

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I want to thank my advisors and mentors Prof. Dr. Ulfried Reichardt and Prof. Dr. Christa Grewe-Volpp. It has been an honor to be your Ph.D. student.

Thank you, Prof. Dr. Roger Keil, Prof. Dr. Jens Martin Gurr, Prof. Dr. Wilfried Raussert, and Prof. Karen Tei Yamashita for your generous support and inspiration with your knowledge and expertise. Thank you my friends for many insightful comments regarding my interdisciplinary project.

I highly appreciate the Ph.D. scholarships I received by the Graduate Program “Formations of the Global” at the University of Mannheim and the Graduate Scholarship Program of the state of Baden-Württemberg. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the FAZIT Foundation, and the University of Mannheim supported my research abroad in the U.S. and Canada as well as my presentations at conferences in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, and Germany.

Finally, I would like to thank my family, in particular my mom and my sister. My special thanks goes to my partner and his family. I cannot thank you and my family enough for encouraging me throughout this experience.

