Memories establish a connection between a collective and individual past, between origins, heritage, and history. Those who have left their places of birth to make homes elsewhere are familiar with the question, ‘Where do you come from?’ and respond in innumerable, well-rehearsed ways. The diasporic individual often has a double-consciousness, a privileged knowledge and perspective that is consonant with postmodernity and globalization.

The essays in this volume reflect on the movements of people and cultures in the present day, when physical, social, and mental borders and boundaries are being challenged and sometimes successfully dismantled. The contributors, who represent a variety of disciplinary perspectives, discuss the experiences of ethnic and racial groups living in Canada, including those of South Asians, Iranians, West Indians, Chinese, and Eritreans. The volume presents a unique collection of essays, empirical studies, and memoirs that contribute to the development of theories of diaspora, subjectivity, double-consciousness, gender and class, and the nature of home.

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For Nicole Agnew,
loving daughter and best friend