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Gillian Bottomley

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# FROM ANOTHER PLACE

*Migration and the politics of culture*

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## *Preface and acknowledgements*

*From Another Place* has developed from over twenty years of research and teaching on the subjects of migration, culture, ethnicity and racism, especially on ways of understanding these and their relation to phenomena such as class, gender and relations of power. Most of this research and teaching has taken place in Australia, where over 20 per cent of the inhabitants were born in another country and 25 per cent are of non-Anglophone origin, in a population of over a hundred ethnic groups. The contrast between the diversity of the Australian population and the prevailing Anglocentrism of discourses and practices of knowledge raises intriguing questions about knowledge and power, as well as forms of resistance, adaptation and transformation that can enable people to weave through and across – perhaps even above – these structured power relations.

This Australia-based work has been complemented by extensive comparative research on international migration (see chapters 2 and 3) and related studies in a major country of emigration, Greece (esp. chapters 5, 6 and 7). The framework developed here includes an argument for an international perspective on migration and a comparative understanding of such notions as tradition and ethnicity. The chapters that concentrate on Greece and Greek-Australians within this comparative framework allow for some illumination of both ends of the migration story as well as of the social, economic and cultural networks of the diaspora. At the same time, such a focus has enabled me to explore the rich resources of Greek artistic work – including dance, music and literature – and of ethnographies of Greece, particularly those concerned with gender and the poetics of ethnicity. One of my broader aims here is to interrelate subjective and objective accounts of migration with the experience of difference. Another is to blur the boundaries

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between various specialist studies, separately defined according to ethnicity, class, migration, gender, culture and so on. I strongly believe that it is the relations (and absences) between and within these forms of studies that should be studied.

Since this project clearly breaches the objective–subjective dimensions of my own life, I have an enormous list of people to whom I am indebted for advice, assistance, encouragement, hospitality, wisdom and support. These include my daughter Fiona, who has shared most of my fieldwork and the consequences of my commitments over the last twenty years; my partner John Lechte, whose integrity and intellectual strength have been sources of inspiration; friends and colleagues, including the late Chandra Jayawardena, Madge Dawson, Marie de Lepervanche, Jeannie Martin, Laki Jayasuriya, Dorothy Buckland, Bob Connell and Vasilis Georgiou in Australia; Nira Yuval-Davis, Floya Anthias and Robert Miles in Britain; Alkis Raftis, Anna Amara, Theo and Patra Patrikareas in Greece, and Michael Herzfeld in the U.S.A. I am also grateful for the enthusiasm and criticisms of my students at Macquarie University, especially those in the courses on migration, race and ethnicity and on the anthropology of the Mediterranean, where a good deal of the material in *From Another Place* was tested and reworked. Macquarie University Research Grants have funded most of my research, supplemented by a grant from the Australian Research Committee for some of the study of second-generation Greek-Australians.

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GILL BOTTOMLEY