

Preface

This book has emerged from a portfolio of work seeking to theorize and make sense of new ways to solve intractable, social problems, and new ways to finance their solutions. Yet who decides what is socially valuable and 'good', and what is in the public interest after all? This book is driven by a desire to improve the generation, management and organization of public good, and with it our understandings of social value that are embedded in existing institutions, organizations and management practices. It is driven by a desire to see generative and genuine collaborations across public, private and community sectors, and efforts to understand the values and logics of other domains. It is driven by a desire to see us reconceive and recover the role of the state in directing and protecting the public good. It is about developing new meta-narratives on the possible varieties of capitalism, boundaries of markets for producing social value, and alternative ways of organizing to address entrenched inequality. And mainly, writing this book is part of my own thinking and phronetic questioning: where are we going? Is this desirable? Can we do better? Surely we can.