

# Acknowledgements

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It must be said that writing a book of this type is, in the current climate, almost an act of defiance. Our professional lives are increasingly dominated, at least in the UK, by the Research Excellence Framework that in business schools is interpreted to mean four publications on an approved list (the Association of Business Schools list) of journals that apparently merit a 3 or 4 grade rating. The violence this does to actual research and scholarship, the distortions it introduces into our work and our sense of the academic mission, is beyond quantification. It goes without saying that books do not 'count' in such myopic exercises. As an author I am deeply grateful to the publisher, Edward Elgar, for the opportunity to write this book and have endeavoured to deliver a manuscript worthy of their support despite the relentless pressure to focus on the stipulated journals.

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