

Preface and acknowledgments

The present volume grew out of a conference entitled 'Sex 'n' Drugs and Shifty Roles' held at the Contemporary Europe Research Centre (CERC), University of Melbourne, in December 2006. For their generous sponsorship of that conference, I wish to thank the Goethe Institut (Melbourne Branch), and the European Union's Jean Monnet Fund. And for all their help in very practical ways, I thank CERC's Director, Philomena Murray; its former manager, Geraldine East; and CERC's many postgraduates.

Several of the chapters in this volume started life as papers at the CERC conference just mentioned. However, for various reasons, four of the original contributors eventually proved to be unable to convert their conference papers into chapters, despite having agreed to rework and update their papers. In three cases, the editor was not informed about this inability, and waited expectantly for the chapters. When it finally became obvious that the chapters would not be forthcoming, it looked as if the book project would, regrettably, fall through; there was simply not enough critical mass. But two specialists who had not been involved with the original conference in any way very kindly agreed to produce chapters at extremely short notice, so that the project was once again viable. Those two people – Stephanie Schwandner-Sievers and Sallie Yea – deserve my special thanks. But I also want to thank all of the other contributors for their patience and support; many could have taken their chapters elsewhere, and I owe each and every one of the original contributors a debt of gratitude. Understandably, publishers can be difficult if a project falls behind. But this was not the case here; for their tolerance when I kept having to change the submission deadline, and their faith in the project when even I was beginning to despair, I wish to thank Alexandra O'Connell and Nep Elverd at Edward Elgar.

Leslie Holmes
Melbourne

