

Preface of the Author

This book has arisen from my interdisciplinary philosophical work conducted for over a decade at Kiel University, Germany, across multiple research projects in collaboration with colleagues in philosophical, archaeological, and anthropological studies. The connecting topic in all those studies has been the human relationship to nature. Over the same time period, I have been teaching a seminar on theories of the human relationship to nature in the *Kiel School of Sustainability*, also of Kiel University, in which much of the material of this book has been covered and discussed over the years. Most recently, I have had the opportunity to work in an interdisciplinary research group on tolerance, likewise at Kiel University. This book represents the fruits of work in these diverse interdisciplinary contexts.

Among my colleagues in Kiel, I would like to thank in particular Professor Konrad Ott for his support throughout my time there. Discussions with Konrad invariably leave one with the sense of having been touched by the full breadth of the German philosophical tradition, which he commands with impressive mastery. I also thank Professor Johannes Müller for the trust he, and the research groups he has led during my time in Kiel, placed in me. For the same trust I also thank Professor Bernd Simon and Professor Anja-Pistor Hatam of the tolerance research group. The trust of all these people has enabled me to embark on the path of interdisciplinary philosophy.

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