

Acknowledgements

I am writing these acknowledgements knowing that this book owes its existence to many fortunate circumstances and encounters. I am also writing this in the hope that some of the conversations that have inspired this book will continue and that I will get a chance to express my gratitude to many of the people mentioned below more directly in the not-so-distant future. In some way, then, these acknowledgements are a to do list for me: I want to thank all of you in person when we meet again and I hope it will be sooner rather than later!

It took me a long time to write this book, much longer than is common in German Academia, which requires people to publish their dissertations and usually encourages them to do so within two years after their Ph.D. defense. This is not what I did. The reasons for why I took longer to turn my dissertation into a book are diverse. The COVID pandemic, a major work-related move, and a demanding new position are three of them, but there are others. Another way of looking at it is that I was lucky, because I was able to take the time to rework parts of my manuscript in ways that would not have been possible had I published this book back in 2020 or 2021. Many emerging scholars in German Academia do not have this opportunity. I was lucky, because my employment situation has been extraordinarily stable in a system notorious for precarious, short-term contracts that force untenured scholars to publish quickly in order to keep their positions. I am grateful to the people who have provided this stability for me when they could easily have chosen not to do so and to those people in my life who have supported me in all the small and big ways that have allowed me to succeed in those situations in which my career depended on others' evaluation of my work. I do not take this support for granted and if I have sometimes not been forthcoming enough with expressing my gratitude, I hope that these acknowledgements can make good on some of these failings.

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