## Acknowledgements

The idea for this book originates in my experiences in Morocco and Sub-Saharan Africa, where I lived and worked with my family for extended periods between 1999 and 2012. I am particularly grateful for the unconditional support of David Cuenca: his critical insights and patience have been crucial in bringing all this together. Maribel Cuenca was always there in difficult moments - even at a distance. A great thank you goes also to my daughters Maya and Anaïs, who participated in fieldwork trips and had to endure my 'absent presence' during writing periods. A big thank you goes also to the Duat-Wilbeaux family, who helped me overcome the logistical challenges of doing fieldwork with children and provided me with such unforgettable times in Rabat. I would also like to thank all the migrants and members of local and international organizations and charities who shared their opinions and thoughts with me over the years. I am grateful for their openness and willingness to take the time to talk about painful experiences and events. During the writing phases, I have been lucky to count on the help and support of a number of people. First and foremost, the academic advice and encouragement of Julia O'Connell Davidson and Elisabetta Zontini, without which this book would not have seen the light of day. Words cannot express my gratitude for their support, which often reached far beyond the professional realm. At Bielefeld University, I am grateful for the fruitful discussions I had with Thomas Faist, Basak Bilecen, Yaatsil Guevara Gonzales, Joanna Fröhlich, Susanne Schultz and Christian Ulbricht. Without Phill Wilcox's analytical mind and thoughtful criticisms, Chapter 2 would probably not exist in its current form. I am also grateful for the enlightening discussions with Aysen Üstübici about migration policy making in Morocco. Last but not least, I would like to dedicate this book to Uta Stock, who made me understand what desperate hope is and how to think of it as a powerful resource in life's darkest hours.