Table of Contents

.

| Acknowledgements | | v |
|-----------------------|---|------|
| Table of Contents | | |
| List of Illustrations | | x |
| A | Acronyms | |
| 1 | Introduction | 1 |
| 2 | Research methodology | 21 |
| | 2.1 Multi-sited ethnography | 21 |
| | 2.2 Applied methods in research locations | 25 |
| | 2.3 Selection criteria for interview partners | · 29 |
| | 2.3.1 Context of origin and return: Cameroon | 31 |
| | 2.3.2 Context of destination: Germany | 40 |
| | 2.4 Analysis | 47 |
| | 2.4.1 Challenges of my research | 48 |
| | 2.4.2 Ethical issues | 49 |
| 3 | Creating a migration population: political, economic, | |
| | social, and cultural aspects of migration | 51 |
| | 3.1 Cameroon – 'Afrique en miniature' | 52 |
| | 3.2 Political history of Cameroon | 53 |
| | 3.3 The value of formal education | 57 |
| | 3.4 Internal mobility | 65 |
| | 3.4.1 Urbanization | 66 |
| | 3.4.2 Urban-rural migration | 70 |
| | 3.5 'La crise' – consequences of the economic decline | 72 |
| | 3.6 Human rights situation | 77 |
| | 3.7 Social and cultural aspects of the 'migration-hype' | 80 |
| | 3.8 Conclusion | 89 |



vii

| 4 | Family, marriage, and reproduction in the sending context | 91 |
|---|---|-----|
| | 4.1 Wealth in people | 92 |
| | 4.2 The role of family and kin in migration processes | 95 |
| | 4.2.1 Who is considered a family in the migration process? | 96 |
| | 4.2.2 Social networks and migration | 97 |
| | 4.2.3 Nyongo | 101 |
| | 4.2.4 Selecting migrants | 103 |
| | 4.2.5 Reciprocity | 111 |
| | 4.3 Marital constellations | 115 |
| | 4.3.1 Generating wealth through marriage | 116 |
| | 4.3.2 Marriage as a process | 119 |
| | 4.3.3 Multiple forms of marriage | 121 |
| | 4.3.4 Love and affection | 127 |
| | 4.3.5 Influence of employment, education, and | |
| | urbanization on marital practices | 131 |
| | 4.3.6 Gender specific pre-migrational marital behavior | 133 |
| | 4.4 The importance of children | 139 |
| | 4.4.1 The idea of fosterage | 140 |
| | 4.4.2 Being a single mother | 141 |
| | 4.4.3 Childbearing and migration planning | 143 |
| | 4.5 Conclusion | 144 |
| 5 | The structural framework of transnational migration | 147 |
| | 5.1 Transnational migration | 148 |
| | 5.1.1 Theories of migration | 149 |
| | 5.1.2 Being a transmigrant | 152 |
| | 5.2 The significance of nation-states for transnational migration | 154 |
| | 5.2.1 Germany – a country of immigration? | 156 |
| | 5.2.2 Germany's immigration history | 157 |
| | 5.2.3 The Immigration Act (Zuwanderungsgesetz) | 162 |
| | 5.2.4 Processes of inclusion and exclusion in Germany | 167 |
| | 5.3 Choice of the country of destination | 171 |
| | 5.4 Paths of immigration | 174 |
| | 5.5 Cameroonian migrants in Germany | 177 |
| | 5.5.1 Cameroonian migrants in Berlin | 179 |

| | 5.5.2 Categories of Cameroonian migrants in Germany | 180 |
|----|---|------|
| | 5.6 Insecure status | 196 |
| | 5.7 Conclusion | 198 |
| 6 | Legality, marriage, and parenthood | 201 |
| | 6.1 The legal framework of marriage and parenthood | 204 |
| | 6.2 Marriage in Germany | 206 |
| | 6.3 Binational marriages in Germany | 209 |
| | 6.4 Family reunification | 211 |
| | 6.5 Parenthood | 213 |
| | 6.6 The role of authorities | 214 |
| | 6.7 Cameroonian-German marriages | 221 |
| | 6.7.1 'Go and find yourself a German wife!' | 225 |
| | 6.7.2 Getting to know each other | 230 |
| | 6.7.3 Incentives for German women to marry binationally | 234 |
| | 6.7.4 Perspectives of Cameroonian men | 238 |
| | 6.7.5 Challenges of binational marriages | 244 |
| | 6.7.6 Binational marriage in Cameroon and subsequent family reunification | 247 |
| | 6.7.7 Incentives for transnational polygyny | 249 |
| | 6.7.8 Binational marriages as indicator for integration | 253 |
| | 6.8 Parenthood and Legalization | 258 |
| | 6.8.1 Cameroonian parents in Germany | 259 |
| | 6.8.2 'False paternity'? | 263 |
| | 6.9 Conclusion | 267. |
| 7 | Conclusion | 271 |
| Bi | Bibliography | |
| G | lossary | 317 |
| Q | Questionnaire for survey "International migration" | |
| K | Koppo: Si tu vois ma go (If you see me go) | |