Our deepest appreciation is expressed to the people who have helped in the development of this book. The first group is the numerous talented professionals who have contributed various chapters and those whose names are noted in the text. We also wish to thank our institutions, the College of Business at Bloomsburg University Pennsylvania, the John Molson School of Business, Concordia University Montreal, Aalto University School of Economics, and the LIITO-program of the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation (Tekes). Also we wish to thank an academic administrator for his direct encouragement of this book project: Dr Michael Tidwell, Dean of the College of Business at Bloomsburg University, Pennsylvania.

We are indebted to Susan Krieger, Associate Professor at Mansfield University Pennsylvania who helped to organize the manuscript. We are grateful to Elizabeth Williams, MLIS, Librarian at Mansfield University, who did an excellent job in proofreading and correcting the entire manuscript and formatting it in the style required by the publishers. Our sincere appreciation and thanks to Ben Booth, Commissioning Editor at Edward Elgar for his continuous encouragement of our ideas and thoroughness in helping us to bring the manuscript to publication. Also to Jennifer Wilcox, editor at Edward Elgar, who helped the work along by her questions, effectiveness, and efficiency, and in ensuring that the work was ‘correct’ in all needed aspects.

Finally our warmest thanks to our wives, children, their spouses, and grandchildren for their understanding throughout the project:

Mika Gabrielsson: wife Janika, children Joakim and Nicole

V.H. Manek Kirpalani: wife Pachi, children Tara and Arjun, Tara’s spouse Sundeep and children Siona, Rahul and Sarina, Arjun’s children Melina and Natasha