

Preface

As a student at the University of Cape Town during the apartheid years, legally institutionalized inequality, racial oppression and discrimination were dominant themes in my education. After I joined the London School of Economics in the early 1970s, my interest in these issues was invigorated by Richard Titmuss and Brian Abel Smith whose lifelong commitment to egalitarianism inspired many students and colleagues. It was largely because of their influence that I wrote the first book about social protection and redistribution in the developing world. This book, *Social Security and Inequality in the Third World* (New York: Wiley, 1984) sought to examine the way social insurance, social assistance, employer mandates and similar schemes redistributed resources. Although it showed rather pessimistically that many of these schemes had a regressive impact, it offered policy proposals for addressing the problem. Unfortunately, at the time, interest in both social protection and inequality had waned because of the ascendancy of market liberalism, which was shaping the political climate in many parts of the world. Consequently, my book had little influence and appealed only to a minority audience of progressive scholars. Today, the situation has changed dramatically and both social protection and inequality are major topics, attracting attention from academics, practitioners and policymakers both in national governments and international agencies. For this reason, I thought it worthwhile to revisit the issue and, as this book explains, I believe that social protection can, if adopted within the framework of wider egalitarian policies, make a significant contribution to reducing inequality and promoting social justice.

I am grateful to many colleagues who have informed my ideas and supported my work. Although it is impossible to mention them all, I particularly want thank Silvia Borzutzky, Adolfo Cazorla, Julian Chow, Espen Dahl, James Lee, Lutz Leisering, Michelle Livermore, Antoinette Lombard, Leila Patel, Manohar Pawar, Michael and Margaret Sherraden and Rebecca Surender for their friendship and encouragement. I am also grateful to former doctoral colleagues such as David Androff, Mary Caplan, Amy Conley-Wright, Joon Yong Jo, Sirojudin and Will Rainford who inspired me on many occasions. I am particularly indebted to David Piachaud who has written extensively on issues of redistribution and social justice in both the United Kingdom and other parts of the world. We were appointed to lectureships at the LSE at about the same time and have maintained a lifelong friendship. I have learned much

from him and am grateful for all the help he has given me over the years. I will greatly miss another dear friend, Tony Hall, who sadly passed away in 2019. We worked together on the social planning courses at the LSE before I moved to the United States but we continued to collaborate on several rewarding projects in which his knowledge of social protection in Latin American countries, and particularly Brazil, was especially helpful. I also note with sadness the passing of my former student and colleague Eddie Kaseke whose work on social protection in Africa is well known.

I am very grateful to Catherine Elgar for her enthusiastic support and encouragement and to many others at Elgar Publishing who saw the book through to publication. Thanks to Sabrina Zaher for managing the book's production, to Brian North for excellent copyediting and to Liz Wager for assistance with marketing. I have been fortunate to work with the firm since the 1990s and have benefited enormously from its high standards of professionalism and quality production. Thanks also to the anonymous reviewers who recommended publication. I hope this book will make a useful contribution to current debates on inequality and show that social protection has a role to play in fostering egalitarian ideals.

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