Preface

My prolonged study of mobilities has focused mainly, though not solely, on personal mobilities and their pursuance at the urban spatial scale. In this book, I would like to highlight the global scale of the rather wide array of aggregated major classes of mobility, consisting of commodities and people, capital, information and technology. I hope that this study will shed some new light on globalization and global mobilities in general, as well as on each of the mobility types in particular. It is, obviously, of importance to trace each of the major voluntary global mobilities for itself, as we will attempt to do in the following chapters, but it is also of some additional special value to compare the velocities of the major global mobilities, and to uncover any relationships among them, as we will do in Chapter 11. A wide-ranging empirical study of global mobilities, exploring a contemporary synopsis of global mobilities, may permit, therefore, a comparative and synthesizing perspective for the numerous types of mobility.

The scope for the book is thus wide ranging and, probably, such a comparative study has not yet been carried out. The globalization literature has tended rather to focus on globalization, either in general or alternatively on specific movements, particularly on commodities, immigrants or tourists. The pursuance of the writing of a wide-ranging book on globalization in the late 2010s is of some additional significance, given the contemporary conflicting global trends of growing globalization for information and technology, on the one hand, and pressures to limit the globalization of the movements of immigrants and commodities, on the other.

The study that is offered in this book may be of value and importance for students and researchers alike, and in a variety of fields that focus on mobility and/or globalization. These fields include geography, business administration, economics, sociology and political science. In addition, the book may turn out to be valuable for practitioners in numerous industries, mainly in banking, consulting and transport, given the wide international scope of the book. By its very nature, the book should appeal to the widest international potential readership.

The book is based on secondary data, available through governmental and international agencies, as well as on data available through private companies and organizations. The book is further based on rather wide bodies of literature, developed for the varied classes of global mobility presented in it.

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