Preface

The idea behind this book emerged during an informal conversation during one of the coffee breaks at the first conference held by the EU-SPRI forum in Twente in late October 2010, in which we acknowledged some disappointment with the fact that the literature had not really come to grips with the different modes of governance of science and technology and, in particular, with the different ways in which the governance of change in socio-technical systems takes place. Set in motion by this fruitful and stimulating conversation, we arranged a series of further academic initiatives that shaped our discussions and helped to order our ideas a bit more. With funding from the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at Copenhagen Business School we organized a workshop in Copenhagen in March 2012, entitled 'The Governance of Innovation and Socio-Technical Systems: Theorising and Explaining Change'. Our call for papers received 37 abstracts, far more than we were able to accommodate within our tight program and tight budget. Undaunted, we selected 17 papers. We also invited Alan Irwin and Frank Geels as keynote speakers, who generously shared their time and insights with us. The second opportunity to meet came a few months later, in October 2012, when the Copenhagen Business School hosted the 4S-EASST biannual conference. We seized the opportunity and arranged an open panel on the topic. This allowed us to engage with the broader community of scholars and to go further in our thinking. After this 'double Copenhagen shot' in 2012, we engaged in an intensive process of writing, re-writing and revision of all papers, including our opening chapters (Chapter 1 and Chapter 2) and the concluding Chapter during 2013 and onwards. When embarking in a collective effort and navigating in unknown waters, it takes time and considerable effort to generate synergy. It also takes time to think and re-think, to do and undo.

In this collective project we have discussed many times over the years what 'governance' is, what 'governance of change' is, and how we can analyze it in the complexity of socio-technical and innovation systems. Our thanks go to the team of researchers who worked on this book and to all the participants in our workshops and panels for their input in the project over the years. Our gratitude also goes to the colleagues who have

commented extensively on our preliminary ideas, most especially, Jan-Peter Voss, Frank Geels, Alan Irwin, Fabian Schroth, Alexander Wentland as well as our colleagues at the Department of Business and Politics, and at the Manchester Institute of Innovation Research. We would like to thank Katy Roper from, and those at, Edward Elgar Publishing for their encouragement of this project and their patience awaiting its delivery; as well as Stefan Kuhlmann as editor of the new EU-SPRI series at EE, for giving us the opportunity to link our book to EU-SPRI. We are very happy to see this book being part of the EU-SPRI community, as it has benefited extensively from the scholarly work and debates at the annual EU-SPRI conferences in Twente, Karlsruhe, Madrid and Manchester. Last but not least, our special thanks go to Stefanie Edler-Wollstein and Kalle Stahl Nielsen for their extremely effective and efficient editing of the manuscript. Their extraordinary support during the last stages of the manuscript production made this project possible.

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