Preface and acknowledgements

This book reports the results of my recent research into entrepreneurship. It focuses on the relationship between entrepreneurship studies and other disciplines, including economics, sociology, social psychology, international relations, management, economic history and business history. Given the breadth of the subjects covered, I have been very fortunate in receiving help and support from a number of collaborators, who are listed on the title page. These collaborators are either colleagues or former colleagues, or former doctoral students; some are both former students and current colleagues. All are associated with the University of Reading in one way or another.

Whilst most of the chapters incorporate previously published results, all the chapters have been re-written to eliminate wasteful duplication and to provide continuity of argument for those readers who wish to read through the book as a whole. At the same time, each chapter is presented in a reasonably self-sufficient form for the benefit of readers who wish to dip into the book to study specific topics; cross-references to other chapters are supplied for their benefit. Since each of the chapters has been re-written, my co-authors do not necessarily agree with everything that is said in the version that appears in this book.

Entrepreneurship is a lively area of research with enormous potential, and so I hope to produce another volume in a few years time – colleagues and students please take note! As usual, I should like to thank my wife Janet – my staunchest critic – for spotting numerous errors in the first draft of this book, and for offering to correct some of them. I should also like to thank the publisher, Edward Elgar, for his support and friendship throughout my career, and also the members of his editorial team who have pressurized me into completing this book.


Chapter 3 is a revised and shortened version of ‘Entrepreneurship and Macroeconomic Performance’ (with Nigel Wadeson), Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal, 1 (3-4), (2007): 239–62.

Chapter 4 is an unpublished paper co-authored with Peter J. Buckley. The ideas in this paper were applied to international business issues in ‘Edith Penrose’s Theory of the Growth of the Firm and the Strategic Management of Multinational Enterprises’ (with Peter J. Buckley), Management International Review, 47 (2) (2008): 151–73.

Chapter 5 is a revised version of a paper presented at the Tenth Symposium of Economic History at the Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona in January 2005.


Chapter 10 is based on ‘Entrepreneurship and the Development of Global Brands’ (with Teresa da Silva Lopes), Business History Review, 81 (Winter

Chapter 11 is a revised version of ‘Entrepreneurship in Victorian Britain, 1830–1900’ (with Andrew Godley), in David S. Landes, William Baumol and Joel Mokyr (eds), The Invention of Enterprise (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press for the Kauffman Institute, 2009).