

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my advisor, Dr. Alec G. Hargreaves, for his support in bringing this project to fruition. His piercing insights, relentless pursuit of excellence and the generous giving of his time have allowed this research to be completed within the time frame set out at the beginning. My committee members, Dr. William Cloonan, Dr. Zeina Schlenoff and Dr. Peter Garretson have also contributed to the success of this project.

A scholarship from the Winthrop-King Institute enabled me to carry out my fieldwork in Morocco and France.

In Morocco, I am grateful to Abdellah Benlahmidi who explained to me the intricacies of the Moroccan Personal Status Code. In France, Mona Hakim offered insights based on her expertise as an ethno-psychologist. Above all, I am indebted to the women who opened their hearts and minds - and often the doors to their homes - and shared with great sincerity their ideas, hopes and agonies. Without their willingness to cooperate, this project would not have been possible.