

Acknowledgements

This book is the result of a research programme we have shared over the past decade, merging complementary interests, learning paths and academic experiences. Several colleagues and friends have contributed to making this possible. Without implying them in any of our errors and flaws, we wish to give credit to these people.

Many of the ideas developed in this book, as well as much of the empirical material it is based upon, stem from a number of EU-funded research projects we had the opportunity to participate in, which include: *Dynamic Capabilities, Growth and Long-Term Competitiveness of European Firms* (Dynacom), *Assessing the Impact of Technology and Globalisation* (Aiteg), and *The Structure of Innovation and Economic Performance Indicators* (Siepi). Funding from the Italian Ministry of Research is also gratefully acknowledged, with specific reference to Prin-Cofin 2001 and 2003, and Firb 2003. Some of the debates we have attended within the framework of the *Network on Innovation Studies*, financed by the Norwegian Research Council in 1999–2004, were also very helpful in bringing our research hypotheses closer to maturity. During this period we have also benefited from the stimulating research environment at Iefe-Università L. Bocconi in Milan, at the Departments of Economics of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, and of the University of Ancona, at the Centre of International Business Studies of the London South Bank University, at the Institute of International Integration Studies of the Trinity College in Dublin, at the Instituto Complutense de Estudios Internacionales in Madrid, and at the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), University of Sussex. The Faculty of Economics at the University of Urbino has been the home to most of our restless discussions from which many of our ideas have emerged.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the scholars who gave us the possibility of joining a rich and extensive ‘invisible college’ on the themes of innovation and international production. In particular, at various stages of this research programme, we benefited from discussions, exchanges of ideas and useful conversations on topics relevant to this book with: Carlo Altomonte, Bernadette Andreosso, Cristiano Antonelli, Gianni Balcet, Giorgio Barba Navaretti, Martin Bell, Christian Bellack, Stefano Breschi, Claudio Cozza, Paola Criscuolo, Giovanni Dosi, Nigel Driffield, Dieter Ernst, Rinaldo Evangelista, Jan Fagerberg, Alfonso Gambardella, Ove Granstrand,

Riccardo 'Jack' Lucchetti, Franco Malerba, José Molero, David Mowery, Ram Mudambi, Alessandro Pagano, Giulio Perani, Mario Pianta, Francesco Pigliaru, Lucia Piscitello, Frances Ruane, Enzo Rullani, Francesca Sanna Randaccio, Roberto Schiattarella, Salvo Torrisi, Marco Vivarelli, Sergio Vaccà, Bart Verspagen and Nick Von Tunzelmann.

Special thanks go to John Cantwell, Simona Iammarino, Rajneesh Narula, Grazia Santangelo and Ed Steinmueller, colleagues and friends who provided precious suggestions and valuable comments on the original planning of this book and on draft chapters. Grazia Ietto Gillies followed the whole project of this book very closely, encouraged us in its design, read the whole draft volume and generously offered a number of fine comments and suggestions. We owe her our warmest gratitude.

Several people provided us with valuable technical and organisational support. These include the very kind and efficient people of the editorial team at Edward Elgar, Peter Cullen, who proofread the first draft of this book, and Mary Cruz Braga, who indefatigably carried most of the burden of the paperwork and administrative issues relating to the research projects in which we have been involved.

Hanna and Rosalba bore the consequences of our working on this book, with all the time we subtracted from our family lives. Their closeness and encouragement played a vital role in leading us to the end of this project.

Last but not least, we like to think that this book would not have been possible without the very immaterial support given by Gaia, whose love goes beyond all seasons. It is to her that we dedicate this book.