

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is with pleasure that I acknowledge my obligations to several friends and colleagues. The book would not be possible without the continued support and excellent assistance of my wife, Natalia Williams, who acted as supportive friend, ardent critic, and one-woman think tank. The work related to this book has taken many engaging and exciting features over the years and benefited from the assistance of many friends, mentors, and others. The original research was made possible by a number of fortuitous events, meeting people underground, and the connections to media folks and people I met in North Carolina.

Some people shared their field notes, tapes, video recordings, unique ideas, and happenings with me. The assistance they offered provided an important contribution to the making of this book in more ways than they know. A few of my co-thinkers: Ana Cardenas Tomazic, Hakim Hasan, and the anthropologist/photographer Teun Voeten continue to assist me with photographic knowledge and wisdom and were central to making the visual images provided superbly important in the making of the book. The brilliant photographer Jocelyn Chuang worked closely with me on several projects, including the photographic images provided here.

The cartographer Rick Bunch, at UNC Greensboro, did a magnificent job constructing maps for the text, along with the drawing by Michele Albee. Tom Gerry, Jana Leo, Dara Levensdosky, Errol James, Ye Lui, Jackie Oberlander, Philip Oberlander, Dave Ray, Donald Smith, Sergeant Floyd Smith, and Markus Schulz were especially helpful in providing valuable assistance. In addition, a special thanks to Chairman of the Board William Kornblum, Grand Central Neighborhood Social Services Corporation, and all other board members, especially Edith Goldenhar. And, of course, all the staff at GCNSSC who allowed me to conduct interviews and provided important voices in the making of the text. Director Brady Crain and his able staff, including Tamara Hopkins, were extremely helpful. I am grateful to my former students who provided ideas and insights, especially Dr. Scott Beck, whose assistance was absolutely invaluable; Dr. Cristina Dragomir, Dr. Rezvaneh Ganji, and Dr. Ariana Ali; Dr. Laurie Gunst and Sammye Chitsom. The New School scholars William Milberg, Kirti Varma, Monica Gomez, Siri Manasa Poluru, and Charles Whitcroft all played key roles in making the book possible

My current students in my Global Cities as a Social Construct class, Synne Jensen, Tyler St. Amant, Ida Ward York, Zoe Wolfson, Jackson Shulman, Merve Yardim, Ella Grace Dunn, Oliver Rosenthal, Francisco de la Garza, Sequoia Valverde, Lucia Corral Saborido, and Lock Reddy, were gracious in helping me do the research. Dissertation proseminar participants who were very kind in listening to the last draft: Aura Cardenas, Malkhaz Toria, Wilhemina Agbemekplido, Maya Herman, Brian Bartholomew, Robert Proverb, Reynaldo Ortiz-Manaya. Special thanks to Kahlil Zulu Williams and Neruda Williams for ideas offered. I especially thank all the various people underground and the many I did not have the privilege of naming in the text.

Eric Schwartz and Lowell Frye, under whose guidance the work was originally pursued, have from the start provided an encouraging guiding light for all the books in this series. I warmly thank all anonymous reviewers for taking the time to read the manuscript during these pandemic times. Although all of the aforementioned assisted in some way in the completion of this book, I take complete responsibility for any of its shortcomings.

LIFE UNDERGROUND

