friends at the University of Malawi (Chancellor College and College of Medicine) and the Centre for Social Research for giving me such a warm welcome in the past and the present, especially Agnes Chimbiri, Ephraim Chirwa, Mike Kachedwa, John Kadzandira, James Kaphuka, Wapulumuka Mulwafu, Alister Munthali, and the late Pierson Ntata. I am grateful to have had the chance to teach medical anthropology at Chancellor College in 2008 under the mentorship of Dr. Munthali. Thanks to Paul Kakhongwe at the Centre for Social Research's Documentation Unit, and to staff at the Chancellor College Library, the National Statistics Office, the Malawi National Archives, and the National AIDS Commission for help navigating their archives and collections. For Chichewa lessons and friendship, thank you to Arnold Mboga, and for research assistance, thanks to Andy Mguntha, Enalla Mguntha, and Tasneem (Thoko) Ninje. For allowing me to tag along with them in the field, I am grateful to all of the researchers, fieldworkers, and supervisors I spent time with between 2005 and 2009, some of whom are anonymously represented herein. For friendship, guidance, stimulating conversation, and billiards games at various times in Malawi since 2005, many thanks to Davie Chitenje, Abdallah Chilungo, Augustine Harawa, Hastings Honde, Sheena Kayira, Sydney Lungu, James Mkandawire, Evans Mwanyatimu, James Mwera, Joel Phiri, Daud Rashid, and Harry Samiton. I feel very lucky that Susan Watkins initially invited me after a happenstance meeting in 2005 to join demographers in the field for a summer; since then, she has been an unflagging source of encouragement, a sharp reader of my work, and

expert at connecting me to those whom I need to talk to. I am grateful, as well, to Kathleen Beegle, Shelley Clark, Ernestina Coast, Hans Peter Kohler, Teri Lindgren, Michelle Poulin, and Sally Rankin for support and feedback on my project in its earlier stages. At various times during my trips to Malawi since 2005, the following folks have provided friendship, community, and/or intellectual inspiration, usually over Greens or boxed wine: jimi adams, Mrs. Anderson, Phil Anglewicz, Jessi Bishop Royse, Jacobus de Hoop, Kim Deslandes, Kim Yi Dionne, Anne Esacove, Pete Fleming, Emily Freeman, Lauren Gaydosh, Stéphane Helleringer, Laura Ivey, Rose Kadende-Kaiser, Paul Kaiser, Wanja Ngure, Michelle Poulin, Joey Power, Georges Reniers, Keshet Ronen, Gil Shapira, Karolin Stahl, Gift Trapence, Jenny Trinitapoli, Cathy van de Ruit, Megan Vaughan, Anna West, Anika Wilson, and Joshua Wood. Finally, I am so thankful that my path crossed with Zoe Groves's one fateful day in the Malawi National Archives; she has been an important interlocutor, dear friend, and enthusiastic travel companion since then.

I began research for this book as a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania. My adviser, Sandra Barnes, is the kind of mentor graduate students dream of. Sandra models the sensitive and rigorous relationship to anthropological thinking, research, and writing I aspire to embody. From my first meeting with Sandy in 2003 up until today, she is my most trusted and honest reader, always encouraging me to stay grounded in the ethnographic and not to lose sight of what really matters. I admire her humble confidence and commitment to her students. I hope I have made her proud with this first book. Kathy Hall is a tireless supporter of my work and her mentorship and friendship continue to be invaluable to my scholarly and personal development. Thanks to Adriana Petryna, who arrived at Penn after I had finished coursework, but became an important mentor, reader, and interlocutor when I returned from the field and into the present. Fran Barg and I first met when I enrolled in one of her medical anthropology courses as an undergraduate; I credit her with sparking my interest in the subfield. She encouraged me to study anthropology at the graduate level and welcomed me to Penn and on to her research project at the University of Pennsylvania hospital in my early graduate career; my interactions with Fran, Joe Gallo, and Marsha Wittink through that work helped solidify my commitment to learning, conversation, and empathy across disciplines and fields of study. Courses, reading groups and/or conversations with David Barnes, Lee Cassanelli, Ali Dinar, Steven Feierman, Rebecca Huss-Ashmore, Paul Kaiser, Heather Love, Ritty Lukose, Christiaan Morssink, Brian Spooner, John Tresch, and Greg Urban were all influential on my intellectual development.

I am especially thankful to Deborah Thomas, who has continued to be an important source of inspiration, advice, and mentorship through my junior faculty years, and kindly hosted me as a visiting scholar at Penn during my junior research leave.

At the University of Pennsylvania and in the city of Philadelphia, I thank the following individuals who constitute a group of chosen family and friendly critics that made my graduate school years the perfect mix of work and play, and provided feedback on earlier versions of this work: Raquel Albarrán, Josh Berson, Bryan Cameron, Elise Carpenter, Christa Cesario, Amanda Chudnow, Megan Cook, Brian Daniels, Kristin Doughty, Kerry Dunn, Selma Feliciano-Arroyo, Michael Joiner, Rabia Kamal, Greta LaFleur, Adam Leeds, Kirt Mausert, Michael McLaughlin, Melanie Micir, Lauren Miller, Amy Paeth, Jeremy Pine, Dana Prince, Christy Schuetze, Savannah Shange, Julia Switzer, Cathy Van de Ruit, and Thomas Ward.

At Oberlin College, I am grateful for my dear friendship and intellectual exchanges with Erika Hoffmann-Dillaway and for excellent colleagues who support my well-being and scholarship, especially Grace An, Ann Cooper Albright, Judi Davidson, Jennifer Fraser, Jason Haugen, Daphne John, Carol Lasser, Amy Margaris, Gregg Mattson, Anu Needham, Gina Perez, Baron Pineda, and Danielle Terrazas Williams. Thanks to Tim Elgren for his ongoing support of and interest in my work. I would also like to thank the numerous scholar-friends who have passed through Oberlin since I arrived, variously enriching my life and scholarship in important ways: Jacinthe Assaad, Chris Barcelos, Allison Davis, Meiver de la Cruz, Bridget Guarasci, Vange Heiliger, Julie Keller, Julie Kleinman, Chelsea Martinez, Sabia McCoy-Torres, Lani Teves, and especially Sarah Waheed. I am lucky to teach at Oberlin, where my students always keep me on my toes and make me a better scholar.

In 2011–2012, I was fortunate to spend a productive year as a postdoctoral fellow at Brown University’s Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women, with my wonderful co-postdocs, Joe Fischel and Poulomi Saha. I learned so much from the folks in and around the Consent seminar: Rina Bliss, Bianca Dahl, Denise Davis, Igor De Souza, Paja Faudree, Pablo Gómez, Donna Goodnow, Hunter Hargraves, Maud Kozodoy, Madhumita Lahiri, Eng-Beng Lim, Moshi Optat Herman, Tom Roach, Ralph Rodriguez, Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg, Kay Warren, Elizabeth Weed, Debbie Weinstein, and many others.

I have had the good fortune to present work from this project in many forums: the Department of Anthropology, Brown University; Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WISER), University of the Witwatersrand;

Council on African Studies, Yale University; Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Critical Global Health Seminar, Johns Hopkins University; Program of African Studies, Northwestern University; Department of Anthropology, University of Virginia; and the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, University of Cincinnati. Many thanks to the folks who invited me and to the audiences whose critical feedback improved portions of this book. Fellow panelists and audience members generously engaged my work in progress over the years at American Anthropological Association (AAA) meetings, African Studies Association (ASA) meetings, at the "Dreaming of Health and Science in Africa Conference" in Hinxton, U.K. (2015); at the "Africanizing Technology" Conference at Wesleyan (2015); at the Northeastern Workshops on Southern Africa (NEWSA) meetings; at the Social Science Conference at the University of Malawi (2014); at Society for Cultural Anthropology (SCA) meetings; at American Ethnological Society (AES) meetings; and at the Roundtables on Transnationality in Berlin (2010).

At various stages between 2007 and 2016, research and writing for this book were supported by an International Dissertation Research Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council; a Wenner Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant; National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant no. 0719987; a summer writing residency at the School for Advanced Research in beautiful Santa Fe; and dissertation research and dissertation completion fellowships from the University of Pennsylvania. Oberlin College's Grants Office and the Dean's office provided funds for travel, a junior research leave year that permitted me to complete this book and funds for indexing. Some text and ideas in chapters 3 and 4 appeared in articles titled "Seeing Like a Research Project: Producing High Quality Data in AIDS Research in Malawi" and "Ethical Gifts?: An Analysis of Soap-for-Information Transactions in Malawian Survey Research Worlds," published in *Medical Anthropology* and *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, respectively. I thank the editors and reviewers of those articles for their feedback.

I have found a rich community of scholars interested in health, medicine, global health, African studies, science studies, and topics further afield. For general encouragement, reading or teaching my work, and critical generosity, I thank Vincanne Adams, Nikhil Anand, On Barak, Naor Ben-Yehoyada, Adia Benton, Sarah Besky, João Biehl, Brooke Bocast, Marian Burchardt, Timothy Burke, Catherine Burns, Brenda Chalfin, Jennifer Cole, Johanna Crane, Ashley Currier, Bianca Dahl, Denielle Elliot, Susan Erikson, Elsa Fan, Kirk Fiereck, Ellen Foley, Inderpal Grewal, Zoe Groves, Laurie Hart, Cassandra

Hartblay, Saida Hodžić, Jim Igoe, Lochlann Jain, Bea Jauregui, Diana Jeater, Patricia Kingori, Julie Kleinman, Jennifer Liu, Julie Livingston, Rob Lorway, Dan Magaziner, Ramah McKay, Marissa Mika, Pierre Minn, Alex Nading, Abby Neely, Kalala Ngalamulume, Adeola Oni-Orisan, Melissa Pashigian, Julie Peteet, Rebecca Peters, Anne Pollock, Peter Redfield, Juno Salazar Parreñas, Thurka Sangaramoorthy, Salla Sariola, China Scherz, Jesse Shipley, Dan Smith, Harris Solomon, Harrod Suarez, Noelle Sullivan, Ann Swidler, Karl Swinehart, Matthew Thomann, Helen Tilley, Laura Ann Twagira, Claire Wendland, Anna West, Luise White, and many others.

I am fortunate for the support provided by my family, given and chosen. Thanks to my parents, Karen and John, for nurturing my curiosity and helping me see beyond the confines of the Jersey Shore, and thanks to Aunt Linda, always, for conversation, friendship, and wine. Shirley Marziali, thank you for your encouragement in the past few years. Thanks, as well, to my grandmother, Else, the most spry ninety-year-old I know! I am grateful for friendship and laughs with my sister Laureen, and also for her careful work with the figures and illustrations in this book.

I thank the editors, reviewers, and readers for their feedback as this project came to fruition, and João Biehl and Vincanne Adams for their initial faith in the project. My deepest thanks to Elizabeth Ault, my editor at Duke University Press, for her encouragement and careful attention to the project. I am also grateful to Lisa Bintrim at Duke, and to David Martinez for his work compiling the index. Vincanne Adams and Claire Wendland showed remarkable generosity, care and insight in helping shape the book.

Finally, Lyndsey Beutin is my treasure, my gem, and my brilliant coadventurer. Her ethnographer's heart inspires me daily, and I am proud to build a world with her that is queer, intentional, and playful, and centers other people's stories.

It is from all of you mentioned here—and others I surely have overlooked—that I have learned the importance of practicing compassionate critique in life, love, and scholarship. May academia and the many other institutions and social spaces we navigate show you the same generosity you have gifted me.

This page intentionally left blank