Preface

... outside of community, there is no experience.
(Nancy, 1991, p. 21)

The initial idea for this book originates in my long-standing interest in concepts of distributed leadership and was further shaped by an article I wrote for a special issue published in the International Journal of Management Reviews in 2011. A second key influence was the work with which a group of researchers and I were involved that culminated in the publication of an edited book called Worldly Leadership in 2012. It was these two strands converging about the same time that inspired my emersion in the literature on community. This seemed to be an avenue for further developing notions of leadership especially in the areas of worldliness, culture and leadership, concepts of distributed leadership and sociological processes of leadership. The book was also inspired by my continued fascination with notions of leadership learning and development. I have made a specific point in this book of discussing how linking leadership and community can help us understand leadership learning and development at a deeper, contextual and critical level.

The book is meant for all levels of students and scholars. It does not, however, cover the basics of leadership theory and therefore some students may find a parallel textbook (for example, Schedlitzki and Edwards, 2014) useful in gaining a broader understanding of leadership.

I hope you enjoy the book.

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