ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The research on which this book is based started about ten years ago, in the summer of 2004. Since then, my investigation and writing have benefited from the help of many people and institutions, to which I would like to express my gratitude here.

It all began at the Centre for Tourism and Cultural Change (CTCC), at Sheffield Hallam University and then at Leeds Metropolitan University (UK), where my researches benefited above all from the invaluable encouragement, expertise and guidance of Mike Robinson and Scott McCabe. At the CTCC, I was part of a close-knit group of colleagues with whom I continuously exchanged ideas and insights, and I would like to thank here in particular Josef Ploner, Fabian Frenzel, Sean Kim, Tamás Regi, Desmond Wee, Sonja Buchberger, Donata Marletta, Claudia Müller, Birgit Braasch, Ploysri Porananond, Martin Bastide, Jakob Calice, Suleiman Farajat, Sunyoung Hong, Yi Fu, Hannah C. Wadle, Mathilde Verschaeve, and Daniela Carl. At the CTCC, I profited from stimulating conversations with the more senior scholars David Picard and Simone Abram, with whom I have continued exchanging and collaborating, as well as with Phil Long and colleagues and advisors working in related fields in Sheffield and Leeds, including Rodanthi Tzanelli, Jenny Blain, John McCauley, Dorothea Meyer, Lucy McCombes, and Ko Koens. In Leeds I also had my first encounter with Nelson Graburn, who throughout the years would continue to provide insightful feedback on my work.

At the outset of my research in February 2005, I went to Cuba for a first, exploratory fieldwork stay of one month. There I met many of the friends and acquaintances with whom I am still in touch to this day, and who have helped me greatly in my work. To protect their anonymity as research participants, I will not mention their names, but I nevertheless wish to express my immense gratefulness for their help and collaboration in my study. None of this would have been possible without their willingness to spend

time with me and tell me their stories. In Cuba I also established connections with anthropologists working on related themes, or at least interested in what I was doing, among whom were Pablo Rodríguez Ruiz, Avelino Couceiro Rodríguez, and Abel Sierra Madero. Year after year in my successive stays on the island, I visited and talked to them about the development of my research, and I am pleased to acknowledge the helpful insights of our conversations here.

While undertaking research in England, in 2006 and 2007 I also participated in a Swiss postgraduate programme in Ethnology/Anthropology that enabled me to come back regularly to Switzerland and continue my productive exchanges with Christian Ghasarian at the University of Neuchâtel. I am indebted to Ellen Hertz and Heinz Käufeler for directing and contributing to this postgraduate programme, which was a great platform for sharing the early findings of my investigation. Feedback from the participants in this programme improved the clarity and substance of my work, and here I wish to thank in particular Christian Giordano and Erhard Stölting (from the module on 'trust'), and Shalini Randeria and Jean and John Comaroff (who led the session on 'power'). Throughout these years within the Swiss academic community I benefited from stimulating exchanges with Géraldine Morel, Bastien Birchler, Séverine Rey, David Bozzini, Anne Lavanchy, Alain Mueller, Hervé Munz, Julie Perrin, Jérémie Forney, Anahy Gajardo, Aymon Kreil, and Alessandro Monsutti, among others.

In 2010 I left England to take on a research fellowship at the Centre for Research in Anthropology at Lisbon University Institute in Portugal (CRIA-IUL). In my four years there I had many fruitful exchanges and discussions with new colleagues, among whom I should acknowledge Francesco Vacchiano, Diana Espirito Santo, Anastasios Panagiotopoulos, Sofia Sampaio, Cyril Isnart, José Mapril, Anna Fedele, Peter Anton Zoettl, Ruy Blanes, Paulo Raposo, Micol Brazzabeni, Lorenzo Bordonaro, Chiara Pussetti, Vitor Barros, Ambra Formenti, Marianna Bacci Tamburlini, Lira Dolabella, Maria Cardeira da Silva, Miguel Vale de Almeida, Ramon Sarró, Paolo Favero, Filipe Reis, Antónia Pedroso de Lima, Manuela Ivone Cunha, Cristiana Bastos, Daniel Seabra Lopez, Paola Togni, Erin Taylor, Octávio Sacramento, Fernando Bessa, Ema Pires, and Eugenia Roussou.

Since the start of my research on tourism in Cuba, I have received invaluable feedback from participants in the various seminars, workshops and conferences I attended, some of whom were colleagues already acknowledged above. Though it would be impossible to thank all the other scholars that provided useful insights on my work here, I would like to mention at least some of them, grouped nonexclusively by research focus and themes. On the subject of tourism, tourism anthropology and mobility, I very much cherish the exchanges I had with Susan Frohlick, Julia Harrison, Kenneth Little,

Jackie Feldman, Naomi Leite, Michael di Giovine, Carina Ren, Quetzil Castañeda, Elizabeth Carnegie, Stan Frankland, Saskia Cousin, Chiara Cipollari, Sally Ann Ness, Claudio Minca, Pamila Gupta, Noel Salazar, Jamie Coates, Roger Norum, Edward Bruner, Nina Glick-Shiller, Heike Drotbohm, Liliana Suárez Navaz, Carsten Wergin, Kenichi Ohashi, and Mathis Stock. Among anthropologists working on Cuba with whom I have exchanged feedback over the last decade, I should mention Amalia Cabezas, Maria Padrón Hernández, Heidi Härkönen, Kristina Wirtz, Nadine Fernandez, Ingrid Kummels, Ana Alcázar Campos, Maki Tanaka, Kali Argyriadis, Silje Lundgren, Emma Gobin, Anne-Mette Hermansen, Flora Bisogno, Elena Sacchetti, Lorraine Karnoouh, Margalida Mulet Pascual, and Thomas Carter. On the themes of intimacy, gender and sexuality I profited from the insights of Adriana Piscitelli, Maïté Maskens, Rachel Spronk, Lorraine Nencel, Henrietta Moore, Christian Groes-Green, Matan Sapiro, Wim Peumans, Misty Luminais, Nathanael Homewood, Jeremy Walton, Nicole Constable, Jordi Roca, Yolanda Bodoque, Cristina García-Moreno, Verónica Anzil, Claudia Barcellos Rezende, and Anne-Linda Rebhun. Also linked to these themes were interesting discussions, centred more on anthropological approaches to ethics and morality, with Jason Throop, Jarrett Zigon, Douglas Hollan, Cheryl Mattingly, and Michael Lambeck. Finally, in the field of economic anthropology, I learned much from conversations with Susana Narotzky, Patrick Naveling, Keith Hart, and Stephen Reyna.

Besides the essays I delivered in the conferences and academic events referred to above, and often as a result of exchanges initiated there, some of the material presented in this book has appeared in earlier versions, as journal articles and book chapters. The comments of the editors of these publications certainly helped improve my texts and ideas, and I thank them all for this. Among the articles and chapters whose reworked bits and pieces can be found in this book, I should mention 'From Ethnographers to Tourists and Back Again: On Positioning Issues in the Anthropology of Tourism' (Simoni and McCabe 2008) and 'Revisiting Hosts and Guests: Ethnographic Insights on Touristic Encounters from Cuba' (Simoni 2014a), on which I elaborate in some sections of the introduction to this volume: 'L'interculturalité comme justification: Sexe "couleur locale" dans la Cuba touristique' (Simoni 2011) and 'Intimate Stereotypes: The Vicissitudes of Being Caliente in Touristic Cuba' (Simoni 2013), parts of which have been readapted in chapter 1; "Riding" Diversity: Cubans'/Jineteros' Uses of "Nationality-Talks" in the Realm of their Informal Encounters with Tourists' (Simoni 2008a), which contains some of the examples and reflections presented in chapter 4; 'Scaling Cigars in Cuba's Tourism Economy' (Simoni 2009) and 'Tourism Materialities: Enacting Cigars in Touristic Cuba' (Simoni 2012a), most visible in chapter 5; 'The Morality of Friendship in Touristic Cuba'

(Simoni 2014b) and 'Introduction: Friendship, Morality, and Experience' (Simoni and Throop 2014a), on which I have drawn for chapter 6; 'Dancing Tourists: Tourism, Party and Seduction in Cuba' (Simoni 2012b), inspiring chapter 7; and 'Coping with Ambiguous Relationships: Sex, Tourism, and Transformation in Cuba' (Simoni 2014c), which also discussed some of the ethnographic examples employed in chapter 8.

Different research grants and fellowships have enabled me to carry out this ethnographic study, and the institutions that provided such funding deserve acknowledgement here. Sheffield Hallam University and Leeds Metropolitan University supported my investigations from 2005 until 2009. Between 2010 and 2014 a grant of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology sponsored my research at the CRIA-IUL in Lisbon (SFRH/BPD/66483/2009). Finally, in the final stages of the writing process I was able to count on a research fellowship provided by the Swiss National Science Foundation (*Ambizione* Program, PZ00P1_147946), which is financing my current position at the Graduate Institute in Geneva.

I wish to thank Jackie Waldren and the editorial team at Berghahn Books for their support in the publication process: I had never imagined that relations with publishers could be so pleasant and productive. Thanks also to the two anonymous reviewers for their useful comments on an earlier version of the text; I hope they will find it much improved now. In the last stages of the publication process, I really appreciated the work of an anonymous copy editor whose timely corrections and suggestions helped enhance the overall quality of the manuscript. Nick James prepared the index with exemplary thoroughness, and I thank him for his efficiency. I am very grateful to Nelson Graburn for writing the preface, encouraging me throughout my investigation and writing, and promoting my research among colleagues. I do not think I could have found a better person to back my work.

Last but not least, I would like to acknowledge the invaluable help and support received throughout the years of my research and writing from my family: Renato, Enca, Mara, Hisako, and Lin.

I am aware that the list of people mentioned above is far from exhaustive, and I apologize to all those whom I have forgotten to mention here, but whose insights are nevertheless also reflected in this book. Any shortcomings in the text remain my sole responsibility, and I am very much looking forward to the comments and criticisms that may help improve my findings.