In this anthology, historian Rob Boddice urges social entrepreneurs to ask themselves why they do what they do. But editors also should ask themselves this question (as well as what makes their ‘good works’ possible). Interaction, especially with those I would like to thank here first and last, would be a big part of my response to this question.

First, I would like to thank students. Undergraduates I first met in an elective on sustainable development, in particular Pranab Singh, proposed social entrepreneurship as a topic of discussion, and as a result we worked together on a week-long social entrepreneurship conference on social entrepreneurship in May 2007. Later, in the fall of 2007, discussions with students during a seminar on social entrepreneurship have influenced the way things are presented and put together here. Lena Schulze-Gabrechten, for instance, wrote her final assignment on social entrepreneur Judy Korn’s work.

These teaching experiences were made possible by the European College of Liberal Arts in Berlin. I would also like to acknowledge the support of the college in enabling me to start working on the book in summer 2007. Many members of the faculty contributed ideas and questions, especially Catherine Toal. She helped organise the social entrepreneurship conference, co-designed and co-taught a social entrepreneurship seminar with me, wrote one of the commentaries for the chapter drafts of the anthology and put together most parts of the book proposal for the publisher. For all these contributions I would like to thank her very much.

As for the contributors, I would like to specially thank the contributors to Part I for their efforts to bring together this unusual part of the anthology. It required a lot of back and forth, but it was worth it. Michal Kravcik’s colleague, Juraj Kohutiar, read a draft of Chapter 2 and made very helpful comments and suggestions. Thanks to Birger Hartnuss and Judy Korn for permission to use a part of their work as boxes for Chapter 3. The support staff of the Polish Ministry of Education were very patient in dealing with the difficult task of efficient communication flows with a politician.

The University of California’s permission for using a modified version of Eva Illouz’s Chapter 3 of her Saving the Modern Soul (UCP, 2008) is gratefully acknowledged.

xiii
My new work environment at the University of Greifswald and at the Institut für ökologische Wirtschaftsforschung has from the beginning provided a welcoming and co-operative environment, and the social-ecological research programme of the German Ministry of Education and Research the means to do this kind of work. Thanks to Christian Bartholomäus from Greifswald for help with the references, to Grisha Damke for professional advice on the book proposal, to Laurin Federlein for designing the book cover and to Lars Bußmann for his help in compiling the index. I am also very grateful to all of the collaborators at Edward Elgar Publishing for their continuous and kind support.

My greatest thanks are to my editor: Anne-Marie Reynaud, whose support ranged from technical advice and proofreading of various chapters to in-depth questions and comments. I am very thankful to have had the luxury of an editor’s editor.

Rafael Ziegler
Berlin, 12 August 2008