

## Notes on Transliteration

Almost all ethnographic conversations took place in Tajik. In a few cases, interviews were conducted in English. In conversations about religion, my research partners often used Arabic terms, while Russian terms were common in conversations about business activities.

With the establishment of Tajik as a national language, a Cyrillic writing system with special characters was introduced, which is still in use today. In this book, the reproduction of Tajik terms in Latin script follows the Cyrillic transliteration system by Edward Allworth (Allworth 1971), with one exception: *ѐ* is represented by (') instead of ("). For the transcription of spoken terms, I used the dictionary *Lughati Olmonī – Tojikī (Dictionary German – Tajik)* (Rzehak and Saifullojew 2010). To correspond to the liveliness of spoken language and dialects used by my research partners, *izofa* compounds are given as written together: *mamlakati islomī* as *mamlakati islomī*, and *zindagi-i khub* as *zindagii khub*. Similarly, semantic units such as *odob-u akhloq* are rendered as *odobu akhloq*. Only prepositions at the end of a word are hyphenated: *din-ba nazdik omadagi*.

The transliteration of Arabic terms follows the rules of IJMES (International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies). For Russian terms, the simplified rules of ALA-LC (American Library Association–Library of Congress) for Romanization are used.

