Preface and acknowledgements

This book, a comparison of welfare for the unemployed and its effects on individuals, is based on my doctoral thesis, submitted to Oxford University in early 2001. The analyses in it run until the mid-1990s, and to a large extent I have neither updated the empirical analyses nor added developments in the literature since then, as doing one would have required the other, and doing both would have resulted in a different book.

In the course of writing it I have benefited from the support of a great many people, and it gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity to thank them. In Oxford I would first and foremost like to thank Duncan Gallie, my supervisor, whose encouragement, support and comments have been invaluable. Thanks too to Sheila Jacobs for her good-humoured assistance at many stages, and to Richard Layte, Brendan Halpin and Martin Range for their help with programming. Other people have made a contribution by reading drafts and sharing ideas, including Tony Atkinson, Susanne Choi, Martin Evans, David Firth, Markus Gangl, Gordon Marshall, Helen Russell and Jo Webb. Hans-Peter Blossfeld and Michael Noble gave valuable and careful feedback on the final version of the thesis.

I would like to thank the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) for funding my doctoral thesis for three years, and the Data Archive in Essex and the German Institute for Economic Research for permission to use their data. Indeed, the support staff of the German Socio-economic Panel (GSOEP) at the Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung in Berlin and of the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) in Essex responded to my many enquiries with speed and succinctness. I suspect their combined contribution to longitudinal research in both these countries is undervalued.

Having written the doctorate in Britain, the final stages of this book were carried out while I was a post-doctoral fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin. I am grateful to Karl-Ulrich Mayer and my colleagues for their intellectual stimulation and for their welcome to me here in Berlin. I would especially like to thank Sven Schubert for his research assistance. I also acknowledge the assistance of my editorial team at Edward Elgar.

On a more personal note, I would like to thank the McGinnity family in Fermanagh, Belfast, Dublin and Mexico for their patient enquiries and long...
distance support. My mother Annie and sisters Maria, Colette and Edel deserve a special mention, their phone calls supported me, their example inspires me. Finally I would like to thank Toby Wolfe who, since beginning work on this book, I have met and married. Toby has been of great help in editing the final manuscript, but his help extended much further than this. I would like to thank him for his intellectual, emotional and practical support, his wisdom, his calm, his laughter and his love. It is with the greatest of pleasure that I dedicate this book to him.

Berlin, Summer 2003

NOTE

1. The data made available through the UK Data Archive was originally collected by the ESRC Research Centre on Micro-social Change at the University of Essex, now incorporated within the Institute for Social and Economic Research. Neither the original collectors of the data nor the Archive bear any responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented here.