

Contents

List of Illustrations	ix
Acknowledgements	xi
1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 “DO YOU KNOW PARADISE ISLAND?” SONSOROL AND ITS INTEGRATION IN THE PALAUAN ARCHIPELAGO	9
Dongosaro: Sonsorol	9
Belu’uera Belau: The Republic of Palau	24
History and Colonial Heritage of Palau	27
Methodological Reflection	38
3 “A HOME AWAY FROM HOME.” MIGRATION DESTINATIONS OF THE SONSOROLESE	47
Echang	47
Saipan	53
Guam	55
Portland and Salem, Oregon	59
4 WHO AM I? FUNDAMENTAL NOTIONS OF IDENTITY FROM AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE	67
Cultural Identity	67
Collective Identity	75
Ethnic Identity	79
5 AN ASSESSMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL KEY TERMS IN MIGRATION STUDIES	83
Transnationalism and Migration	83
Diaspora	91
Nation, Home and Belonging	95

6	TRADITIONAL SONSOROLESE IDENTITY MARKERS	101
	Community and Respect	105
	Religious Faith and Gods	116
	Mourning and Death	118
	Chants	120
	Healing Techniques	122
	Food	126
	Land Tenure	129
	Tattoos and Hair	132
	Navigation	135
	Language	137
7	DAILY LIFE OF THE SONSOROLESE IN A NEW HOME.....	141
	Causes for Sonsorolese Migration	144
	The Solid Network of the Family: Chain Migration	154
	Remittances and Staying in Touch	158
	Home is not a Country, but a Feeling:	
	Nostalgia and the Return Myth	166
	Faith as a Unifying Force: The Catholic Church	180
	Sports as an Identity-Forming Power	183
	The Taste of Home: Sonsorolese Cooking	184
8	CHALLENGES FOR THE SONSOROLESE IDENTITY	187
	Identity and Ethnicity.....	187
	“The Small Heart“: Sonsorolese Children and the	
	Educational System	197
	“Echang Language”: Loss of the Sonsorolese Language	204
	“The Money Comes from the Devil!”: Cultural Loss	
	and Social Change	211
	Struggling against Oblivion: Revitalization	
	of the Sonsorolese Traditions	218
	Transformations	233

9	“NO MORE TYPHOON, GO HOME!”	
	SELF- AND EXTERNAL PERCEPTION	
	OF SONSOROLESE IDENTITY	239
	“They are Palauan Citizens, but they are not Palauans!”	
	Discrimination and Self-Perception	239
	“Don’t Go out with Tobian People or Guys,	
	cause those People are not Good!”	262
	Perception of the Sonsorolese by Members	
	of the Residence Societies from outside Palau	265
	Being In-between: Sonsorolese	
	Children and Teenagers	269
	Self-Identification of the Sonsorolese	278
10	CONCLUSION	287
11	CONTRIBUTORS	295
	References	299
	Index	325