

Preface

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The papers in this volume were first discussed during a workshop at the Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C²DH) in December 2018. We would like to thank all the workshop participants for their contributions. In particular, we would like to thank Patrick Fridenson for his final comments. He neatly summarised the papers and wrapped up the discussions, and he also pointed out the gaps in the historiography of repair that we could not cover during the workshop and that we are also unfortunately unable to address in this volume. He pointed out, for example, that the role of technical education for professionals and consumers should be taken into account when studying maintenance and repair cultures. The same goes for health and safety as well as environmental regulations that have shaped maintenance and repair practices. Furthermore, he reminded us that despite the vast geographical scope of the workshop contributions, Africa was completely absent from our considerations – although we know from ethnographic studies that African repair cultures are important in understanding the persistence of technology in the Global South.

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