

Acknowledgments

My first and foremost thanks go to the women who have participated in this study. Without your great investment of time and trust, and without your readiness to contribute your stories, pictures, and opinions to this book, it would not exist. I hope you find the discussion of your contributions worthy of your candor and trust.

My next thanks go to my PhD supervisor Doris Wastl-Walter at the University of Bern and my co-supervisor Sallie Marston at the University of Arizona – thank you for your patience, great inspiration, and spirited encouragement. Many thanks also to everyone at the *Interdisciplinary Center for Gender Studies* at the University of Bern and especially its two tireless co-directors, Patricia Purtschert and Michèle Amacker, for your great support. My deepest thanks also to Eithne Luibhéid, the late Doreen Massey, and Margo Okazawa-Rey, for so much inspiration and encouragement.

For your critical yet constructive comments on chapter drafts both of the doctoral thesis and this book, I am deeply indebted to Nadia Baghdadi, Serena Dankwa, Jana Häberlein, Larry Knopp, Eithne Luibhéid, Claudia Michel, Yv E. Nay, Tanja Rietmann, Dereka Rushbrook, Veronika Siegl, Eva Soom, and especially Patricia Purtschert. Very many thanks also to Clay Johnson, Conor Cash, and Anna Dätwyler for your meticulous editing and copy-editing, and to Johanna Tönsing and Mirjam Galley from *transcript* for your support.

My further thanks go to my peers from the *Materialgruppe* at the Graduate School *Gender Scripts and Prescripts* at the University of Bern, Anna Bally, Serena Dankwa, Jana Häberlein, Anja Sieber, and Eva Soom. Thanks also to all my other colleagues at the Graduate School, especially Nadia Baghdadi, Denis Hänzi, Sara Landolt, and Kathrin Zehnder, and the Graduate School's dedicated director, coordinator, and committee members, especially Christa Binswanger, Margret Bridges, the late Brigitte Schnegg, Brigitte Studer, and Heinzpeter Znoj. Many thanks also to all the members of the feminist migration scholars' group *PASSAGEN* for your inspirational perspectives, and to everybody at the international *Doreen Massey Reading Weekends* – it was with this extraordinary latter group of people that I first caught glimpse of what geography and queer theory could do together.

My next thanks go to our longstanding feminist geographers' group *Giub-à-Giub*: Sabin Bieri, Patricia Felber, Katharina Gfeller, Judith Häfliger, Claudia Michel, Barbara

Ringgenberg, Helene Sironi, and Pia Tschannen. This group was founded to bring a female professor and social geography to our institute at the University of Bern, a successful endeavor which made this study possible in the first place.

I also extend my deepest gratitude to my friends Sara Aebi, Sabin Bieri, Serena Dankwa, Anna Dätwyler, Linda Diener, Sapana Doshi, Magdalena Gantenbein, Jana Häberlein, Judith Häfliger, Lali Hofer, Andrea Hungerbühler, Ursula Maerz, Marianne Meier, Tracey Osborne, Tanja Rietmann, Barbara Ringgenberg, Isabelle Schläpfer, Anna Sommer, and Ruveni Wijesekera, for your tireless support.

I have withheld my ultimate thanks to the following people to the very last because I don't really know how to express my gratitude: my parents, my brother, my sister-in-law Sibel, their children Yven and Louis, my late grandmother Eusbi, and my friends Claudia, Kri, Nik, and Nadet. My thanks also go to Yaira and Sandra, for bearing with me during parts of this project. And finally, my most special thanks to Henriette, for creating the space to enable me to eventually conclude this book.

This project would not have been possible without two generous full-time scholarships from the Swiss National Science Foundation SNSF – a three-year *Pro*Doc* Graduate School program and a one-year *Stipendium für angehende Forschende* for finalizing the thesis in the U.S. –, as well as a grant for this Open Access book publication.