

Acknowledgements

This book is a revised version of my doctoral dissertation in sociology, submitted to the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Bonn in December 2020. Writing the thesis and the book has been like a journey for me – both intellectually and geographically. I would not have come this far without the generous help of many lovely colleagues, friends and family.

My project began to take on its current shape after I approached David Kaldewey at his group's summer school "Science and Politics" in September 2018 at the Forum Internationale Wissenschaft (FIW) in Bonn. Because of him, I was able to turn my inchoate ideas about science, medicine and politics into a challenging sociological research question about the institutional and conceptual history of the biomedical discipline. I owe him my sincere gratitude for his genuine interest in the project, for agreeing to supervise it and for continually pointing me in the directions most fruitful for pursuing my problem. I also gained a lot from Désirée Schaub and her work on the historical semantics of science in Germany and the USA. Not only did she act as the second supervisor to my thesis, but I also thank her cordially for encouraging me to strengthen the historiographical aspects of my book as well as for critically reading the final manuscript. Having such keen and benevolent supervisors was truly a blessing. But I need to also express gratitude to the other members of my doctoral committee, chair Clemens Albrecht and examiner Rudolf Stichweh, who made my defense a pleasant and memorable event despite the restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Although not originally conceived in this context, I find it more than fitting that my book was finalized and published while working at a center for advanced studies in the philosophy, sociology and history of science and technology devoted to the theme of "research cultures". I am very happy to have landed at the Käte Hamburger Kolleg: Cultures of Research (c:o/re) for new and exciting intellectual adventures! I am especially indebted to our directors Gabriele Gramelsberger and Stefan Böschen, who as editors of *Wissenschafts- und Technikforschung* at Nomos offered to publish my book in the series. Stefan Böschen also deserves extra special thanks for the more than generous support that allowed making this an open access-book.

I'm delighted to thank many different people scattered throughout the country, who helped and supported me at different times during my journey towards a doctoral degree. In early 2016, I was fellow in residence at the Kolleg Friedrich Nietzsche in Weimar, where I first began to endeavor into the social study of biomedicine. I therefore thank its former director Rüdiger Schmidt-Grépály for granting me an opportunity of deep and “free-spirited” engagement that reoriented my professional trajectory to social theory and the relationships between biopolitics and modern health care institutions. I must also mention Werner Stegmaier in gratitude. Though we never discussed any of the topics in my book, he taught me to think with Nietzsche and Luhmann in a way that also radiates throughout the text.

I had the opportunity to present portions of my project at different occasions, for which I am grateful. I want to thank my interlocutors at the self-organized doctoral colloquium at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Summer 2018 for their comments on early ideas. Moreover, Helene Gerhards, Florian Rosenthal, Seçkin Söylemez, Alex Struwe and Stefan Vennmann were my academic companions in Duisburg during some of the crucial years of my doctoral studies and therefore deserve my heartfelt gratitude. Thanks are also due to the attendees of the research colloquium at the FIW in Bonn in January 2019. I also received valuable feedback from the participants of Mariacarla Gadebusch Bondio's Medical Humanities “Science Lab” in spring 2020, especially from Tommaso Bruni, Christian Kaiser and Emilia Lehmann. Shout-outs also go to Julia Schubert, who became one of my “best academic companions” while I was enrolled as a doctoral student at the university of Bonn. My colleagues at c:o/re in Aachen, too, deserve special mention: Ana María Guzmán Olmos, Stefanie Haupt, Dawid Kasprowicz and Alin Olteanu read parts of the manuscript and gave very useful comments for improving the text.

There are no words that can express the gratitude I feel for my parents, Susan and Jens Roth. They have supported me with great patience and sincerity in my – arguably precarious – career choice. This book is for you! My siblings Noreen, Justin and Sean never doubted my capabilities for becoming an academic (the only one in the family), even in moments of great setbacks; and I never want to miss the delighting and refreshing diversions you've offered me throughout my time working on this project. But I owe my greatest debt to my wife Franka: she has patiently and constantly offered support and guidance in many forms. She's been there from day one of my journey on the rocky paths of academia. The immense joy and unconditional love that she and our two daughters, Rosa and Rubina,

Acknowledgements

bring to my life, are what keeps me going in a world currently lined with crises and disaster. For our two girls, I hope I can do my humble part to leave this place a little better than I found it.