## **Acknowledgements**

The research that eventually came together to form the basis of this book spanned many years, and I received a great deal of support from individuals and institutions to who I owe a debt of gratitude. At Clemson University, The Clemson Humanities Hub, The College of Art, Architecture and Humanities Faculty Research Development Program, the University Research Grant Program and the Department of History and Geography all provided various means of financial support that allowed me to travel around the country to see the places where guest workers have become part of the fabric of tourism seasons.

To my colleague and the sole fellow geographer in my department at Clemson, Criss Smith, I can only say that I have no idea what would have happened with my career had I not met you by chance in Lincoln, Nebraska. Thanks for always having my back, I'll always do my best to return the favor. To my colleagues in PRTM at Clemson, Lauren Duffy and Greg Ramshaw thank you for including me as a non-official, honorary member of your department. It has been a pleasure to have a group of like-minded academics on campus. Also, Bill Norman in PRTM particularly was invaluable in helping me make connections with resort managers and other individuals who could provide me with guidance and interviews. One of these was Carl Pelletier in Jackson, Wyoming, who was kind enough to drive me around to give me the lay of the land and introduce me to several people around town. That introduction made me feel incredibly welcomed, and I fully understand why so many people want to live there. I left feeling a sense of envy for those who have that opportunity.

To others in the academic community who have shown interest in my research on workers in tourism industries, your support and encouragement has helped keep me going by letting me know that this is a topic worth pursuing. In this regard, Dimitri Ioannides and Kristina Zampoukos have been particularly supportive in their writing and by inviting me to spend a week at Mid Sweden University to talk about my work with students. Shannon Guillot has also been an unexpected pleasure to work with, whose raw enthusiasm and unique perspective on research about migrant workers has been an inspiration. I'm so happy she wrote me out of the blue to ask if I would be on her dissertation committee. I hope she and I, "Dr. Clemson," have the opportunity to work more together in the future. Marcia England provided me valuable advice on navigating book proposals, manuscript writing and is just a great person to hang out with. Of course, finally among academics is Jillian Rickly who has taken on the gargantuan effort of being this book series editor on top of all her other research, teaching, and service work. I marvel at her abilities and the fact that I came to randomly meet her by chance when we were both reading AP Human Geography exams early in our careers. Also deserving of recognition is Maximilian Gessl at De Gruyter Press, who has been nothing but a patient and a steady guiding hand throughout this process.

Chris Vanderwiele deserves a special acknowledgement. This project would not have happened without him as the person who helped me to make the connection between my previous work on the cruise industry and the guestworkers that were living near him. In the early stages of this project, he was instrumental in connecting me to local stakeholders in his community and showing me around his town. It was not only a pleasure to have him as a student, but even more so to get to know him and his family in the years afterward.

To all of my wonderful friends who keep me sane and laughing . . . . Andy, Corey, and Rob, you've been amazing friends these past 25 years; I live for our getaway trips. To Chris Lombardi, one of the great pleasures of my life was reconnecting after way too much time in which our lives took separate paths. I wish we had never had that gap, but I'm so happy we picked up right where we left off and have been able to share our lives ever since. And what can I say about Tim? My brother from another mother, my beer and bourbon buddy, and my trivia partner, to just name a few things. It has to be rare to find such a great friend after the age of 35. I'm not sure that there has been a single day in the past five years that he and I haven't been texting about some random topic or another.

Finally, I have to thank my family with whose love and support has made everything I do possible. My parents and other relatives have always been quick to ask how things are going with my research, and while I hated being asked how the book was going (so much pressure!), I always appreciated the question. To Sylvia, I couldn't ask for a better daughter, travel buddy, research assistant (thanks for helping take notes in Gatlinburg!), rock climbing partner, and gaming rival. I only hope I can be half as good of a dad to her as she has been a kid to me. And finally to my wife, Annie. What can I say, she makes everything possible. I could barely get out of bed in the morning without her and probably wouldn't want to. More than anyone she has had to put up with me and allowed me the space and time to pull this work into the station.