In the Shadow of the Sheraton: imagining localities in global spaces in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

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Citation for published version (APA):

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Acknowledgements

"Why do you want to go over there to help those people when there are so many people here in America who need help?" I am sure my grandfather would be surprised to learn that this question has helped to shape my research more than any other. Though I can never really be sure of his point when he poses such questions - Yankee pragmatism, American isolationism, good old fashioned racism, or just trying to keep those he loves close to home - I have come to recognize the wisdom in them. The only way I have been able to resolve such dilemmas is with equally pragmatic answers such as, "Who says I'm trying to help anyone? I probably get more out of going there then they get out of me coming." I feel fortunate to come from a family of working class pragmatists. They keep me honest and remind me that the problems of the world will not be solved in a day.

Some may mistake such sentiments as cynical when, in fact, they are born out a resolute idealism that the world could be a better place if we could just learn to treat one another with respect. As the Remny Ongala quote that opens this book states, "tuheshimane" - we should respect one another. I first learned about the importance of respect from my family and I thank them for this. Special thanks go to my grandmother, Catherine, my mother and my Aunt Louise. All have in their own way taught me the importance of trying to be a good person and what a good person is. I thank my grandfather for constantly challenging my thinking, my father for his quiet and love and support, and my brothers for sharing in my joy and sadness. The list of aunts and uncles, grandparents, great-grandparents, cousins, second cousins, nieces, nephews, in-laws, and friends of the family who have given me support over the years, both financially and spiritually, is too long to list. No matter how far I travel, I will always know which way is home. And, I know I can rely on cousin Dawny to pick me up from the airport!

Working at two Universities and on three different continents means that I have many to thank for intellectual support and friendship. I was lucky to be at the University of Iowa with a lot of good people. Dearest thanks go to my friend and partner in crime, Dana Rush. Who else would ride a donkey named Zozo up Mt. Sen Jak with me to light a candle? Thanks also to Prita Meier, Betty Rodríguez-Feo, Barbara Thompson and Karen Milbourne for the long walks and the long talks. Thanks to Al Roberts, the man who brought us together, inspiring us all with his own blend of Yankee pragmatism, idealism and love of Africa, not to mention his and his wife Polly's willingness to open their home(s) to us, ever tempting us with the idyllic life of intellectuals. Mac Marshall, Frank Fairfax and Doug Midgett were much-appreciated allies in the anthropology department, as were my academic colleagues there including Michelle Ramirez, John Scott, Jerry Weaver and Gudrun Willet. Michaeline Chriclow continues to be an inspiration. Asanteni to Blandina Giblin, Sam Mwangi and John Njue for doing their best to teach me Kiswahili, and an additional thanks to Blandina and her husband Jim for helping me to get started...
in Bongo. Sincerest thanks go to Chris Roy in the art history department for always remembering to write students into his grant proposals and allowing so many people to learn about Africa who might not otherwise been able to afford to do so. Much appreciated financial support at the University of Iowa was also provided by the Stanley Foundation, the Project for the Advanced Study of Life and Art in Africa (PASALA), the Center for International and Rural Environmental Health, the T. Anne Cleary Foundation, the UI Graduate College, the UI Student Association and UI anthropology. I also thank Fulbright-Hays for their generous support of my dissertation research.

I could never begin to thank all the people who helped me in Tanzania. What can I say to Derrick Mblewa, my besti in Bongo? Nashakuru. Nashakuru sana. I could not have done this research without you. Period. Don't give up the fight. One love. Dennis Maryogo, thanks for the Swahili lessons, the long talks, the jou de boule on the beach and some pretty impressive Italian cooking. Your fortitude is inspirational. Thanks to all the boyz at Maskani - Athumanı, Hamedı, Juma, Dixon, Madole, Mnigga, Tumbo, Tall, Masha, Fundı, Rungu, Juma, Zameah, Nduki. Thanks also to the mama lishe, Mama Tugelepo, Mama Jane, Manga, Shida and Mwamvita, for the good food, for looking after the guys, and for sharing your views on life at Maskani and beyond. From Uwanja was Fisi, I thank Spenser and Abu for opening their home to us, Hadji, Adam, Zamoyoni, and Maria. Many thanks also to Esther for all she did to help us get started and for her beautiful stories. Thanks to washikage in Kijitonıama, Michael, James, Clay, and Ramadani, for pushing me to work harder than I otherwise would have. Thanks also to my fellow fieldworker, Michelle Sheldrake, for helping to ease the struggle and muddle of research and to Jane and George Calder for their continued hospitality. I would also like to thank Christopher Comoro at the University of Dar es Salaam for helping me to negotiate the necessary red tape so I could undertake research in Dar and to for helping me to get research clearance, and to Elias Jengo for his kind support.

Following fieldwork in Tanzania I transferred to the Amsterdam School for Social Science (ASSR) at the University of Amsterdam where I was given generous financial and institutional support to write my Ph.D. Thanks to Hans Sonneveld, Jos, Komen, Miriam May, Anneke Dammers, and Toen Bijvoet for keeping things running at the School, and to Han ten Brummelhuis, Sjaak van der Geest, Anita Hardon, Birget Meyer, Annelies Moors, Peter Pels, Vincent de Rooij, Peter van der Veer, Toden van Velsen, and Jojada Verrips for their pedagogic guidance and plain good advice. Heartfelt thanks to my supervisors, Johannes Fabian for giving me the freedom to explore and create and to Peter Geschiere for reeling me in and keeping me on track, and also for helping to create a vibrant Africanist community in the Netherlands. Many thanks to the “a-tower” gang - Francio Guadaoupe, Anouk de Koning, Martijn Oosterbaan and Yatun Sastramidjaja for your exceptional Dutch hospitality when I was starting out, for your well-thought out feedback while I was writing, and for you continuing friendship. Special thanks go to Anouk and Yatun for translating
the Dutch summary of this dissertation. I also want to thank my other colleagues at the Amsterdam School for their intellectual stimulation and friendship - Ze de Abreu, Irfan Ahmad, Josien de Klerk, Pia de Matteo, Nienke Muurling, Basile Ndjio, Mathijs Pelkmans, Marina de Regt, Ines de Souza, Rachel Spronk, and Getnet Tadele. Thanks also to Erin Martineau who invaded the ASSR for a year, bringing insight and entertainment. Erin also very kindly edited this entire manuscript. Martijn de Koning and Kim Boesenach did the layout and design of this book. If I say I find my own book beautiful it is only to compliment their hard work and sense of aesthetics.

Last but not least, thanks to my new family in the Netherlands. Though your numbers are small, your support has been considerable. And, dear Hans, no words could ever express my gratitude. Though you are not perfect, you are perfect for me. I am pleased to find happiness in the road of life with you by my side.