

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS / CON PROFUNDA GRATITUD

First and foremost my most profound gratitude goes to the sixty women and men who opened up their hearts and souls to share the moving life stories that gave life to this work. I have done everything possible to write your stories in this book and other publications with the same heartfelt vulnerability, honesty, and respect with which you shared them with me.

In each city, my deepest gratitude goes to all of the following professionals, some of whom had been or became personal friends during this research journey. Some of you are no longer with us; *les llevo en el corazón*.

Ciudad Juárez: The late Esther Chávez Cano, *trascendiste a través de tu valiosa obra*. Irma Guadalupe Casas Franco, Claudia Heredia, Eva Moreno, Fernando Ornelas, Efraín Rodríguez, and Juan Vargas—*muchísimas gracias*. Señora Socorro Gutiérrez de Lozoya *gracias a usted y su familia por su hospitalidad y todas sus finas atenciones durante mi estancia en Ciudad Juárez*. Adela Lozoya Gutiérrez and Carmen Vásquez Sierrra, thank you for your loving and supportive friendship.

Guadalajara: Alejandra de Gante Casas and the late José Manuel López Schultz became my fortress and guiding light in the city. Alejandra, *querida* thank you for the kindness and generosity of your beautiful heart and friendship. The late Carmen Castañeda and Águeda Jiménez Pelayo, as well as Belinda Aceves, Gandhi Magaña, Nelly Ordaz, Patricia Peña y Marysol Soto—*gracias mil*.

Mexico City: Laura Martínez Rodríguez, *gracias por siempre, mujer de ardua lucha*. Miriam Valdéz Valerio, thank you for being there for me, especially as I consulted with you countless times after my fieldwork. Thank you for your presence and solidarity: Joaquín Aguilar, Sofía Almazán, José Barba Martín, Gloria Careaga Pérez, Patricia Duarte, Ge-

rardo González Ascencio, Patria Jiménez, Alejandro Núñez, Alicia Elena Pérez Duarte y Noroña, Luciana Ramos Lira, and Patricia Ravelo Blancas. To the late Itziar Lozano: my gratitude for the encouragement and inspiration during that special conversation I will never forget.

Monterrey: Former senator María Elena Chapa Hernández, Marina Duque, and Martha Flores Cavazos, my gratitude for becoming a vital and unconditional presence. Elizabeth Aguilar Parra, Karina Castro, Ramona Gámez, Clara Beatriz León Hernández, Rafael Limones, María Aurora Mota, Antonio Nevárez, Silvia Puente, Maribel Sáenz, and Miguel Villegas Lozano—*muchísimas gracias*. Hortencia Rodríguez Castañeda and the Wong Rodríguez family: *agradezco su amistad y apoyo*. Gabriela Lozano de Pérez in Laredo, Texas: Thank you for your solidarity and support during my travels to Mexico. My special gratitude goes to my sister Olivia Guadalupe González López for her generosity, kindness, and hospitality during my various trips to Monterrey.

In these four cities, thank you to all of you, who organized, sponsored, and/or attended workshops and seminars where I presented my preliminary findings or related themes, prior to, during, and after my fieldwork. Thank you for helping me expand my professional networks, and for helping in so many ways, professionally and personally. Thank you to all of you who introduced me to each and every one of these remarkable sixty women and men, and to the many kind and generous people I met casually or very briefly in each city, people whose names are not included here but whose presence contributed to the completion of my fieldwork and later stages of this project—*muchísimas gracias*.

My deep gratitude goes to the faculty and clinical supervisors I met at the University of Southern California in the early 1990s: Constance Ahrons, Irving Borstein, Carlfred Broderick, Marcia Lasswell, and Alexander Taylor. I would not have been able to work on this project without the clinical and professional training you offered to me as a couples and family therapist; your wisdom and expertise became my best companion in the field.

I express my gratitude as well to all the people who worked as my research assistants. Ana Durini Romero in Mexico City: *Gracias de corazón por trabajar tantas horas de ardua labor conmigo*. At the University of Texas at Austin, thank you Paloma Díaz-Lobos for your professional support and for facilitating the presence of hardworking students:

Gloria Delgadillo, Allison Hollander, and Willa Staats. Thank you, Juan Ramón Portillo Soto and Brandon Andrew Robinson for your priceless help and support.

Thank you for the light of your friendship while I wrote this book: Sonya Grant Arreola, Marysol Asencio, Juan José Battle, Ari Chagoya, the late Elvira M. Cisneros, Beth Dart, Rafael Díaz, Patricia Emerson, Marcela Lagarde y de los Ríos, Ani Tenzin Lhamo, Lisa Moore, Lorena Porras, Sharmila Rudrappa, Pepper Schwartz, and Christine Williams. Thank you William Rodarmor for editing parts of this book, and for being a friend. Liliana Wilson: my deepest gratitude for your priceless friendship and commitment. Sylvia Flesner, Robyn E. McCarty, Dale Rishel, and Tony Ward: thank you for your healing presence.

This work was made possible thanks to support received from the Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty (2005–2006), and financial and professional support provided by the University of Texas at Austin through the Dean's Fellowship (Fall 2006), the Center for Mexican American Studies, the Department of Sociology, and the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies. Thank you Peter Ward and the C. B. Smith Sr. Centennial Chair in US-Mexico Relations funds for your financial support. The Center for Women's and Gender Studies and Voices Against Violence: my gratitude for your professional support and feminist solidarity and inspiration.

Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo and Denise Segura, my gratitude goes to you for your insightful recommendations as I worked on the first draft of this book. Thank you Pierrette *querida* for the priceless support and professional solidarity of more than 20 years, and for believing once again in my work; thank you and Victor Rios for considering this book for the Latina/o Sociology series. Tomás Almaguer: thank you for your generous and kind spirit, and for your unconditional support when I needed it most. Cecilia Menjívar: Thank you for your gentle and kind heart, and your professional encouragement that knows no limits. Jodi O'Brien: Thank you for your generous and kind personal and professional support. My special gratitude goes to Caelyn Cobb and Alexia Traganas for their kindness, patience, and hard work. And to Ilene Kalish, executive editor at New York University Press, thank you for your commitment, hard work, and support, and for genuinely caring about this book—you became the answer to my prayers.

Venerable Kirti Tsenshab Rinpoche y Lama Thubten Zopa Rinpoche, los maestros de mi corazón, les ofrezco este libro y todo el trabajo y esfuerzo que le dieron vida. May these life stories contribute toward a better understanding, healing, and elimination of all forms of human suffering and pain, and their causes; may this book be endlessly beneficial to others.

Austin, Texas

Fall 2014