Subaltern Lives uses biographical fragments of the lives of convicts, captives, sailors, indentured labourers and indigenous peoples to build a fascinating new picture of colonial life in the nineteenth-century Indian Ocean. Moving between India, Africa, Mauritius, Burma, Singapore, Ceylon, the Andaman Islands and the Australian colonies, Clare Anderson offers fresh readings of the nature and significance of ‘networked’ Empire. She reveals the importance of penal transportation for colonial expansion and sheds new light on convict experiences of penal settlements and colonies, as well as the relationship between convictism, punishment and colonial labour regimes. The book also explores the nature of colonial society during this period and embeds subaltern biographies into key events like the abolition of slavery, the Anglo-Sikh Wars and the Indian Revolt of 1857. This is an important new perspective on British colonialism which also opens up new possibilities for the writing of history itself.

**Clare Anderson** is Professor of History at the University of Leicester. She is currently developing comparative work on European penal colonies, on the interface between ‘academic’ and ‘family’ history, and the relationship between history, sociology and anthropology.
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Subaltern Lives

Biographies of Colonialism in the Indian Ocean World, 1790–1920

Clare Anderson
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Acknowledgements

*Subaltern Lives* has emerged out of fragments collected in archives in Britain and overseas for almost two decades. I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the following organisations for supporting my research during this period: the British Academy, the British Association for South-East Asian Studies in the UK, the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC; award no. R000271268). I had the great privilege of holding the inaugural Sackler-Caird Senior Research Fellowship at the National Maritime Museum during 2007–9, which gave me the time and space to gather my material together and write this book. I am hugely grateful to the curatorial and research staff at the museum, especially Margaret Lincoln, John McAleer and Nigel Rigby, and I hope that the museum will be pleased with the outcome. I would also like to note that the material in Chapter 6 forms part of a larger, collaborative ESRC project called ‘Integrated Histories of the Andamans’ (award no. RES-000–22-3484).

I would like to thank the many archivists, librarians and counter staff with whom I have had the pleasure to work over the years. These include colleagues in the Asia, Pacific and Africa Collections and Manuscript Room in the British Library; Caird Library, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich; Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge; Department of Manuscripts, University of Cambridge Library; National Library of Scotland; The National Archives, Kew; National Archives of Mauritius; National Library of Mauritius; National Archives of India; Rare Book, Manuscript and Special Collections Library, Duke University; Royal Archives, Windsor Castle; Tamil Nadu State Archives; State Library of Tasmania; and the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office.

It would be impossible to name the many scholars who have influenced my work over the years, across and between the disciplines of history, historical geography and postcolonial studies. However, I would like to begin by thanking my immensely supportive colleagues in the School of Historical Studies at the University of Leicester, as well as in the Department of Sociology, University of Warwick. At Warwick, a special
note of gratitude also to those engaged in the activities of the Global History and Culture Centre, Institute of Advanced Studies, and Warwick South Asia Group, especially David Arnold whose pioneering work in subaltern studies has underpinned much of what I (and many others) do. I would also like to thank my Andamans project co-investigators, Madhumita Mazumdar and Vishvajit Pandya. It has been a pleasure and an honour to work with such supportive and accomplished scholars. I hope that it will be evident in the book that I am indebted to the family historians and community groups who in various ways have worked with me too. They include: Theresa Brown (Penobscot County Genealogical Society), Margaret Makepeace (British Library), the Maulvi Liyaquat Ali Memorial Society, Lionel Conroy, Doug Fanthome and especially June Wilmshurst.

I have presented draft chapters of this book at a number of seminars, workshops and conferences. I am especially grateful for comments received at the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh; British Association of South Asian Studies annual conferences; National Maritime Museum; Oceanic Circulations conference, University of Technology, Sydney; Escape conference, University of Tasmania; Reconfiguring the British: Nation, Empire, World seminar, Institute of Historical Research, London; Subaltern Biographies workshop, University of Warwick; Transnational History seminar at the University of Oxford; and the University of York (UK)’s History seminar. Richard B. Allen, Gurminder K. Bhambra, Abdul Momin Chowdhury, Lucy Frost, Devleena Ghosh, Durba Ghosh, Sophie Gordon, Nile Green, Kevin Greenbank, Joanna de Groot, Sumit Guha, Catherine Hall, David Hardiman, Sarah Hodges, Sally Horrocks, Zoë Laidlaw, Gerard McCann, Di Paton, Adele Perry, Anoma Pieris, Cassandra Pybus, Deborah Sutton, Kerry Ward and Jon Wilson have helped me greatly in various ways. James Bradley, Antoinette Burton, Clive Dewey, Ian Duffield and Kirsty Reid were kind enough to read drafts of this manuscript, and I thank them for their stimulating comments and suggestions.

At Cambridge University Press, I am enormously grateful to commissioning editor Michael Watson, as well as the Critical Perspectives on Empire series editors, themselves such inspiring historians and writers, Catherine Hall, Mrinalini Sinha and Kathleen Wilson. Heartfelt thanks also to the anonymous readers of the manuscript. I hope that I have done justice to their insightful comments in tightening up my arguments. Thanks to my copy-editor, Joanna Pyke.

An earlier version of Chapter 3 appeared as ‘Weel about and turn about and do jis so, Eb’ry time I weel about and jump Jim Crow: Dancing on the Margins of the Indian Ocean’, in Sameetah Agha and Elizabeth
x Acknowledgements


Most of all, I thank Sam, for his support of my research and writing (and many other things besides) – always with enormous generosity and good humour. Our sons Hugh and James have brought a whole new dimension to both our lives. I am also hugely grateful to my mum, Madeleine Anderson, who has come to our domestic rescue on numerous occasions. Without her, quite simply, I would not have been able to write this book. Thank you.

Subaltern Lives is dedicated to the memory of my father, Rowell Anderson (1927–2008). It is bittersweet, indeed, that he did not live to see it in print.
## Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BJC</td>
<td>Bengal judicial consultations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL</td>
<td>British Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BomJC</td>
<td>Bombay judicial consultations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSAS</td>
<td>Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HJailsP</td>
<td>Home jails proceedings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HJP</td>
<td>Home judicial proceedings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPBP</td>
<td>Home Port Blair proceedings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPC</td>
<td>Home political consultations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFC</td>
<td>India foreign consultations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFP</td>
<td>India foreign proceedings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IJP</td>
<td>India judicial proceedings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOR</td>
<td>India Office Records, British Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPC</td>
<td>India public consultations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPP</td>
<td>India public proceedings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISC</td>
<td>India secret consultations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MJC</td>
<td>Madras judicial consultations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MJP</td>
<td>Madras judicial proceedings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAI</td>
<td>National Archives of India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAM</td>
<td>National Archives of Mauritius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NWPJP</td>
<td>North-Western Provinces judicial proceedings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAHO</td>
<td>Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office</td>
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<td>TNA</td>
<td>The National Archives, United Kingdom</td>
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<td>TNSA</td>
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