
Contents

<i>Illustrations</i>	viii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	ix
<i>Preface</i>	x
1 Introduction	1
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	1
<i>Introductory overview</i>	4
<i>Significations of “ethnic”</i>	6
<i>Anthropological approaches to the study of ethnicity</i>	8
<i>Ethnicity</i>	9
<i>Identity and ethnic identity</i>	11
<i>Classifying practices of ethnic identity</i>	13
<i>This research in the context of area studies</i>	18
2 Research, a contract, and representation	22
<i>A contract and negotiations</i>	22
<i>Concerns, motivations, and rationales</i>	24
<i>Historical and cultural factors</i>	27
<i>Impact and effects, sleepless nights</i>	30
PART I	
Setting	35
3 Introduction	37
4 Ecology and prehistory	39
<i>Ecology</i>	39
<i>Seú</i>	47
<i>The prehistoric, human, setting</i>	49

5	Selected elements of the Curaçaoan social setting	52
	Rudy's ta otro	52
	Colonial history	54
	Industrialization	59
	Karnaval	64
	Political organization	69
	Labor history	73
	The politics of language	82
6	The Sephardi Jewish presence on Curaçao	87
	Pre-Curaçaoan Sephardi	87
	Expulsion, forced conversion, and Inquisition	88
	Out of Iberia	92
	The "New Jerusalem" in Amsterdam	93
	Coming to the Americas	94
	Curaçao Sephardi social organization	96
	The Yom Kippur service	96
	Sephardi settlement on Curaçao	101
	Economic activity	103
	Religious organization	105
	Religio-political organization	109
	Kinship	113
 PART II		
Social practice		
7	Introduction	121
8	Alternatively Jewish, alternatively Curaçaoan	122
	Ashkenazi Jews arrive in Curaçao	122
	Alternative Jewish prayer, the Curaçao Ashkenazi service	126
	Simchat Torah at Congregation Shaare Tsedek	129
	Two images of being Jewish on Curaçao	131
9	Ascribing identities	137
	Kinship and ethnic identity	137
	Aña Nobo	138
	Nodes of ethnic identity	140

<i>Experiencing nodes of ethnic identity as not singular, not unitary, and not constant</i>	144
<i>Local understandings and crafting an ethnic identity</i>	151

10 Conclusion	155
<i>Appendix 1: Questionnaire</i>	159
<i>Appendix 2: Protocol for first semi-structured interview</i>	161
<i>Appendix 3: Protocol for second semi-structured interview</i>	163
<i>Appendix 4: Contract</i>	169
<i>Appendix 5: Research methods</i>	172
<i>Notes</i>	179
<i>Bibliography</i>	183
<i>Index</i>	197

Illustrations

Maps

1	Caribbean region	40
2	Curaçao	41
3	Willemstad	42

Tables

1	Population of Curaçao	60
2	Unemployment figures for Curaçao (1988–92)	63
3	Sephardi population of Curaçao (1745–1992)	103