

Preface

This book is the revised version of my doctoral dissertation, which was accepted at the Faculty of Philosophy, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen in 2014.

I am immensely grateful to my supervisors, who helped me shape my ideas into what is now this book. Prof Ingrid Hotz-Davies at the University of Tübingen for humour, patience, and for the ability to always engage with even my most outrageous close readings. The idea for this project emerged from one of her seminars. Prof Mark Turner at King's College London for his enthusiasm, critical mind, and for supervising my work against all odds of university administration. Both were part of an ongoing and immensely fruitful conversation that gave me exactly the kind of environment I needed to push my work forward.

I also thank the German National Academic Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes), who not only funded my doctoral studies, but also provided me with invaluable opportunities and networks, and some of the most defining experiences during my time at university.

I am grateful to the English Faculty at the University of Cambridge for hosting me and my work for a while.

I would also like to thank the Center for Gender and Diversity Research (ZGD) at the University of Tübingen for funding the publication of this book.

Life in academia depends as much on intellectual exchange as on emotional support from within and without. Over the past five years, I got to spend time with some of the most loving and caring people I can imagine, whose contribution to the success of my work was beyond measure. All my friends who shared their theatrical, musical, and literary talent and enthusiasm with me – thank you. Very special and warm thanks goes to Rebecca Hahn and Jutta Kling, both colleagues and friends, and partners in crime.

My mother and father both in their own way made this project possible. Their continual support and never-failing trust in my academic abilities were always a source of comfort. I dedicate this book to them.

