I could not have written *White Liberal Identity, Literary Pedagogy, and Classic American Realism* without the help and support of many people. Beginning the book during a difficult time in my professional life, I relied on the keen minds and generous hearts of the following colleagues at the University of Texas at Austin more heavily than even they probably realized: Sabrina Barton, Joanna Brooks, Evan Carton, Ann Cvetkovich, Alan Friedman, Kurt Heinzelman, Susan Sage Heinzelman, and Lisa Moore.

Others at UT-Austin and elsewhere who made important contributions to the project include Nancy Bentley, Jeffrey Berman, Brian Bremen, Douglas Bruster, Scott Derrick, Wai Chee Dimock, Alyssa Harad, Martin Kevorkian, Dominick LaCapra, Caroline Levander, Susan Lurie, Laura Mandell, Helena Michie, Donald Pease, Peter L. Rudnytsky, and Jeffrey Williams. Todd Onderdonk’s research assistance was prompt and helpful.

Dominick LaCapra and Cornell University’s Society for the Humanities provided an ideal working environment. I want to thank the other 2002–2003 fellows at the Society for offering intellectual stimulation and friendly collegiality. I also want to thank the staff at the A.D. White House: Mary Ahl, Linda Allen, and Lisa Patti. James Garrison, Chair of the English department at UT-Austin, and Richard Lariviere, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, each arranged for additional funding to help make my year at Cornell possible. At The Ohio State University Press, Heather Lee Miller was an enthusiastic early supporter of the project and Eugene O’Connor expertly oversaw production of the actual book. A version of chapter 2 appeared in *American Imago: Studies in Psychoanalysis and Culture*. Permission to reprint is gratefully acknowledged.

It would be an understatement to call Sabrina Barton’s contributions to the project invaluable. She read, commented on, and talked with me at length about every chapter. The book’s more successful portions are really her work as much as mine. She is my closest colleague. This book is dedicated to her and to our son, Elijah Barton Barrish.