Preface

The volume *Applied Evolutionary Economics and Economic Geography* is the fourth book published by Edward Elgar on applied evolutionary economics, and stems from the fourth European Meeting on Applied Evolutionary Economics (EMAEE) held in Utrecht, 19–21 May 2005. The first volume edited by Paolo Saviotti (*Applied Evolutionary Economics*, 2003) was the founding volume. The second volume edited by John Foster and Werner Hözl (*Applied Evolutionary Economics and Complex Systems*, 2004) dealt with empirical applications of complex systems theory. The third volume edited by Andreas Pyka and Horst Hanusch (*Applied Evolutionary Economics and the Knowledge Based Economy*, 2006) discussed the role of knowledge in the modern economy from an evolutionary perspective.

As with previous volumes, this one also aims to advance empirical methodologies in evolutionary economics, but with a special emphasis on geography. We have seen a growing, mutual interest between economic geography and evolutionary economics in recent times. In particular, after the 2001 Schumpeter Prize winning work by Steven Klepper on the spatial evolution of industries and the innovative applications of social network analysis by Stefano Breschi, Francisco Lissoni, Elisa Giuliani and others, evolutionary scholars have become interested in the geography of *industries* and *networks*. These two meso levels of analysis will be central in the book. New developments on the interface between geography and evolutionary economics also take place at the micro level, in particular, the geography of *entrepreneurship*, and at the macro level, in particular, the dynamics of *spatial systems* as reflected in the uneven growth of cities, regions and nations. The micro and macro levels will supplement the meso level in the book. The book thus consists of a four-layer structure as follows. Part I: Entrepreneurship (micro); Part II: Industrial Dynamics (meso); Part III: Network Analysis (meso); and Part IV: Spatial Systems (macro). The book opens with an introductory chapter and ends with a policy chapter on planning.

Many people have contributed to this book. First, I would like to thank the authors who have all written excellent chapters. Their efforts show the value added of an evolutionary approach in economic geography. Second, I would like to thank the 125 participants of the fourth EMAEE held in Utrecht. The conference theme being ‘geography, innovation and networks’, the event was unique in bringing together economists and geographers to

exchange ideas and advance our common understanding of economic geography. Third, I would like to thank the members of the scientific committee for their review work and the members of the local organising committee for preparing the conference. Special thanks go to Anet for her excellent planning of the conference, to Jesse for the IT support, and to Siebren for his personal assistance. Finally, I gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Urban and Regional research centre Utrecht (URU), the Netherlands Graduate School of Housing and Urban Research (NETHUR), the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), and the Utrecht municipality.

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