Acknowledgements

This research monograph is based on the PhD I pursued at the Centre for International Business, University of Leeds (CIBUL) (UK) between October 2004 and May 2007. The original inspiration for the PhD emerged out of my studies under Professor Taube at the University Duisburg-Essen (Germany) where we covered extensively investments by multinational enterprises (MNEs) into the People’s Republic of China. I found it intriguing and curious that there was no consideration of Chinese MNEs. The first research idea into why there were no Chinese MNEs came to a sudden stop as events unfolded very quickly in 2004: the acquisition of MG Rover by Nanjing Automobile and Shanghai Industrial Automobile Corporation; the acquisition of IBM’s PC business by Lenovo; and the TCL-Thomson deal. It became clear that there were Chinese MNEs but they had not yet caught considerable academic attention. As a consequence, we knew very little about what drove them to internationalise and what the determinants of China’s outward foreign direct investments generally were. The PhD tried to provide some answers to these questions. For this monograph, the research conducted during the PhD has been updated and expanded upon with new datasets and research findings. It thus builds upon work which has already been published based on the PhD (Buckley et al. 2007b, 2007c, 2011; Cross et al. 2007; Voss et al. 2009), and updates it where possible. With this monograph I am hoping to contribute to the increasing body of research on Chinese outward foreign direct investment by relating those investments to established theories in international business and identifying the determinants of these investments. I am grateful and in debt for the support I received during and around the process, up until today.

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Hinrich Voss
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To my parents