

This endeavour would not have been possible without the financial support and academic opportunities provided by the German Academic Scholarship Foundation [*Stiftung des deutschen Volkes*] throughout my PhD.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Dr Frank Nack for his support and many invaluable lessons along the way. Moreover, my gratitude goes to PD Dr Manuel Köppen for years of invaluable academic guidance.

Finally, to my incredible network of supportive friends and family everywhere: thank you for being at my side and keeping my spirits high during this process.

