

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This project was initiated many years ago through an unexpected exchange with an Afro-German man at a street fair in 1988 in Bremen, Germany. It began with his greeting, "Hello, Sister," and ended with his telling me the very personal story of how he came to call himself Afro-German. I sat on a doorstep and listened in fascination. It was an anonymous encounter, for we never exchanged names and never saw each other again. I never imagined that fifteen years later that conversation would result in this monograph. It is the product of numerous enriching cultural and intellectual exchanges and the generosity of many people who shared their very different stories with me. For this I must thank this anonymous Afro-German man as well as many other individuals and institutions.

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