Acknowledgements

The idea of this *Handbook of Qualitative Research Methods in Entrepreneurship* first emerged in a discussion with Francine O'Sullivan from Edward Elgar in the spring of 2003. Edward Elgar had already commissioned a volume on international business and we agreed that the field of entrepreneurship needed a similar effort. However, at the time we did not know where this informal talk would lead. So when Francine wanted to know if we would undertake the responsibility for such a volume, we were more than pleasantly surprised. We accepted the commission and we are very satisfied with the fact that we have succeeded in bringing together such a broad and highly competent group of contributors.

We know many of the contributors from our professional and personal networks, although some also responded to the call for papers, which was distributed at various American and European entrepreneurship conferences and posted on the Aarhus School of Business website. From the suggestions for chapters forwarded to us we selected 17 original contributions for publication in the *Handbook* and one reprint of a seminal article. We thoroughly enjoyed working with the 23 contributors from Scandinavia, Europe, the USA and New Zealand. We were very fortunate to receive abstracts from both junior and more experienced researchers, which has provided an excellent basis for methodological innovation, experimentation as well as refined and well-tested approaches. The contributions cover a wide spectrum and the editorial process has provided us with much opportunity to gain new insight into familiar methodologies and techniques, and to learn about those with which we were less well acquainted. Warm thanks therefore go to all the contributors to this volume. Some have in the process even become personal friends.

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