Acknowledgments

Along the way, friends and colleagues accompanied the conceiving of this book since its inception. In ways not known even to myself, the writing of this book matured through their participation, inspiration, and challenge: Mette Lebech, Darian Meacham, Esteban Marín Ávila, Tobias Keiling, Patricia Portela, Tomas Šinkūnas, Ignacio Quepons, Anna Yampolskaya, Witold Plotka, Saulius Geniusas, Francesco Tava, Raphael Zagury-Orly, and, last, but not least, i ragazzi di Infinite Task (Claudio, Emiliano, Daniele). For his astute editorial eye and comments, Kyle Barrowman; for the pleasure of learned conversations without end, Basil Vassilicos; for his exemplariness, even from afar, Roland Breeur; for encouragements with an earlier draft, William Remley; for the generosity of his thoughts, Joseph Cohen; for the precious gift of time to rewrite what was most important, Trevor Perri.

Gratitude as well for questions, objections, and suggestions from welcoming audiences in Copenhagen, Gdańsk, Warsaw, Philadelphia, Paris, Wuppertal, Vienna, Bristol, Helsinki, Xalapa, Salzburg, Milan, Landau, Dublin, Moscow, Johannesburg, Würzburg, Hokkaido, and Beijing. And for Clara:

Wege will ich erkiesen,
die selten wer betritt
in blassen Abendwiesen—
und keinen Traum, als diesen:
Du gehst mit.

—Rilke