

## Acknowledgments

This book began at Stanford University where I was fortunate to work with and learn from exceptional scholars. David Palumbo-Liu, Akhil Gupta, and Cherríe Moraga advised and challenged me, believing in my project on Arab Americans even before the current renaissance in the field. Jackie Armijo-Hussein, Ahmad Dallal, Purnima Mankekar, Paula Moya, and Renato Rosaldo encouraged me to pursue my interests. Monica Moore and Jan Hafner at Modern Thought and Literature provided invaluable administrative and moral support. My colleagues were both supportive and inspirational. I thank Lisa Arellano, Yael Ben-zvi, Julia Carpenter, Raul Coronado Jr., Manishita Dass, Eman Desouky, Maya Dodd, Nicole Fleetwood, Vida Mia Garcia, Mishuana Goeman, Shona Jackson, Jackie Jenkins, Steven Lee, Bakirathi Mani, Allegra McLeod, Hilton Obenzinger, Marcia Ochoa, Flavio Paniagua, Beth Piatote, Sarah Ramirez, Rola Razek, Helle Ryttonen, Richard Simpson, Nirvana Tanoukhi, Lisa B. Thompson, Kyla Wazana Tompkins, Tim'm T. West, and Michelle Zamora. I am especially grateful to *mis compañeras* Madgalena Barrera and Marisol Negrón. It is difficult to find the words to acknowledge Ebony Coletu, who accompanied me throughout my years at Stanford. Ebony gave me meticulous feedback, pushing me to think in new ways, dazzling me with her brilliance and her friendship.

This project has been directly and indirectly shaped by several key mentors. Dorothy Duff Brown has counseled me through my years as an assistant professor. I would not have completed this book with my sanity intact had it not been for our many conversations over the past few years and her encouragement, guidance, and wisdom. The mentorship of M. Jacqui Alexander, Drucilla Cornell, Penny Eckert, and Cherríe Moraga has had a lasting impact. Penny Von Eschen's mentorship and support have been a source of sustenance. Jack G. Shaheen's work has been foundational and inspirational. I am moved by his support and faith in me. As for Melani McAlister, it is an embarrassment of riches that she has read three versions of this manuscript and offered her close engagement, feedback, and support. Her belief in the project and targeted feedback were instrumental to its fruition.

Ella Shohat has read the full manuscript in its various forms, providing extensive feedback. She has also given me emotional support, guidance, and

friendship for over a decade and is an inspiration and tremendous influence on my work.

I have been fortunate to be surrounded by many wonderful colleagues at the University of Michigan: Paul Anderson, Catherine Benamou, Stephen Berry, Bruce Conforth, Maria Cotera, Matthew Countryman, Julie Ellison, Amal Fadlallah, Jonathan Freedman, Mary Freiman, Colin Gunckel, Sandra Gunning, Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof, Judy Gray, June Howard, Mary C. Kelley, Scott Kurashige, Larry LaFountain-Stokes, Jayati Lal, Emily Lawsin, Lora Lempert, Richard Meisler, Victor Mendoza, Tiya Miles, Marlene Moore, Susan Najita, Silvia Pedraza, Brooklyn Posler, Daniel Ramirez, Tabitha Rohn, Damon Salesa, Sarita See, Amy Stillman, Gustavo Verdesio, Alan Wald, Michael Witgen, and Magdalena Zaborowska. In particular, I thank Matthew Briones, Philip Deloria, Vince Diaz, Greg Dowd, Kristin Hass, Nadine Naber, Yeidy Rivero, Andrea Smith, Amy Stillman, and Penny Von Eschen for either participating in my manuscript workshop or providing comments on my manuscript. They challenged me to make this the best book possible. I especially thank Kristin and Penny for their close and constructive engagement with multiple iterations of the manuscript. I am also grateful for support and comments from my writing group: Lori Brooks, Anthony Mora, and Amy Carroll. Amy's insightful feedback and camaraderie have shaped some of the key ideas in this book.

I am fortunate to have a community of Arab and Muslim American Studies colleagues and friends: Rabab Abdulhadi, Sawsan Abdulrahim, Wadad Abed, Nasrine Shah-Aboushakra, Devon Akmon, Barbara Aswad, Moulouk Berry, Leila Buck, Louise Cainkar, Christina Dennaoui, Carol Fadda-Conrey, Jonathan Friedlander, Reem Gibriel, Randa Jarrar, John Karam, Sylvia Chan-Malek, Joan Mandell, Khaled Mattawa, Joe Namy, Rola Nashef, Junaid Rana, Huda and Jeff Rosen, Therese Saliba, May Seikaly, Matthew Stiffler, William Youmans, and Kathy Zarur. I am honored to be in such good company, and would especially like to thank Thomas Abowd, Deborah Al-Najjar, Anan Ameri, Salah Hassan, Amira Jarmakani, Sunaina Maira, and Steven Salaita for their support and friendship. Amira and Steven also gave vital feedback on parts of the manuscript.

It has been a pleasure to work with bright and wonderful research assistants, many of whom are the next generation of cutting edge scholars: Ryah Aqel, Rabia Belt, Monika Raj, Mejdulene Shomali, Emily Rosengren, Lani Teves, and Eliot Truesdell. The passionate work of graduate students Yamil Avivi, Sarah Gothie, Andrew McBride, Hannah Noel, Wendy Sung, and Rachel Afri Quinn is infectious. Rachel has also been a kind source of encouragement.

Eric Zinner has been a fantastic editor who has believed and advocated for this project from the beginning. I thank series editors Sarah Banet-Weiser and

Kent A. Ono for their interest and support. I am also grateful to Ciara McLaughlin for her assistance along the way. This project also benefited from feedback from anonymous readers. I am grateful to freelance editor David Lobenstine for his painstakingly detailed work. It was a challenging and enriching experience to develop my writing and ideas with David's feedback, and it undoubtedly made this a better work. I also thank copy editor Sheila Berg and production editor Tim Roberts. For financial support, I thank the Program in American Culture, Office for Vice President for Research, LSA Dean's Office, and the Center for International and Comparative Studies at the University of Michigan.

I am indebted to many friends for emotional support. Nadine Naber has been my dear friend, colleague, and co-conspirator. She read different versions of the manuscript and helped me develop as a scholar and writer. We have spent countless hours together writing our respective books and collaborating on other projects. The impact of her solidarity is immeasurable both professionally and personally. Kathryn Babayan and Rima Hassouneh nourished me with food and friendship. I could always count on them for emotional support and to remind me of life beyond writing. I am grateful to other friends in Ann Arbor, Deirdre de la Cruz, Shazia Iftkhar, Osman Khan, and Atef Said, who make Ann Arbor feel like home. Dahlia Petrus conducted extensive and meticulous research for me from which I could probably write multiple books. She has offered me her invaluable support and friendship. It has been such good fortune to commiserate with someone about media representations of Arabs and Muslims who is equally passionate about it.

I am appreciative of my dear friends and family who believed in me before I believed in myself and who are still an important part of my life: Joseph Battle, Michael Bobbitt, Christianne and Helen Cejas, Erskine Childers, Vivia and Stratos Costalas, Amber Donell, Elena Fiallo, Litsa Flores, Catherine Groves, Sandra Hanna, Anya Hurwitz, Florencia Masri, Nichole Diaz Mendoza, Douglas Pineda, Lavinia Pinto, Solade Rowe, Shahid Siddiqui, Brad Verebay, and Juan Carlos Sobrino. I thank Fernando Rodriguez, Anita, Lourdes, and Leonor Garcia, and Gilda Rodriguez for their support. I am grateful to my ladies who anchor me in life: Mireille Abelin, Elif Bali, Nacisse Demeksa, Mona El-Ghobashy, Vanessa Primiani, and Lauren Rosenthal. Mireille and Mona have shared this journey with me while on their own parallel paths. Mireille reminds me every day of how far I've come. Mona breathes each minute detail with me, and there is nothing like having her accompany me for each play-by-play. Her friendship has enhanced this book and my life. Christine Burmeister-Guivernau is my biggest cheerleader. She celebrates my accomplishments no matter how small and has encouraged me each step of the way while also lending her scrupulous editorial services.

People often laugh at me when I acknowledge my pets, but those of you who live with animals understand how they contribute to one's emotional well-being on a day-to-day level. I offer my thanks to Nubian, Zeeza, and Monaluna for enriching my life and for keeping me sane. My husband, Benefo Ofosu-Benefo, has seen me through this project from its inception to this finished book. His faith in me has been unyielding and has carried me through. He has provided the calm and comfort needed to write this book and has also shared in the outrage and enthusiasm that fill its pages.

I am blessed with a supportive family. I thank Sara, Kwadwo (aka Papa, 1935–2011), Nana, and Osei Ofosu-Benefo for their belief in me. For always being there, thanks to Martha Jaramillo, Maria Jimenez, Steven Cuevas, and Jimmy and Fatima Chavez. Thanks to my brother, Fabian, for dreaming big with me. I could always count on my parents for love and support. They encouraged me throughout this process even when they didn't understand why I chose this difficult path. From my mother, Maggie, I have learned the commitment required to complete a project like this.

This book is dedicated to my father who is the ultimate inspiration for this project. As a child, witnessing all the assumptions and stereotypes he was confronted with as an Arab Muslim in the United States made me painfully aware of the politics of culture. My father passed away as this book went into production. This is for you, Dad.