Figures

2.1 Grocery store in Team Two, Lianhe Village: the centre of villagers' leisure lives. The villagers are playing Mah-jong, with onlookers standing or sitting around. (Photo by Yuqin Huang.)  59

2.2 Playing Mah-jong at a house in Lianhe Village. (Photo by Yuqin Huang.)  60

3.1 Map of Guizhou, Hunan and Guangxi showing Liping County (shaded) and other main counties of Kam residence. (Map by Wu Jiaping.)  72

3.2 Map showing the location of Sheeam in Liping County (shaded), and its position in relation to nearby Kam villages and county centres. (Map by Wu Jiaping.)  73

3.3 Liping County centre, November 2005. The 200 women from Sheeam, with accompanying township officials, giving a staged performance at the 2005 Liping Airport-Opening Arts Festival. (Photo by Catherine Ingram.)  78

5.1 A common sight in rural China where slogans related to family planning are written on the walls of people’s houses. This slogan reads ‘Nature will decide the sex of the newborn’. (Photo by Lisa Eklund.)  127

5.2 Campaign poster at a township Family Planning clinic saying ‘To care for today’s girls is to show concern for the future of the people’. Although slogans are intended to increase the value of the girl child, they sometimes convey contradictory messages, based on gendered assumptions. (Photo by Lisa Eklund.)  129