Acknowledgements

This work would not have been possible without the help of many others. I would like to thank Frank Popper, Richard Williams, Lisa Robinson, Adam Finkel, and Michael Greenberg for reading drafts of chapters and providing insightful feedback. David Drescher’s help as a research assistant was very valuable as I formed the questions addressed in the book. Amelia Greiner and I worked on a paper that was also a precursor to this work and the experience helped informed later iterations.

I am extremely grateful to the dozens of high level economists, risk assessors, and experts in environmental assessment who took time out of their busy days to speak with me. They were unfailingly frank, thoughtful, and gracious. In addition to the debt we owe all of these dedicated public servants for their many years of service to the cause of better public policy, I owe them a particular debt because this work would not have been possible without them.

Finally, I must thank my family, Anne, Noah, and Seth for their constant support and patience always but particularly as I retreated to my office to finish the final drafts of the book and spend hours on the phone with interview subjects.