

Acknowledgements

The present book was submitted as a dissertation to the Department of Political Science at the University of Zurich in March 2019 and revised for publication in 2021. The research behind this book was made possible thanks to a three-year grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation (2011-2014). I owe the idea of this study to Brigitte Schnegg[†], former director of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies at the University of Bern, with whom I developed the initial research project. Her enthusiasm and her support as a mentor were key for the advancement of the research project in its initial years. I am very grateful to her. I would also like to thank Heinzpeter Znoj, who gave me the opportunity to write the thesis as part of the Universities of Bern and Fribourg's interdisciplinary Graduate School *Gender: Prescripts and Transcripts*. I would also like to thank my supervising professors Elham Manea, Heinzpeter Znoj and Fabrizio Gilardi for their support and valuable feedback on the drafts that I submitted to them. I am very thankful to Julie Hart and William Keller for having thoroughly proofread this book, and to Ana Petrova for her excellent editing work. I would also like to thank Petra Holtrup and Doreen Spörer-Wagner for their support and flexibility with all administrative issues related to the PhD program at Zurich University, and Basilio Ferrante for his valuable IT support. My thanks also go to Seraina Bohren and Barbara Delahayes for their careful transcription of the interviews in German and French and to Mx Karin Scheidegger for their professional assistance in improving the graphs and figures in the text.

A big thanks goes to all my fellow students at the Graduate Program in Gender Studies at the University of Bern for the numerous, extremely valuable discussions on this book. I would especially like to thank Fabienne Amlinger, Isabelle Schläpfer, and Michèle Amacker for the time they dedicated to giving me feedback on parts of this book and for motivating me again and again. I would also like to thank Ruth Ammann for the many fruitful exchanges on

our respective research projects. I am grateful to Sarah Kiani for the time we spent together in London and for her hospitality in Berlin.

My research activities would not have been possible without the numerous (former) Amnesty International (AI) officials, activists, and experts who graciously spent some of their valuable time granting me an interview, answering my questions, responding to my requests or helping me find the relevant written data and other suitable interviewees. I would especially like to thank Laurent Mousson, the documentation specialist of the Swiss AI section, and Volkmar Deile, the former Executive Director of AI Germany, both of whom placed great trust in me and gave me access to the archive materials necessary to conduct my research project. Furthermore, I would like to thank Stella Jegher. She facilitated my access to the Swiss section's archive, enabled my visit to the International Secretariat, and gave me the contact details of many potential interviewees. I would also like to express my thanks to all of my interviewees, who took some of their valuable time to talk with me about their engagement within AI and about the organization's work on issues related to women's rights.

Finally, I am infinitely grateful to my family who have always supported me in my research project, believed in me through the difficult times, and motivated me to not give up. I would especially like to thank my husband Christophe Couderc for his patience, the time he spent talking with me about the progress of my dissertation, listening to my concerns when I was stuck, and helping me find answers to my questions. Doing a PhD demands an awful lot of time. I am very thankful to Christophe Couderc for having my back all these years. I would also like to thank my parents Johanna Zawadynska and Ron Ganzfried and their respective partners Walter Friedrich and Megie Oberson for having taken care of our children on many occasions during all these years. At the same time, I would like to thank my two wonderful children Ilan and Elena who had to spend many weekends and holidays without their mom because she had to go to London, Berlin or somewhere else to collect data, or spend her weekends in the office writing her dissertation.

Bern, May 2021