

Acknowledgements

This book is the result of a doctoral project I have been conducting for three and a half years. Such complex and long-term projects are never realized or completed by one individual alone without the support and advice from other people. I had the good fortune to have had many excellent and fantastic people accompanying me throughout my time as a PhD student. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude.

To begin with, I would like to thank my first supervisor, Prof. Dr. Marie I. Kaiser, for her support and guidance over the whole period of my doctoral project. She helped me to find and follow my way, already at the very beginning of the project, and at every point in time where I had to make crucial decisions. I very much appreciated her criticism, which always challenged me to scrutinize my thoughts and intuitions. Many thanks go to my second supervisor, Prof. Dr. Mathias Frisch, as well. He brought the topic of scientific understanding to my attention in the first place and gave me valuable feedback especially towards the end of the project.

Also, the wider environment in which I conducted my doctoral project contributed significantly to its successful completion. In particular, I would like to thank all the members of the Research Training Group 2073 in Bielefeld as well as in Hannover. Furthermore, I am grateful to the members of the Philosophy Department at Bielefeld University for creating and maintaining such a warm and friendly working atmosphere. Notably, my gratitude goes to all the members of the PhilBio Team and the PoS Seminar for reading and commenting on drafts of my work throughout the years. Additionally, I would like to thank Marcus Bachmann, Daphne Broeks, Linda Holland, Henk de Regt, Stefan Smeuw and Javier Suárez for inspiring and in-depth discussion about the various dimensions and aspects of understanding.

Especially, my gratitude goes to Minea Gartzlaff, Ina Gawel, Saana Jukola, Milla Lifke, Rui Só Maia, Basel Myhub, Rose Trappes and Roel Visser for their assistance and friendship over the years. All of you made the time as a doctoral student much more enjoyable and an invaluable experience.

Finally, I would like to thank my family, without whose continuous support over the years I would not have made it to where I am now.

