Preface

The ideas presented here are ones with which I have wrestled for more than a decade. Nevertheless, the bulk of the work was undertaken during a two year Research Fellowship from the UK Economic and Social Research Council (Award RES-063-27-0130) during 2008–10. I am enormously grateful to the Council; without their support the rather ambitious project in which I found myself involved would have been quite impossible. I am also grateful to the University of Bath for freeing me from other duties during this period.

In this book I have ventured far from my core academic specialism. Without the advice and support of colleagues in other fields, such a journey would not have been possible. I have been fortunate in being able to draw on a variety of inter-disciplinary work underway within my own institution in particular, but also that of colleagues elsewhere.

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This book is about policy. I benefitted from discussion of its ideas with, among others, Tony Clayton (UK Office of National Statistics), Audrey MacDougall (Scottish Government), Eric Marlier (EU Social Protection Committee Indicators Working Group) and Jean-Paul Tricart (DG Employment, European Commission).

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