Preface

This volume contains papers originally prepared for a workshop held at Margaret River, Western Australia in September 2001. The workshop brought together a group of economists with diverse backgrounds and research interests. Each participant was asked to prepare a paper that considered the phenomenon of globalization from the perspective of his or her own research interests. The papers were presented to the group over a period of three days with plenty of opportunity for exchange of views, both in the formal discussions and informally during meals, a trip to the beach and a tour of local wineries. Some of the insights that resulted are commented on directly in the revisions of papers for publication in this volume, as well as in the introduction that was written after listening to the papers and reading both the original papers and subsequent revisions. The experience has added substantially to my own understanding of the economic issues related to globalization. I hope that readers of this volume will similarly benefit.

This volume would not have been possible without the generous financial support provided to the Productivity, Pricing and International Competitiveness (PPIC) research program by the Research and Development Committee of the Curtin Business School. This funding covered the costs of meals and accommodation for the group at the Emerald Colonial Lodge over the period of the workshop as well as assisting with travel expenses of some of the interstate and overseas participants. The task of organizing the workshop and ensuring that all and sundry were transported, housed, fed and generally looked after fell largely on Paula Haslehurst, Research Associate with PPIC. In addition to sorting out all these details, Paula also managed to attend and participate in most of the paper sessions. Finally, she has greatly assisted in the preparation and proof reading of the book manuscript. The group warmly applauded her efforts at the close of the workshop. I now add my deepest gratitude. Michael Dockery, Research Fellow with PPIC, provided additional assistance with the arrangements in Margaret River, particularly with acting as minibus chauffeur for the trip from Perth to Margaret River. Also assisting with chauffeur services was Finlay Fraser (husband of Pat).

Thanks are also due the editorial team at Edward Elgar Publishing, starting with Edward Elgar for his enthusiastic support for this project from its inception. Francine O’Sullivan, as commissioning editor, provided prompt and efficient service throughout, while the accuracy and efficiency of the production team were outstanding.