

Preface

This book originates from a panel discussion that Professors Marta Calás and Silvia Gherardi asked us to organize in their Diversity Management track at the 2006 International Federation of Scholarly Associations of Management (IFSAM) conference in Berlin, Germany. We came up with an idea for a participatory panel discussion, which we named ‘Action! What We Can Do to Make the Academic World a More Inclusive Place’. The panel was enthusiastically received. It became clear that the track participants felt a need to talk about their own experiences in working for inclusion in teaching and research. Based on this experience, an idea was conceived to edit a book where academics around the world would share their stories about bringing in new voices, themes and methods in teaching and research. We were curious to learn how people working in different local contexts account for their relative success – and what insights they can offer others. We are grateful to Professor Mustafa Özbilgin for advising us to contact Edward Elgar Publishing to find a publisher that would understand the value of such an undertaking. We would like to extend our thanks to Francine O’Sullivan at Edward Elgar for proving that Mustafa was right. Francine has supported us from the very beginning. We also want to thank the Foundation of Economic Education (Liikesivistysrahasto) in Finland for their generous funding, which made this book possible.

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