PART ONE

MARGINAL MOBILITIES
Interest in female migration has grown steadily in the last few decades. Today we dispose of a significant number of studies on female immigration in Europe and North America and on the situation of mobile women in other parts of the world, e.g. West Africa.\(^1\) This profusion of studies has not, however, led to general recognition of the inherent gender aspect of migration processes. In 1984, Mirjana Morokvasic made the observation that “in spite of the growing evidence of women’s overwhelming participation in migratory movements” research on migration is still characterised by a male bias.\(^2\) Her findings twenty years later were almost identical, stating that “la féminisation des courants migratoires” is still presented as a novel phenomenon and the

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