

## FEMALE MIGRANTS IN THE WORK FORCE: DOMESTIC REPERCUSSIONS

### PREFACE

This special issue of *Anthropologica* originated in a symposium organized by Lisa Gilad for the XIth International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (ICAES) in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in 1983. The title of the symposium was "Family Structures and Occupational Opportunities: Women Immigrants in an Urban Setting." The articles by Gilad, Meintel et al., and Stafford in this volume were initially prepared for the Congress. Janet Salaff also presented a paper on the Chinese in Singapore, but was unable to prepare it for inclusion here because of other commitments. We solicited both Esther Goody's introduction and Charlene Gannagé's article on immigrant women in a Toronto garment factory especially for this volume. Judith Nagata was a discussant for the Congress symposium and has appropriately provided concluding remarks. We are grateful to all of the authors for their contributions.

The two of us joined forces in preparing *Female Migrants in the Work Force* because we agreed that the lives of the women with whom we all worked were worth writing about, particularly since they did not fit preexisting theoretical frameworks. While each author (or set of authors) clearly has certain theoretical interests, a deliberate emphasis has been placed on ethnographic detail. We believe that this is important for refining the general statements which are often made in the study of women in industrial societies. Many women in today's large cities are immigrants from various cultural backgrounds who are changing not only themselves and their own lives, but also the societies they have entered. Thus, there is no monolithic way of writing about these women and their struggles both as women and as workers. We suggest that the interpretations proffered in the articles here tend to be rooted in, rather than imposed upon the data.

Finally, while we read and commented on all of the papers, we would like to thank Kathryn Molohon, Editor-in-Chief of *Anthropologica*, for her help and advice in preparing this volume. We are equally grateful to Max Hedley for his kind editorial help, and to the anonymous readers.

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