Acknowledgements

During this Handbook project, we have received valuable assistance from many people to whom we would like to express our gratitude.

The initial idea to write a book on qualitative research methods in international business came from our colleague, Ulf Andersson (Uppsala University, Sweden). Following a presentation of one of our conference papers on this topic, he encouraged us to write a book proposal and proceed with the idea. Encouragement was also received from participants at the annual Nordic Workshop in International Business. We have also greatly appreciated the confidence and support showed by Edward Elgar and his team right from the beginning of this project.

The book proposal was reviewed by Ingmar Björkman (Hanken, Finland), David Ford (University of Bath, UK), Sid Gray (University of Sydney, Australia) and Monir Tayeb (Heriot-Watt University, UK), all of whom provided us with helpful suggestions and many lessons from experience. We were fortunate to benefit from their expertise and knowledge about book publishing at an early stage of the project.

Through our own professional and personal networks, as well as through several calls for papers, we were able to select 28 contributions to the Handbook. We have very much enjoyed working with these 44 contributors from various parts of the world. Moreover, we were able to include eight vignettes written by other well-established scholars in the field to enhance the profile of qualitative methods and provide personal perspectives on the research process. We would like to thank Mary Yoko Brannen (San José State University, USA) for the original idea of soliciting vignettes.

The diversity of qualitative methods in international business has allowed us to familiarise ourselves with a number of methodological issues, including those with which we were less familiar in the early phases of the Handbook. Therefore, in the review process of the chapters, we involved experts whose knowledge and expertise we have been able to rely on. Many thanks go to Pat Bazeley (Research Support, Australia), Hau-Le Nguyen (Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology, Vietnam), Tho Nguyen (Ho Chi Minh City University of Economics, Vietnam), Anne-Marie Søderberg (Copenhagen Business School, Denmark), Denice Welch (Mt Eliza Business School, Australia) and Lawrence Welch (Mt Eliza Business School, Australia) for
their helpful and thoughtful reviews. We would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Joan Nordlund (English for Business, Finland), who meticulously carried out language checks under tight schedules.

During the project, we have exposed the emerging themes of the Handbook to various conference audiences in Australia, Europe and the USA. At these conferences, we have had a chance to meet our contributors personally, which has been an important source of encouragement and inspiration. As co-editors, we also had the opportunity to work together in Sydney, Australia for three months during the most intensive phase of reviewing and editing. This visit and the conference trips were financed by the Academy of Finland (the project on Managing Knowledge Creation and Transfer in Multinational Corporations: A Finnish Perspective); Emil Aaltosen säätö; Ella ja Georg Ehrnroothin säätö; Liikesivistysrahasto; Stiftelsen Svenska Handelshögskolan; and Marcus Wallenbergin säätö. We wish to thank these foundations for the financial support and confidence that they expressed in our work.

Throughout the book project, when struggling with tables, figures and page set-ups, we have had the professional and personal support of Grace Setiawan and Ben Aveling. We deeply appreciate their professionalism and enthusiasm they showed for our book project. We are also grateful for the last-minute logistical assistance provided by Sara McGaughey and Bent Petersen (both of the Copenhagen Business School, Denmark).

Finally, we would like to thank our families, our parents Marina and Alexander, and Denice and Lawrence, who were an infinite source of support and encouragement during the entire book project. They have provided us with both professional and parental advice as we have been learning the role of a hands-on editor. Moreover, their provision of babysitting services for Johanna is gratefully acknowledged. Lastly, we would like to thank Lauri and Ben for their patience during this never-ending project. Despite our absent-mindedness and even absences, they were highly committed to this project. Today is the day they have long been waiting for. We would therefore like to dedicate this Handbook to them.