abjection, 7, 20, 209
absentee landownership, 76
accommodation, 169, 171, 172, 179;
adaptation of, 14, 116, 119–20,
124, 160; farmer, 55; decoration
of, 125; minimum standards of,
176; of seasonal workers, 116
Adult Literacy Centre, 145, 173
affirmative parochialism, 53
African National Congress (ANC), 21
African Renaissance (South Africa),
22
African Women’s Prayer Union, 142
Afrikaans, language, 164
Afrikaanse Protestante Kerk
(Afrikaans Protestant Church), 52,
57
Afrikaners, 30, 46, 54, 72, 174;
mythology of, 40–1
AIDS, 149
Alex, a picker, 151–2
Aliens Control Act (South Africa),
100
amnesty for migrants (1988), 13
André, a white farm manager, 60,
164, 165, 166, 175
apartheid, 12, 99, 189; end of, 16;
labour migration central to, 7;
post-apartheid disillusionment, 22;
transition from, 22
aspirations, 31, 142; middle-class, 29,
35–6, 141, 143, 152, 158, 178,
179
autochthony, 21
baboons, guarding crops against, 28,
193
bakkies, 1, 164, 165, 166, 169, 174,
178, 186, 193, 195, 200
bandits see labour bandits
bankruptcy, 56, 59
Basotho people, 43
‘becoming a man’, 65
beer: buying of, 199; confiscation of,
190; drinking of, 154, 155; selling
of, 162, 171, 186, 192, 193 (illegal,
118) see also drinking groups
Beitbridge border post, 154, 167,
168, 186
Benjamin, a storeman, 30, 33, 143–4,
145, 157, 167, 178
BI-17 permits, 100
Black Economic Empowerment,
172–3
black foremen see foremen
black frontmen, promotion of, 49
black managers, 36, 177; of
packsheds, 112
black reserves, creation of, 76
black workers, 5, 9–10, 41, 78, 86–7,
99, 110, 161–5, 174, 176, 183;
rivalry between, 161
black workforce, employment and
domesticity in, 105–36
Boers, 53, 75–6
border economy, of farming, 182–206
border farmers: aggression as driving
force of, 53; as counter-insurgents,
14; stories of, 41; role of, in
controlling security of territory, 102
border farms and farming, 15, 20, 21,
25, 47; as buffer zones, 71–4, 76,
99; in international economy, 23;
rise of, 4; viewed as serious
border farms and farming (cont.)
business, 52–4; wider contexts of, 33 see also failure, in border farming
and success, in border farming
border wars, 14, 69, 72
borders: as place of crisis, 5; cultures of, 67; economies of, 70;
governance of, 88, 98; labour economy of, 75–9; policing of, 68–9;
potency of, 107; shaping of, 36; ‘special employment’ in, 99–103 see also policing, of borders
boreholes, 61
bossboy see foreman
braai (barbecue), 57, 60, 177, 192
bridewealth, 144
Brazilian military operations, 77
buffer zones, 70 see also border farms
and farming, as buffer zones
Calvinist theology, 52
camaraderie among male pickers, 151
capital flight, 64
casualisation of farming, 6, 107–8
Central Methodist Church
(Johannesburg), 141; as place of refuge, 6, 33
chain of command see hierarchies
Chewa people, 109
chieftaincy, resurgence of, 21
child labour, 75–6
childcare, 153; during harvest time, 131; women engaged in, 28
children, born to migrant women, 29
China, exports to, 23
Chipo, a picker and businessman, 154, 156, 191, 201–2
ChiShona, language, 30, 32–3, 109, 122, 125, 130, 136, 147, 154
Christianity, 142, 149, 155
Churches in the labour compound, 142, 149, 155; apostolic bishop, 107, 149; Armed for Harvest services, 155; methodology of studying, 31
church services (farmers’), 57
churches, Afrikaans Protestant 52, 57; apostolic, 31; Dutch Reform, 52, 57
Cigarettes: selling of, 154, 191; smuggling of, 184, 190
citizenship, Zimbabwean, redefinition of, 18
citrus fruit: production of, 24, 47–8, 60, 62, 90, 145–51; exports of, 22–3; packing of, 112
civilisation, bringing of, 47
class: among migrant workers, 140–5; among pickers, 151–8; class-based status, 12, 138, 142, 143, 145, 163, 178–9; divisions of, 163, 179; models of, in Zimbabwe, 141; reimagined and contested, 36 see also middle class
class consciousness in conditions of displacement, 138, 145
coal prospecting on farms, 4, 36, 64, 65, 207–11
commando groups, 72, 73
compound shop, 185, 197
compounds, 9, 27–8, 35; as zone of autonomy, 190; cleaning of, 133;
gendered nature of, 128; living in, 30; models of hierarchy in, 168–74;
in mining industry, 115–16, 120, 124, 189; residence in, 32; rules of, 29;
seasonal arrangements of, 116–22; selfbuilding of, 169; social life of, 31; transience and rootedness in, 115–27
Congo, Democratic Republic of, 6, 183
copper mining, 75, 79–89, 162 see also Messina Copper Mine
‘core’ (hub, hinterland), in Limpopo Valley, 67–71
Cornelius, a driver, 194–6, 197
Corporate Social Responsibility, 6
corporatisation of farms, 49, 160–1, 163, 180
cotton: exports of, 22–3; production of, 38, 45, 47, 60, 62 see also ginning of cotton

© in this web service Cambridge University Press www.cambridge.org
Index

elites, study of, 143
embedding, of workplace arrangements, 214–15
employment: as incorporation, 26–9; categories of, differences of, 136
English, language, 33, 175
Epstein, A. L. 162–3
Esther, a woman shopkeeper, 185
ethical produce, 160
ethnicity, 152, 153; among pickers, 151–8; as category of difference, 12, 139
EUREPGAP agency, 49
Europeans, seen as different from Africans, 46
Ezekiel, a supervisor, 148, 149
failure in border farming, 34, 38–66 passim
Fanakalo, language, 165, 175
Farm Labour Scheme, 90, 91, 92, 99
Farm Watch, 52, 53
farm work: demonisation of, 177; perceived as low status, 137, 178
farm workers, differentiation of, 180
farmers: as jacks-of-all-trades, 50; dress of, 159; identity of, 174
farming equipment, exported from Zimbabwe, 38–9
farming, ideals of, 9
farms: as social centres, 67; as totalitarian institutions, 41; residence on, regulation of, 196
fast track resettlement, in Zimbabwe, 17
favours, dispensing of, 170, 171, 180
fencing see security fencing
Flexibility, in white farming, 5, 6, 14, 22–5, 29, 34, 62–5, 114, 136, 166–7, 210, 213, 214, 215, 216; in strategies of workers and compound residents, 143, 186, 197, 198, 199, 200, 205
football, 31, 149, 177, 179;
organisation of farm teams, 170–1; team fielded by soldiers, 107

cows, investment in, 203
credit, a risky practice, 196 see also traders, sell on credit
credit groups, 199
currency blackmarket, 204
dams, building of, 42, 48, 64, 65
dancing, 155
Dangarembga, Tsitsi, Nervous Conditions, 142
Daniel, a tractor driver, 192
de Beers diamond mine, 104
debt, 7, 20
deporation of Zimbabweans from South Africa, 5, 34, 94, 103, 105, 122, 134, 167
deporation raids, 3, 28, 68, 69, 101, 106, 121
differences among migrants, 12
Dirk, a former farmer, 59–60
disembeddedness, 213–14; of economic relations, 212–13; of land, 216
dismissal of farm workers, 105

displacement of peoples, 5, 7, 140–5; as paradigm, 8; characteristics of, 20–1; in Zimbabwe, 18
diversification of farmers’ activities, 63–4
Doctors Without Borders, 5
domestic work see also women, as domestic workers
domesticity, 142–3, 156; in compounds, 127–33
drinking groups, 28
drivers, 167

drunkenness, 118
Dutch Reformed Church see Nederduits Gereformeerde Kerk

education, 30, 141, 142, 143, 144, 151, 153, 154, 156, 172, 173, 178, 179; in farm context, 129 see also university education
electrical goods, use of, 124
electricity, provision of, 51
elephants, hunting of, 43, 75
Index

238

Fordism, 23; racial, 22
foreigners, attacks on, 6
foremen, 36, 60, 181; role of, 100, 161–2, 165
formal economic activity, definition of, 185–91
fragmentation, 207–17 passim; and capitalist production, 211–13; of families, 11; of Grootplaas
population, 108; of labour, 1–37, 160, 182
furniture: of compound residents, 124, 171; of farmers’ homes, 55, 58
Gate 17, 101
gatekeepers, key workers as, 160, 172
gendered nature of compounds, 126–33
George, a picker, 152–3, 209
ginning of cotton, 62
glasses, wearing of, 156
gold mining, 10, 11, 26, 79, 88, 95; remittances of workers in, 203
Granny, a female informant, 32
grapefruit, 112, 140, 145
Green Bombers, 19
Gregory, a pump worker, 128, 191
Grenfell, John Pascoe, 79–80
Grootplaas farm, 2, 21, 160; as lifelong place of employment, 122; as permanent residence, 129; becoming a resident of, 29–34; citrus production of, 23, 47–8; compound shop see compound shop; diversity of population of, 109; domestic arrangements in, 106; employment structures of, 140; future prospects for, 207–17; gendered nature of compound, 128; integration of labour into, 27; masculinity in, 139; mix of formal and informal livelihoods in, 183; organisation of work in, 213–14; personal interactions in, 180–1; residential arrangements in, 169; seen as place of failure, 141; trader activities in, 189, 191–8
hardcore movements, 13
Guidance, brother of Josiah, 193
guns, 73, 75, 43, 159
Hardship, keeper of employment register, 2–3, 148, 170–1
Hart, Keith, 187
harvest time, 29, 134, 137, 140, 146, 165, 167–8, 169, 186; entertainments during, 107; life in compounds during, 118–19; recruitment for, 2–3
healers, 169 see also Sangoma
Henderson Consolidated Corporation, 84
Hendrik, a farmer, 73
hierarchies, 29, 65; models of, in compound, 168–74; nodal points of, 49; of labour, 4, 8, 25, 27, 35, 114–15, 116, 159–81, 175, 214; (gendered, 28); of packshed workers, 113; of traders, 26
hiring and firing, 168
history: genre of, 40; of Afrikaners, 40–1; of settlers, preservation of, 44
HIV/AIDS peer educators, 30, 31–2, 177
Holly, partner of Michael, 128, 129
home-based enterprises, 189–90
homosexual, church ministers, 57
white claims to local history: hospital registers, removal of, 44
Hostel building (Grootplaas), 116–18
Houmoed, name of farm, 39, 43
Housing Committee (Grootplaas), 116
housing, 140; adaptation of see accommodation, adaptation of; of farm owners, 55; of compound, 115; illegal, demolished in Zimbabwe, 18 see also accommodation
hunting, 43, 177; of elephants, 43; for ivory trade, 75 see also poaching of game
hyperinflation in Zimbabwe, 5, 16, 18, 19, 20, 27, 198, 199, 203, 204; responses to, 205

identity documents, 28, 68, 69, 120, 135, 167, 191; produced by farms, 103, 121 see also BI-17 permits

'illegals', 2, 3, 68, 69, 103, 118

immigration, clandestine, control of, 89–99

Immigration Act (South Africa), 93

Incorporation of migrants into farm workforces, 4, 5, 12, 14, 21, 26–9, 214

induna, use of term, 174

informal economy, 6, 23, 205–6; definition of, 182, 185–91 informal livelihood strategies, 182–5 informal trade see trade

informalisation, 9, 20–1, 187

informality: concept of, 189; negotiation of, 197; rejection of, 187; usefulness of concept of, 188

inheritance tax, avoidance of, 62

insecurity of labour, 5–9

intercalary figures, 162–3

interviews with informants, 31; organisation of, 33–4

irrigation, 60, 61, 65, 72, 91, 108, 114 see also dams

ivory: poaching of, 79; trade in, 75

Jacques, son of Willem, 57–9, 63, 177

Jameson, a picker, 154–8

Jan, a farmer, 38, 46, 53, 56, 74, 100, 102

Jenny, wife of Jameson, 154–6

Jim, a farmer, 51–3, 54

Johannesburg, 6, 8, 33, 78, 123; seen as place of opportunity, 140–1

John, a farmer, 46

Josiah, a shebeen owner, 193

Joyce, a permanent worker, 129–30, 132

justice: on border farms, 35; justice, systems of, 183; permanent workers’ versions of, 135

Karanga people, 109

KhaDeki farm, 45, 59

KhaGideon farm, 45

KhaKobus farm, 45

KhaRudi farm, 45, 123

khoro community/compound court, 149, 169–70

kinship networks, 100, 106, 212

Klein Thinus, 57

Kleinplass estate, 63, 123

Koos founder of Grootplaas, 2, 38, 39, 43, 45–7, 54, 56, 174–7, 181; biography, 43–5

kraals, 115

kukiya-kiya (making do), 7

labour: control of, 71, 85–9, 89–99, 105; economy of, 75–9; free/unfree dichotomy, 79; shortages of, 87, 90, 94; state policy for, 94–9

labour agents, control of, 96–7

labour bandits, 77–9, 88, 97

labour depots of government, 89–94, 96–8; a failure, 93, 98

labour reserves see reserves of labour

land claims, 61–5, 210

Land Claims Court, 61

land redistribution, in Zimbabwe, 17

land reform: in South Africa, 24, 61; in Zimbabwe, 19, 42

landmine attacks, 73

landscape: as canvas for development, 61; conceptions of, 47

languages: Afrikaans, 164; ChiShona, 30, 32–3, 109, 122, 125, 130, 136, 147, 154; English, 33, 175; Fanakalo, 165, 175; linguistic complexity of fieldwork, 32–3; multilingual nature of border farms, 110; SeSotho, 33, 177; SiNdbelele, 33; soldiers’ lack of, 134; TshiVenda, 15, 32–3, 60, 109, 110, 125, 130, 147, 165, 179; XiShangani, 33

latrines in compounds, 116; in mining industry, 87–8

Lemba people, 80

liberalisation of market, 4, 16, 61–5
lice, 120
Limpopo River, 67; crossing of, 1, 76; (risks of, 3); labour context of, 1–37
Limpopo Valley: as buffer zone, 70; as labour recruitment area, 69, 99; as place in own right, 103; characteristics of, 69–70; framing of, 92; rise of agriculture in, 89–94
Lindiwe, a woman shopkeeper, 185
Lindsey, daughter of Michael and Purity, 128
literacy, 167; adult, 173 see also Adult Literacy Centre
living from one day to the next, 27
Louis Trichardt depot, 92, 95, 96, 98
Lovely, niece of Michael, 129
ma-cutters, 140
machismo, 148
magumaguma gangs, 3, 137, 184
MalJimmy, 192–3, 196, 197, 208
maize production of, 94
maize meal, 125; distribution of, 186
making do, 40
making ends meet, 36
Makoni, Simba, 207
makanwinya (dough balls), 193
malaria, 81, 82–3
Malawi, migrants from, 11, 19
management, in relation to paternalism, 159–81
managerialism: farmers’ perspectives on, 174–7; registers of status in, 177–80
managers, white, 55
Manika people, 43
ma-nose brigades, 143
mapermanent, 8, 28, 34, 107, 136, 149, 182, 193, 196, 207, 209, 214; adaptation and rootedness among, 122–7; as aristocracy of labour, 135; investment in compound, 210–11; permits of, 135; remittances of, 198; working context of, 108–15
mapoto, informal relationships, 130, 132
Mapungubwe settlement, 75
Margaret (‘Granny’), 130–1; as a Grootplaas resident, 144–5
Marie, wife of Willem, 32, 49, 167
marriage, 58–9, 142, 143, 156; farm marriages, 28, 127, 129; ratification of, 129; white weddings, 141
Marula, a black foreman, 2, 27, 109, 122–3, 131, 149, 161–81, 210; activities of, 164–74
Marxism, 11, 12
masalads, 143
masculinities: differences among, 157–8; performed, 148
masculinity: in picking process, 145–58; models of, 139; scholarship on, 139
mashonja (mopane worms), 200
Matabeleland, 15, 33
mbanje, 192 see also marijuana
mealies, 210 see also maize
mediated paternalism, 213–24
Memorandum of Understanding (2004), 102
men, reimagining of, 137–58
Messina see Musina town
Messina Copper Mine, 34, 44, 70, 72, 78, 90, 91, 95, 103; accident books of, 95; labour issues at, 79–89; (recruitment difficulties, 87)
Messina Company, Health Committee of, 82–3, 85, 88
Messina (Transvaal) Development Company, 83, 85
Michael, a personnel manager, 30–1, 32, 33, 125, 128–9, 156, 161–81, 216–17
middle class, 141, 157, 158; as farm workers, 137–58
middle-class aspirations see aspirations, middle-class
migrants: categories of, 21; deaths of, 1 see also undocumented migrants
Index

migration: dependence on, 90; forced, 7; motives for, 17; of labour, 7, 10: (as paradigm, 8; bilateral treaties, 100; scholarship regarding, 12, 26); oscillating, 26; policing of, 74; state policies for, 78, 88–9; viewed in regional context, 77–8 see also undocumented migrants

migration routes, 68

militarisation of border areas, 68, 74

military service, of farm workers, 178

military see soldiers

mining industry: masculinity in, 139, 150; poor infrastructure provision of, 87; sexual activities in, 148 see also copper mining and gold mining

misogyny, 147–8

mobile phones, 167, 186

mobility: cross-border, production of, 15–16; differing forms of, 182; in border areas, 99, 109; meaning of, 5–9; of labour, 110, 114; of migrants, restriction of, 133; of status, downward, 137; of white farmers, 40; of women, 128

models of racial difference, ice man / tropical man dichotomy, 46

monogamy, Christian, 142

moonlighting, 190–1

mopaneveld, 1, 48, 77

Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) (Zimbabwe), 17, 19, 152, 157, 207–9; citizenship disqualification of activists, 18

Mozambique, 46; leasing of land in, 63; migrants from, 11, 19; option of relocating farms to, 215; purchase of land in, 4, 64

Mpho, son of Marula, 123

Mugabe, Robert, 9, 16, 20, 34, 107, 208

muviro / muroho plant, 125

musanda (headman), 149

musha (rural home), 122, 136, 203

music, anthropological studies in the region, 148, 151; live music gigs on the farms, 107; music on speakers at shebeens, 118, 193; playing of, 171

Musina town, 63, 75, 123, 186; shopping in, 201; wholesale buying in, 197

Mutambara, Arthur, 157

National Constitutional Assembly (Zimbabwe), 17, 154, 157

National Defence Force (South Africa), 68

Ndebele people, 109, 110, 139, 153, 179

Nederduits Gereformeerde Kerk (Dutch Reformed Church), 52, 57

neo-liberalism, 9, 108, 159, 187; in South Africa, 21–6

networks, development of, 15

New Houses (Grootplaas), 116–18, 151, 152, 155

Ngoni state, 26

Njelele River, 89, 90; agriculture in region of, 91, 95

non-contractual relationships, 214, 215

Norman, a senior driver, 129–30

Northern Sotho people, 109

occult economies, 9

Occupatie Wet, 76

Oceana Consolidated Company, 83

Oom see Koos

Operation Murambatsvina (Zimbabwe), 18, 152, 157

oranges, 112, 122, 140, 157

ownership (of farm), viewed as handicap, 64

packsheds, 63, 115, 122, 155, 192; backlogs in, 147; expenses of, 24; women working in, 110; work in, 111–13

passage, in Limpopo Valley, 67–71
Index

paternalism, 9, 32, 49–50, 136, 159–81, 173, 212; definition of, 159–60; farmers’ perspectives on, 174–7; mediated, 213–14; racialised, 41–2; registers of status in, 177–80; reinvention of, 161 patriarchy, 179
Paul, son of Koos, 52, 55, 64
payday market in compound, 200–1
periphery, in Limpopo Valley, 67–71
permanence: production of, 105–36; provisional, 35
permanent workers see mapermanent
permits, corporate, issuing of, 102 see also identity documents and work permits
personnel managers, 30, 36, 112–13, 125, 128, 144, 161–2, 175
Pfumbi people, 109
pickers, 166, 192; male seasonal, 35–6, 138–9; work of, 111 see also seasonal workers
picking process, 139, 145–51, 165
picking work, food breaks in, 147
pioneer stories, 39–45, 59, 62, 65, 159, 181
pioneer texts, 42–5
pioneering projects, 47–52
pioneers, 81
'pirates’ see labour bandits
place making, 127
plantation economies, 100
poaching of game, 174, 190
police, 191; black, 103; interventions at farms, 176
policing of borders, 35, 74, 82, 88, 103, 167
polocrosse, 56–7, 60
precarity, 29; among workers and their dependents, 4, 9, 25, 26, 29, 37, 66, 124, 126, 131, 132, 196, 197, 216–17; of farmers, 61, 210
precious stones, smuggling of, 190
pregnancy, danger of, 132
privacy, among farm personnel, 171–2
privatisation, 22
proletarianisation, 12; delayed, 212
promiscuity, 150
prospecting for coal see coal
prospecting on farms
prostitution, 132, 153
Protestant ethic, 52
Pula, sister of Michael, 129
Purity, partner of Michael, 128
racial division, 165, 176; in workplaces, 32
racism, 42, 177
radio, jamming of stations, 106
railways, building of, 81, 85
rape, 137, 148
recruitment, of labour, 86, 88, 97–8, 100–2, 106, 168; of South African labour, 102; prohibited areas of, 88, 95, 96; state policy for, 98; recruitment on border farms, 100–2, 106
refrigerators in compound houses, 124
regional perspective on crisis and employment, 9–14
relationships, rooting of, 127–35
remittances, 7, 17, 27, 185, 186, 191, 198; as business, 198–205; as goods for resale, 185; non-perishable goods as, 199
repatriation, 93, 96; ‘at one’s own expense’, 94
researchers, farmers suspicious of, 30
reserves of labour, 10, 11, 26, 141, 193, 209, 211, 213, 216
respectability, 156; in Grootplaas context, 143; Zimbabwean ideal of, 139
Restitution Commission (South Africa), 61
retailers in Zimbabwe, stop stocking controlled goods, 19
Rhodesia, migration from, 11, 13, 86, 89, 96
right to reside, 210–11
right-wing politics, 54
Index

rinderpest outbreak, 76
risk, avoidance of, 62, 63, 65
rivalries between kinds of work authority, 29
roads, 1; building of, 81; improvement of, 51, 71
robbery of migrants, 3
roll-call of migrant workers, 2–3
Rudi, son of Koos, 45, 55
rural backgrounds of seasonal workers, 118
rural governance, outsourcing of, 22
Russian Jewish farmers, 95
Rutherford, Blair, 39, 40, 44, 47, 108, 160
Sam, son of Norman and Sarah, 129
Samkange, Grace, 141–2
Samkange, Thomas, 141–2
sangoma (healer), 43
Sarah, wife of Norman, 129, 132
Saul, Michael’s brother, a tour guide, 178
savings of workers, 140
screening of rooms, 125
seasonal labour, description of, 111–13
seasonal workers, age range of, 110; differences among, 139–40; remittances of, 198, 199; working context of, 108–15 see also pickers
second economy, concept of, 183
security fencing, 1, 69, 73, 74, 137, 208; cutting of, 134; permeability of, 107 see also border
self-defence camps of farmers, 52
self-sufficiency, 65; burdens of, 54–61; in border farming, 38–66 passim
sending contexts, complexity of, 33
SeSotho, language, 33, 177
Settlement on the border: of workers and dependents, 4, 8, 20, 34, 110, 116, 126, 130, 133, 134, 149, 183, 189, 210, 217; of farmers, 38, 63, 71–2, 74; Messina Mine, 80–1; control of patterns of residence around, 83, 85; precolonial and early colonial, 61, 75, 77
sex talk among pickers, 147–50
sexuality and sexual relations, 132, 133, 140, 150, 158; construction of stereotype of insatiability, 148; promiscuity, 147–8; taboo on discussion of, 150
Shaka, king, 46
Shangaan people, 109
shebeens, 30, 31, 118, 134, 190, 192, 208
Sheffield, steel workers in, 215
Shona people, 33, 109, 110, 139, 152, 153–4, 179
Simon, a picker, 151–2
SiNdebele, language, 33
Siyanda, wife of Chipo, 154, 156
smallpox, 83
Smith, Ian, 38
smuggling, 174, 183, 187, 188
social authority, non-formal, 183
socialising, time available for, 56–7
sociality of black workers (‘socialism’), 46
soldiers in border areas, 1–3, 24, 68, 101, 105, 107, 120, 122, 137, 191; accept sexual favours, 184; as managers of disputes, 135; collusion with, 133–5; in bars, 192; sympathy with, 134; trained in bush tracking, 184
solitude of farmers, 57–8
sons, sent away from farm, 55
Sotho people, 109, 110
South Africa, 4, 143; agriculture in, 24–5; drawing power of towns, 140; government policy in, 6; historical characteristics of, 9–10; northern border area of, 34–5; unemployment in, 23; xenophobia in, 5 see also neo-liberalism, in South Africa
Soutspanberg region, 75, 77, 78, 89, 90, 98, 105
sovereignty, of farmers, 102, 105
Soweto, 124
Index

Space, organisation of, on border farms, 8, 21, 27, 115–16, 122, 124, 128, 133, 148, 156, 172, 185–91, 197
spanking as gesture of MDC support, 207–8
spaaza shops, 190, 192–3
squatters, black, control of, 83
stereotypes of Africans, 174
stoeps (verandas), building of, 28, 125
stoves, electric, in compound houses, 124
structural adjustment programmes, 6, 203; in Zimbabwe, 15–16, 17
success in border farming, 38–66
passim; burdens of, 54–61; ideals of, modified, 61
sugar cane, production of, 63
‘Superman’, a picker, 148
supermarkets, 176, 178; as customers, 47, 49; corporate social responsibility agendas of, 180; development projects of, 160, 172–3, 176, 177; pressures to change deriving from, 161
supervisors, developing relations with, 149
Takalani, daughter of Marula, 123
Tatelapa pidgin, 165
taxi drivers, 197
taxi services, 193–6, 200
television, ownership of, 124
temperance, 144
Temporalities and rhythms, 3, 8, 20, 36, 64, 108, 114, 126, 132, 147, 185, 186, 197, 209, 216, 217
Tendai, a picker, 151
tenure: rights of, 14; security of, 17
Thinus, a farmer, 38–9, 45, 50–1, 54, 56, 73
trade: combined with migration, 182; cross-border, 198
trade: informal, 28 (mapping of, 188); of body cream, 204; of cooking oil, 204; of green soap, 202, 204; of washing powder, 200, 204
traders, 36, 185, 197, 204, 206; cross-border, 107; dependent on taxi drivers, 197; hierarchies of, 26; in border areas, 8; sell on credit, 196
transience, 3–4, 7, 31; in compounds, 115–27
Transvaal Agricultural Union, 102
Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Company, 83
traveling home, 199
trekboers, 40
Tribal Trust Lands, 99
tribalism, 153
Trichardt, Louis, 89, 90
tropical man see models of racial difference, ice man / tropical man dichotomy
Tshigidi, a picker, 149
Tshipise region, 105
tshiVenda, language, 15, 32–3, 60, 109, 110, 125, 130, 147, 165, 179
Tsvangirai, Morgan, 19–20, 157, 208
turnover of labour, 31, 115, 196
umbrella companies, use of, 62
Umkhonto we Sizwe, 71, 73, 74
undocumented seasonal workers, 1–2, 3, 69, 101, 105, 120, 121, 197–8; arrests of, 134; special scheme for, 93
unemployment, 27
United African Apostolic Church, 107, 149
United States of America (USA), settler narratives from, 47
university education of farmers, 58, 59
urban backgrounds of seasonal workers, 118
Van Wyk, Gert (former border farmer), 123
Index

vegetable patches in compounds, 125
vehicles of farmers, 55, 58 see also bakkies
Venda people, 67, 76, 77, 80, 110, 139, 151, 180; as market traders, 186; cast as inferior, 152; stereotypes of, 153
vigilantism, 52
violence, 5, 20, 49, 153; against farm personnel, 168; against workers, 123; among pickers, 151; attacks on white farmers, 52; in elections, 207; sexual, 131
visas, acquisition of, 106
‘visionary’ self-understanding of farmers, 46, 50
voortrekkers, 55; history of, 40
vulgar speech, 156–7
vulnerability: of seasonal workers, 106, 120, 121, 208; of women workers, 135
Vusa, a picker, 151–2
wage labour, 70, 191–2, 205, 213; in spaces of crisis, 5
wages, 78, 168; low, 91; minimum, 24, 150, 176, 198; of black workers, 10
‘waiters’, 146–7, 152
war veterans, 17, 20
water, access to, 50, 51, 64, 118
white farmers, 2, 9, 11, 23, 34, 48, 101, 165, 175; becoming of, 65; fear of police reprisals, 103; interest in mobility, 14; interface with black managers, 36; leave Zimbabwe, 4, 38; perceived as bringers of civilisation, 47; post-apartheid hostility to, 61; self-view of exceptionalism of, 52; social life of, 55, 56; wives of, 32
white farms and farming, 8, 17, 115, 162, 206; narratives of, 39; scholarship regarding, 42
wife of Koos, 43
wife of Paul son of Koos, 185
Willem, (also known as Mpothe), a farmer, son-in-law of Koos, 2, 30, 48–9, 57–9, 65, 72, 73, 123, 165, 167, 168, 175–7, 180, 215, 216
Witwatersrand, 10, 11
Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, 95
wives: job dependence on, 196; of farmers, 32; of permanent workers, 130; seen as lacking ambition, 58; use of rifles by, 73
women: as domestic workers, 109, 129, 132–3; as home makers, 145; as pickers, 131; as reserves of labour, 193; as seasonal workers, 118; as semi-permanent employees, 28–9; as tractor drivers, 51; as traders, 186, 192–3, 200; building domesticity with, 35; in compounds, establishing research relations with, 31–2, 139; in domestic work, 114; in packshed work, 110, 111–12, 132, 140, 150; lack of secure incomes of, 132; livelihood strategies of, 189; maintenance of domestic ideal, 142; relationships of, 107, 118, 127–33, 134, 150; unattached, in compound, 150; vulnerability of, 135, 196
Wonder, an acquaintance of Michael, 128
work: farmers’ view of, 54; in picking process, 145–51
work permits, 193
work rhythm, generation of, 147
World Bank, 46
xenophobia, in South Africa, 5–6
XiShangani, language, 33
young people (in white farming families), difficulties of farming life for, 57–8
Zimbabwe: crisis in, 5, 6–7, 8, 9, 14–21, 110, 137–58, 198, 203, 210 (causes of, 16; post-2000, 16–21); elections in, 33, 207–11; historical characteristics of 9–10; migration
Zimbabwe (cont.)
from, 4, 15, 16, 17, 33, 53, 54, 163, 177, 204, 212–13; Human Development Index, 20; multiple currency system in, 209; political issues of, 157
Zimbabwean African National Union (Patriotic Front) (ZANU (PF)), 16–17, 18, 38, 208–9; opposition to, 19–20

Zimbabwean migrants, 9, 13, 20, 110, 121, 128, 137, 154, 179, 185; deported from South Africa, 5; disqualified from citizenship, 18
Zimbabwean People’s Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA), 13
zones of exception, 71
Zoutspanberg, 75, 83, 88, 94 see also Soutspanberg