

Acknowledgements

In February 2007, when we proposed a workshop on the “Politics of Intellectual Property” for the 2008 Joint Sessions of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), we did so with a great deal of uncertainty as to whether such an issue would interest enough social scientists. After all, until recently the group of scholars – outside of the field of law – working on this issue has been extremely limited. But, to our great delight, not only was our proposal accepted, but we ended up receiving significantly more submissions in response to our call for papers than we could possibly have accommodated with just 20 spots in the workshop. We interpret this response as an indicator that the social sciences have, at last, come to realize the salience of this issue.

The workshop that took place in April 2008 in the beautiful city of Rennes proved to be extremely productive and thought-provoking. For five days, participants from four continents and with various academic backgrounds engaged in stimulating discussions of each others’ papers. In fact, the daily sessions typically extended far beyond the formal meetings, as exchange would continue in the city’s bars and restaurants. A scholarly network was formed.

This book contains significantly revised texts from roughly half of the workshop’s participants. First and foremost we wish to thank the contributing authors, who have responded promptly and thoughtfully to comments, suggestions, and repeated requests for revisions on their texts. We also wish to express our gratitude to the participants at the Rennes workshop who are not included in this volume, for this project would not have succeeded without their contributions, criticism and ideas as well. We therefore would like to thank Moses Boudourides, François Briatte, Francesco Carnesecchi, Thomas R. Eimer, Patricia M. Goff, Bryn Gay, Annika Philipps, Carolina Almeida A. Rossini, and Peter Yu for their invaluable contributions to the workshop in Rennes and, by extension, this volume. We also wish to thank the ECPR for including our panel in the 2008 Joint Sessions and the support provided to us as panel convenors.

