

Acknowledgements

Countless thoughts, critiques, personal stories, hours of work and emotional support from people who have accompanied me over the past years have been incorporated into this book. I would like to express my sincere thanks for this.

Above all, I am indebted to all those people who shared their personal and often painful experiences with me and who taught me so much beyond the academic horizon. Their accounts of troublesome journeys to and through Europe form the cornerstone of this book, and I hope that I have been able to represent their accounts in a way that pays due respect to all of them. Many thanks also to all those who deal with asylum and migration in their work and who were willing to share their knowledge with me.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my two PhD supervisors. Christian Joppke invited me to work at the Institute of Sociology at the University of Bern, where I started my PhD journey. I am very grateful to him for reading earlier drafts of this book with a discerning eye and for giving me the freedom to develop my own project. Janine Dahinden also contributed tremendously to the shaping of this book with her critical but always very constructive and helpful feedback, and I consider myself fortunate that I was able to continue working with her after completing my dissertation. Many thanks also to Sabine Strasser, who acted as my mentor in the early stages of my doctoral work.

I could not be happier to have had the pleasure of working with Lisa Borrelli, Tobias Eule and Annika Lindberg. Our joint research project and the many hours we spent working on our collaborative book, discussing and sharing findings and literature, have influenced and improved my own work immensely. Warmest thanks to all three of them for their many inputs, their valuable feedback on chapter drafts, their emotional support – and importantly, for their friendship.

The Institute of Sociology at the University of Bern hosted me during most of the time I was working on my dissertation. It was a great pleasure to share the space and many hours and pizzas with my dear colleagues. In 2017, I was fortunate to have found yet another inspiring working environment at the Laboratory for the Study of Social Processes of the University of Neuchâtel.

Special thanks are due to Christin Achermann for numerous stimulating exchanges; to Carolin Fischer, who brought me to Neuchâtel, inspired me to look more deeply into literature on violence, and with whom I much appreciate working. Thanks also to all the other colleagues in Neuchâtel and for always inspiring exchange during *colloques* and lunch breaks.

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) generously funded the project on which this book is based. The SNSF also supported the open access publication of this book, for which I am very grateful. I would also like to express my thanks to the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration for granting me access to one of its asylum facilities, which enabled me to get in touch with many of my interlocutors. Many thanks to Shannon Kneis and Nando Sigona at Bristol University Press, Matt Deacon, and the copy editors who all helped me revise this book. Also, I am grateful to Taylor & Francis (www.tandfonline.com) for letting me re-use parts of my article ‘Stuck in Mobility? The interrupted journeys of migrants with precarious legal status in Europe’ (2019) that was published in the *Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies*.

In 2017, I had the opportunity to spend five months as an associate researcher at the Sussex Centre of Migration Research. Special thanks to Michael Collyer for making my stay there possible and for providing me with helpful feedback on my project. The Department of Law and Anthropology at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle also supported my research by granting me a writing fellowship and providing a stimulating environment for my work. During my stays in the UK and Germany, I was fortunate to find accommodation that made me feel at home. Many thanks to John and Gracie and also to Karla, Nihal and Nils. Special thanks to David who read and commented on some chapters of this book.

The engagement with my friends from the Freiplatzaktion Zürich has taught me a lot about the grievances in Swiss asylum and immigration policy, and I am glad to have such committed people around me.

My heartfelt thanks go to all my dear friends who were of invaluable importance while writing this book. Many thanks to Eva Käser, for tirelessly fighting for more rights for those people who keep being pushed to the margins of the state, for sharing your immense knowledge of how migration law works on the ground and for being a wonderful friend. I am also grateful to Vera Ryser, who has supported me in my writing for a long time – not least by reading parts of this book and for having been a close friend for so many years. Warm thanks also to my dear friend Sally Schonfeldt for intensive discussions about the ethical challenges of research, for the time spent together in Italy and for the shared glasses of red wine when I needed a break from research or writing. I am also very grateful to Zeynep Sariaslan, who shares many of the joys and struggles of being an anthropologist, trying to make sense of what we discover during our research, but also in

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

the academic field. Thanks to Flavia Grossmann for her friendship and for spending some intensive writing days together with me in the mountains. I am also thankful to Florence Willi and Yvonne Freiermuth for being my friends and for the many hours we have spent together. Warmest thanks to Simon Graf for pushing me to be more critical, for continually discussing the content of my book when I felt stuck, for supporting me during the intense writing phases and for so much more. Finally, I am grateful to my siblings Martin, Daniel and Monika and my aunt Ursula for always being supporting and understanding. It is difficult to find the right words to thank my parents, Barbara and Jürg. Their unconditional support as well as their trust in me are of incredible value. Thank you very much!

