

Acknowledgements

This book is the result of many encounters, and I could not have written it without the help of the numerous people who have kindly and generously informed, guided and challenged my work along the way. To investigate how and with what effects the global politics of the digital revolution was organized as a multi-stakeholder process, I made a number of visits to the UN headquarters in New York and Geneva, participated in more than a dozen meetings held in diplomatic capitals and exotic locations around the world, and followed two UN World Summit processes closely. In addition to these ethnographic observations, this book builds on extensive interviews and conversations with the members, directors, employees and participants of the different UN-based organizational arrangements involved in the making of the digital revolution as an object of global politics. Finally, the analyses draw on documents and working papers, files from the private archives of UN employees, as well as publications, transcripts of meetings and discussions in online forums. Clearly, I could not have done this work without multiple kinds of support, and while I cannot thank everyone individually, this is my opportunity to acknowledge the most important ones.

First of all, I want to thank my colleagues for their encouragement and guidance. The research project 'Media and Democracy in the Network Society' provided the first home for the project and even covered many of the costs of doing global, multi-sited ethnography. All along, my generous mentor, Hans Krause Hansen, as well as Dorte Salskov-Iversen, Anna Leander and other members of the research group 'Business in Global Governance' at the Copenhagen Business School have nurtured and shaped my work profoundly. More recently, the research group on 'Communication and Organization' led by Dan Kärreman, has been a valuable forum for discussing the final shape of this book. Other people have helped me at crucial stages, in particular Ronald Deibert, Wendy Larner, Jens Hoff, Henrik Bang and Bent Flyvbjerg. I also want to thank Thomas Weiss, who let me come to the Ralph Bunche Centre at CUNY as a visiting scholar, and whose reputation helped open the first doors into the UN system.

Secondly, the project would not have been possible without the trust

and generosity of the many people who allowed me to study their daily work. In particular, I am grateful that Markus Kummer, Sergei Kambalov, Wolfgang Kleinwächter, Derrick Cogburn, Rikke Frank Jørgensen, Bill Drake and my interviewees would share their insights and experiences with me. Finally, I am grateful to my wife and dearest friend, Ursula Plesner for the love and the conversations that keep me going, and to Lucca and Theo for making me laugh and marvel every day.