Everyday Resistance, Peacebuilding and State-making

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As I see my son growing, the African saying that ‘it takes a whole village to raise a child’ becomes even more meaningful. Something similar applies to academic work. It takes a whole community of scholars and their personal relationships to create it. This book has been made possible thanks to the support, encouragement, inspiration and understanding that I have received from many people. To acknowledge them all would be impossible as they include those who have shared their tears, thoughts, ideas, reflections, experiences, fears and aspirations during fieldwork either spontaneously or as part of formal interviews. The content of the book rests on their generosity and enlightenment. Additionally, the long journey this book has taken means that the list of debts is equally long. There are, however, particular people whom I would like to mention for sharing this entire journey and contributing to the book’s final shape. George Lawson and Mark Hoffman have been a source of intellectual stimulation and professional support ever since they took me on as their supervisee. It was not until I finished my PhD that I became aware of the long-term commitment they had acquired. I wish I could reciprocate one day, but for now I can only hope that they know that their mentorship fosters enthusiasm for scholarship.

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