The idea for this book first emerged from an exploratory workshop on ‘Evolutionary Economics and the Evolution of the Economic Landscape’ organised by the editors at St Catharine’s College, University of Cambridge, UK in April 2006. The workshop brought together nearly 30 economic geographers and economists from across Europe, with interests and expertise in evolutionary economics, to discuss the scope for and challenges of constructing a new evolutionary paradigm in economic geography. We are very grateful to the European Science Foundation (ESF Award: EW05-253 SCSS) for funding this exciting and highly fruitful event. A number of papers developed from the presentations at the workshop. Some of these were subsequently published in a special issue of the *Journal of Economic Geography*, in 2007. But such was the full range of papers that it was decided to bring them all together – and to solicit new versions of those that had already been published – into a major statement in the form of *The Handbook of Evolutionary Economic Geography*. Almost all of the contributions, therefore, are new to the Handbook, the exceptions being Chapter 15 by Sorenson, Rivkin and Fleming, which is reprinted – though with a new introduction – from *Research Policy*, 35 (7) (2006), and Chapter 4 by Martin and Sunley which is reprinted from the *Journal of Economic Geography*, 7 (5) (2007). We are grateful to Elsevier BV and Oxford Journals (Oxford University Press) respectively for permission to reprint these papers. Throughout the compilation of the book we have had been fortunate to have had the support and encouragement of Matthew Pitman of Edward Elgar. His encouragement and patience have been critical to the completion of this project. And last, but by no means least, we are indebted to the various contributors to this book: from their involvement in the initial workshop and through the subsequent ongoing dialogue around their chapters, their enthusiasm has been unwavering.

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