Acknowledgments

This collection of essays has its earliest origins in a conference organized by Philip Watts at the University of Pittsburgh in March 2005 entitled *Jacques Rancière: Politics and Aesthetics*. We would like to thank the Department of French and Italian at the University of Pittsburgh, and in particular Monika Losagio, as well as Dean John Cooper and Associate Dean Jim Knapp for their generous support. We would also like to thank the graduate students in French at the University of Pittsburgh for their participation, and Melissa Deininger for her design of the conference program.

Given the high quality of the presentations and the growing interest in Rancière’s work, we began discussing the possibility of editing a volume of essays. This idea was bolstered by the success of the conference organized at the Centre Culturel International de Cerisy la Salle in May 2005, where Alain Badiou and Jean-Luc Nancy presented the papers included in this collection. After the conference we contacted Étienne Balibar, who kindly agreed to let us translate one of his essays
that examines Rancière’s arguments in *Dis-agreement*. In order to include an essay on Rancière’s important contribution to film theory, we also contacted Tom Conley for his well-known work in this area. Finally, Rancière himself was kind enough to write the afterword. We would like to express our immense gratitude to him for his support and generosity in helping complete this project. As all of those who have had the pleasure to work with him already know, his intellectual prowess goes hand in hand with a profound benevolence.

We would like to thank all of the contributors to this collection as well as all of those who have helped bring this longstanding project to completion, including Courtney Berger and Ken Wissoker at Duke University Press, and the translators who graciously agreed to work with us on this project: John Hulsey, Philip E. Lewis, Catherine Porter, and Tzuchien Tho.