Preface

This volume is one of four published books containing the research stemming from the international and multidisciplinary research program ‘GLOBALIFE – Life Courses in the Globalization Process,’ funded by the Volkswagen Foundation (Hanover, Germany) and established and directed by Hans-Peter Blossfeld. The project began in September 1999 at the University of Bielefeld, Germany, and moved to Bamberg University, Germany, in September 2002; it concluded in early 2005. In total, the project employed 23 scientists directly and contracted an additional 44 external collaborators from 17 different countries. It produced about 80 working papers in addition to these edited volumes and an extensive list of other publications. Our profound thanks go to the Volkswagen Foundation in Hanover for their financial support that made this ambitious project possible.

GLOBALIFE studied the implications of the globalization process for the life courses of individuals in various OECD-type societies. The project examined how globalization impacts four aspects of the life course: (1) the transition to adulthood, (2) men’s mid-career mobility, (3) women’s mid-career employment transitions; and (4) late careers and retirement. This volume represents the work generated in the third phase of this project.

We examine how women in 13 industrialized societies navigate work and family careers in an era of globalization and rising economic uncertainty. Globalization has powerfully shaped both national economies and individual life courses during the last decades. The emergence of a single worldwide market has therefore enhanced the number of competitors and increased the demand for flexible labor forces. Mid-career women may be affected by globalized working environments due to their outsider position in many labor markets and the various competing demands for their time across paid employment and unpaid caregiving.

There are many people to thank in a project of this magnitude. During the preparation of this volume, the project consisted of core project members located at Bamberg University, including: Sandra Buchholz, Daniela Grunow, Dana Hamplová, Steffen Hillmert, Dirk Hofäcker, Karin Kurz, Detlev Lück, Štěpánka Pollnerová and Kadri Täht. We thank all for their counsel and support. We especially recognize project members on site who contributed chapters to this volume, including Sandra Buchholz, Daniela Grunow, Dana Hamplová, Dirk Hofäcker and Detlev Lück. Our gratitude goes to Melinda Mills for advice and support throughout the research and manuscript preparation, and to Fabrizio Bernardi for valuable editorial

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