Acknowledgements

This book would not have been possible without three major research projects involving extensive data collection and sustained field work: The Social Change – GPI Field Work Program (2004–2006) run by Mercatus Center at George Mason University and coordinated by Brian Hooks and Claire Morgan; Three Social Science Disciplines in Central and Eastern Europe (2000–2002) run by Social Science Information Centre, Berlin and Collegium Budapest and coordinated by Max Kaase, Vera Sparschuh and Agniezka Wenninger; and The Dioscuri-Access Projects (2002–2007) run by by Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen, Vienna and Central European University Budapest and coordinated by Janos Matyas Kovacs and Viola Zentai. The book is rooted in the tremendous opportunities offered by these projects in which we were directly involved and we gratefully acknowledge our debt to all those that made that possible. The value of our contributions is given in large measure the numerous interviews and conversations we had with the Western and Eastern European economists. We want to express our gratitude to them.

We would like to extend additional thanks to Max Kaase, Vera Sparschuh and Agniezka Wenninger, and to the Social Science Information Centre Berlin and Collegium Budapest for allowing us to generously quote from Kaase, Sparschuh and Wenninger (2002) and also to use in Chapters 2 and 3 of our book several paragraphs published in Three Social Science Disciplines as part of a chapter written by Paul Dragos Aligica.

Chapter 8 is based on an article initially published in East European Economics, vol 46, May/June 2008, ‘The Spread of the Flat Tax in Eastern Europe. A Comparative Study’. We thank M.E. Sharpe Inc. for authorizing us to use a large part of it in our book. A version of Chapter 9 was published as ‘Learning in time: new institutionalism and the Central and Eastern European economic reform experience’, Global Business and Economics Review (GBER)(2006), 8 (1/2). We would like to thank Inderscience Publishers and GBER.

We are indebted to the critical dialogue that we have shared with a number of scholars, and in particular we wish to thank Peter Boettke, Richard Wagner, Elinor Ostrom, Vladimir Tismaneanu, Vincent Ostrom, Jeffrey Hart, Michael McGinnis, Karol Boudreaux, John Clark, Henry Hale, Janos Matyas Kovacs, Adrian Miroiu and Matei Calinescu. As
friends, colleagues and teachers their feedback has been crucial to improve the content and structure of this book. Needless to say, any remaining errors of omission or commission are entirely our own.

Anthony has enduring gratitude for his wife, Faith, who has both physically and emotionally supported his research in this area. Social scientists require passports as much as blackboards and he couldn’t have conducted such a study without her continued backing. He apologizes for the late nights and doggedness, but knows she understands. Anthony would also like to thank Davide Sola and Jerome Couturier at ESCP-EAP European School of Management for allowing him to devote research leave in summer 2007 to this work. Parts of this book were written at the library of the University College London’s School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES) and he also appreciates the use of the British Library of Political and Economic Science at the London School of Economics.

Finally, we owe a great debt to those whose ideas and passion for ideas have inspired and guided us and who managed to create the institutional infrastructure for assisting research projects like ours. It is remarkable that so many of these people are associated with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University and the Institute for Humane Studies, and we are privileged that they have given our work their personal support over the years. We have benefited immensely from the opportunity of being associated with these two great institutions and we would like to express our deep gratitude to them.