

Preface and acknowledgements

This book on infrastructure public–private partnerships (PPP) is the culmination of many years of thinking about how the public sector and private sector work together, and how they share responsibilities and share risks. As some readers know, we have been writing about PPPs together since our first edited volume, *The Challenge of Public–Private Partnerships*, came out in 2005. There have been several books, and many articles, conference papers and invited contributions to the edited volumes of other international scholars since then. With this book, we thought we would try and develop a coherent analysis of both what we now know about PPPs and where we stand internationally in this domain. We leave it up to the readers to judge the extent to which we succeeded.

During the course of developing the book, we benefitted from a vast number of comments and criticisms at academic events. Most of the chapters have been presented at these conferences, and we have met with many good colleagues and been able to participate in various special issues of journals. Our interest in PPPs has also been enabled through a wide variety of activities – from presentations to Parliamentary Committees and Inquiries, to PhD Dissertation Committees. We would particularly like to highlight the network called the International Public–Private Partnership Scholars’ Network (IP3SN) that we – together with Professor Anthony Boardman from the University of British Columbia in Canada – formed in 2011. We are proud to have founded this scholarly network, which makes connections with the local PPP public administrations and business environments in countries where the network meets. We continue to be amazed by the strong support and positive comments we have received from all our academic colleagues in our network. Another affirming arena for discussion and contested PPP ideas has been the International Research Society for Public Management (IRSPM). We would like to thank IRSPM for supporting our PPP panels and all of the panel participants who have come along over the years from all over the world.

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Finally, we would like to extend the biggest thank you to both of our families for their continuing love and support. Both Stephanie and Birgit deserve Nobel patience prizes.

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In developing this book, we were aware of the different origins for each of the chapters. Readers should not be surprised if they discover the occasional small overlap. Our assumption was that many readers would probably read a chapter on its own rather than read the book in its entirety. The chapters have built on this idea and can be read independently by those who might well be less familiar with the exciting world of PPPs.

Graeme Hodge and Carsten Greve
Monash University and Copenhagen Business School
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