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page; Table of contents; Acknowledgements; Shards of memories; List of figures, maps, pictures, tables; Gloss; Getting acquainted with the Girmityas; 1.1 The Girmit narrators; 1.2 The language of the life narratives; 1.3 Researching Girmit with the Girmityas; 1.4 The research; 1.5 The co-construction of Girmit; Gabriel Aiyappa's Girmit; 2.1 Fiji's call for Girmityas; 2.2 Girmit across the kala pani; 2.3 Social structure and its problems on the Girmit plantations; 2.4 And after; 2.5 Summary and discussion

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Sommario/riassunto

The book explores the historical dimension of Indian indenture from within the lived experience of laborers, who emigrated to Fiji from colonial India a century ago. As these laborers are no longer alive, one could argue that the experience of indenture is no longer accessible, if there had not been recordings of the laborers' life narratives. It is seven of these audio recordings, made for public broadcast, which form the data for a fine-grained language-analysis to unearth the life-world of indenture. Through the merging of Labov's high-point analysis with Bamberg's posit