

Contents

List of Illustrations	vii
Acknowledgements	ix
1 INTRODUCTION	1
In the Field	1
Theoretical Premises and Research Methods	7
Main Informants	13
2 ETHNOGRAPHIC CONTEXT	19
Retracing the Past	19
Places to Live: Villages, Hamlets and Gardens	31
Socio-Cultural Organisation:	
<i>Melek</i> (the Sister's Child) is the 'Star'	37
3 PERSON	57
Theoretical Background	57
Hinihon Personhood	70
Traits of Sociality: From Receiving to Giving	73
Achieving 'Personhood in Between': <i>Mande Kokom</i>	85
Conclusion	88

4 LAND	95
Anthropology of Landscape	95
Empty Villages and Nomadic Gardeners	102
The Meaning of Land	103
Networks of Places in the Flux	111
Establishing Social Continuity	126
Conclusion	131
5 NAMES	135
Theoretical Approaches to Personal Names	135
The Hinihon System of Naming	149
<i>Opu Ondik</i> : 'Talk without Meaning'	150
'Shell' and 'Essence': The Transfer of a Name	157
Avoiding the Name – Evading the Person	168
Conclusion	171
6 SYNTHESIS: PERSON, LAND AND NAMES	177
Glossary	187
References	191
Index	201