

## Preface

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*World Society: Perspectives from Transnational Research* is the result of two years of theoretical work based on empirical studies carried out on four continents. A conference on this topic, organised by Remus Gabriel Anghel, Eva Gerharz, Heike Greschke and Sven Kleinekathöfer, took place at the University of Bielefeld in November 2005. This conference was held within the framework of the Graduate School 844 "World Concepts and Global Structural Patterns" funded by the German Research Council (DFG). The event brought together junior and senior scholars from ten countries. The fruitful exchange that came out of this conference was deepened through international working groups which met virtually and physically over two years.

We would like to thank all of those who helped us along the way and made the publication of this volume possible. We greatly appreciate the support of the DFG Graduate School 844 "World Society. Making and Representing the Global" for financing the conference and contributing to the publication. Financial help was also provided by the Westfälisch-Lippische Universitätsgesellschaft in Bielefeld. Thomas Faist has generously supported us throughout the publication process. We owe particular thanks to Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka. Without her generosity and encouragement we would not have been able to share the outcome of our working group through this publication.

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