

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This volume results from three years of collective brainstorming. We had two occasions to meet and discuss the work in progress. Our first meeting took place at the Centre Marc Bloch in Berlin on December 7, 2003. It was followed by an evening of discussion with some representatives of local Muslim associations, which provided the opportunity of open and intense exchange on different matters concerning Muslims in Europe. A second meeting took place at the Institut d'études de l'Islam et des sociétés du monde musulman (IISMM) in Paris on July 5, 2004. We thank the Heinrich Böll Stiftung and Aliyeh Yegane (Berlin), the Centre Marc Bloch, and the IISMM for making these meetings possible.

We also thank the contributors for having accepted to play the collective game from the beginning to the end and for helping to create the open and friendly atmosphere that was so constructive for our work. It showed us that collective scientific projects can be accomplished on a trustful basis and without stress. This approach also implied that the contributors accepted that we work with them on the different drafts of their texts, without considering our suggestions and discussions intrusive. For this trust, we express our heartfelt thanks.

With the exception of one, none of the authors is a native English speaker. Ginger A. Diekmann, the copyeditor of this volume, saved us time and energy, helping us to make the volume come into existence. And to make our “looks and sounds like English” actually become English. Finally, we express our gratitude to Karin Werner, director of the Global Local Islam Series at transcript, for welcoming our volume in her publication series.

During the research and in the final stages of the writing, three babies successively made their way into the world, somewhat disrupting the schedule. Their existence sometimes turned our endeavours into something closely resembling an equal opportunity adventure. Our final thanks therefore must go to Salomé (February 2004), Chloé (April 2004), and Daphne (October 2005) for helping us to prove that it can be done.

Gerdien Jonker and Valérie Amiraux

