Preface

This volume collects some of my most important publications in the new millennium. It begins by offering quite a few advances in the analysis of entrepreneurship and institutions in a global economy. The essays in this collection represent research on entrepreneurship and globalization during my years at the School of Public Policy at George Mason University. During the years 2000–2010, the School of Public Policy was one of the most exciting institutions in the world, hosting such scholars as Marty Lipsett, Francis Fukuyama, Alice Rivlin, Richard Florida, Kingsley Haynes, and Roger Stough, among others. The School was also connected to a range of global institutions including the US Small Business Administration, the Max Planck Institute of Economics, Imperial College London Business School, Jönköping International Business School, Babson College, the World Bank Group, the Tinbergen Institute, the Royal Institute of Technology, the Global Entrepreneurship Research Association, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the University of Amsterdam, and a host of institutions in China and beyond.

The works here build on my research from 1987 to 2006: Entrepreneurship, Growth and Public Policy: Prelude to a Knowledge Spillover Theory of Entrepreneurship (2008). That research focused on innovation and firm size, knowledge spillovers, new firm formation and innovation, and employment growth. The work was almost exclusively US-focused. The US presented the first laboratory to study our subject. Because the last century was so productive, both the depth of entrepreneurship and the size of the country made the US an ideal laboratory. The availability of data and a large number of researchers greatly contributed to this effort too.

Building on this solid foundation, the last decade was a very productive time, with my interests extending from innovation and entrepreneurship in industries and cities to globalization and development, with a particularly strong focus on the role of institutions. While much of my earlier work on innovation, knowledge, and entrepreneurship was US-centric, my research now takes on a global perspective as new questions and new data sources become available. One of these sources of data was the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) project that collected data on many countries in the world. This large multidisciplinary, multicountry, multiyear social science project became the largest and most interesting project in the world, bringing together not only global data collection but also researches from all over the world to better understand the myriad of issues in cross cultural research. The GEM project connected institutions, universities, and researchers from all over the world joined by a centrally thought out and administered research question.

The 32 papers published between the years 2008–2014 appeared in many different venues including economics, political science, geography, regional studies, entrepreneurship, and public and research policy. This diversity represents the multidisciplinary nature of entrepreneurship. The papers here therefore represent a large research project that could not have been undertaken without a significant research effort involving many individuals and different institutions. While I in no way consciously led this research effort, I was an integral part of it, collaborating with both individual scholars and respective institutions. The School
Global Entrepreneurship, Institutions and Incentives

of Public Policy at George Mason University was an ideal institution with a large number of PhD students and an excellent faculty interested in entrepreneurship research. Several of them are coauthors of the papers that follow.