

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.

The interviews and archival research that form the basis of this study were funded by grants from the Social Science Research Foundation and the Volkswagen Foundation through the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies. I received additional funding for this research from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The Luigi Einaudi and Beatrice Brown Foundations provided much-needed funding for recording equipment and the transcription of my interviews. The follow-up research and writing of the book was enabled by a sabbatical leave from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and the generous financial support of the American Association of University Women, the Leverhulme Trust, and the Center for German and European Studies at Georgetown University. The Center for European Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of California's Committee on Research provided travel grants that allowed me to conduct follow-up interviews with some of my informants.

As with all scholarly work, this study is the product of many dia-

logues and revelatory exchanges. For those moments of insight and inspiration over the course of the many years I have worked on this project, I am grateful to Yara-Colette Lemke Muniz de Faria, Pascal Grosse, Carla Freccero, Jacqueline Nassy Brown, Saidiya Hartmann, Roger Chickering, Jeff Peck, Sara Lennox, Atina Grossmann, Clare Hemmings, Nikolas Rose, Chetan Bhatt, Barnor Hesse, Sabine Hark, Ilona Pache, and Christina Thürmer-Rohr. My colleagues and friends in the UCSC Women's Studies Department have been marvelous mentors who have advised and consoled me through the highs and lows of my writing. I benefited greatly from comments and suggestions made by faculty and graduate students during my residencies at the Center for German and European Studies at Georgetown University and in the Sociology Department at Goldsmiths College in London, where I presented early versions of chapters of the book. The book has benefited immeasurably from the editorial attention given to different versions of the manuscript by Zoe Sodja and Olga Trokhimenko.

I must also acknowledge some of the many individuals whose support was neither material nor quantifiable but was nonetheless essential to the realization and completion of this project. Dagmar Schultz, Ika Hügel-Marshall, Ilona Bubeck, Sarah Schnier, and all of the present and former women of Orlanda Frauenbuchverlag supported me and my work from what feels like the moment I began it. Christel Priemer put me in contact with the two most inspiring individuals I have ever met—after having known me for less than an hour. And May Ayim encouraged me for as long as I had the privilege of knowing her.

Finally, there are those whose influence on both me and my work is immeasurable. My father, Yara, and Derek have been tireless emotional cheerleaders, nurturers, and comforters. But without Fasia and Hans, this book would not have happened. I thank them for never treating me like a stranger and for being the bravest people I have ever known.