Acknowledgements

We would like to thank many colleagues and friends who have criticized and supported our research efforts over the years. We are particularly grateful to Cristiano Antonelli (University of Turin), Luigi Buzzacchi (Polytechnic University of Turin), Franco Fontana (LUISS Guido Carli, Rome) Alessandro Grandi (University of Bologna), Gianni Lorenzoni (University of Bologna), Bronwyn Hall (University of California, Berkeley), Sergio Mariotti (Polytechnic University of Milan), Stan Metcalfe (University of Manchester), Edward B. Roberts (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Sergio Rossetto (Polytechnic University of Turin), Peter Swann (Manchester Business School), Thierry Weil (Ecole des Mines de Paris) and Andrea Zanoni (University of Bologna).

Mario Calderini also owes a particular debt to the people at CRIC (University of Manchester), where he found a stimulating and creative research environment, and in particular to John Cantwell (University of Reading) and Jeremy Howells (University of Manchester), for their sharp and valued comments on his PhD dissertation at the University of Manchester.

Most of the studies included in this volume were presented at different conferences all over the world, and we are indebted to all the people who on those occasions provided useful comments and criticisms. Among these, we remember with particular gratitude the ones organized at the Fondazione Giovanni Agnelli by Dr Marco Demarie, who has constantly supported our research activities.

We were also lucky, over this period, to have worked with a great number of clever and committed students, whose research work contributed significantly to the realization of this book. In particular, we wish to mention Chiara Laudanna (Polytechnic University of Turin), Antonio Pugliafico (Polytechnic University of Milan), Lorenzo Trapani (University of Bergamo) and the students of the Dottorato in Economia e Management della Tecnologia at the Polytechnic University of Turin and University of Bergamo and of the Dottorato in Direzione Aziendale at the University of Bologna.

Finally, we owe a special thank you to Dr Barbara Sancin whose invaluable editorial work and patience was greatly appreciated.

The research work presented in this volume was carried on within the project ‘Ricerca Industriale e Innovazione Tecnologica: privatizzazione, apertura dei mercati, assetti economico-finanziari’ (COFIN 2001, prot. 2001097179-003) funded by the Ministero dell’Istruzione, Università e Ricerca (MIUR), whose crucial support is gratefully acknowledged.