Foreword

Australia and the United States (US) are both nations of immigrants, and have much to learn from each other’s experience in managing the inflows of people. This is especially so in troubled economic times. From the early 1990s to 2008, the immigration policies of both countries were conducted in the context of sustained, healthy rates of economic growth. This period has been dealt with in a predecessor volume, also edited by John Higley, John Nieuwenhuysen and Stine Neerup (Nations of Immigrants: Australia and the United States Compared) and also published by Edward Elgar in the Monash Studies in Global Movements series.

The current work analyses Australian and US immigration in harsh and worrying economic years which began in the latter part of 2008, leading to contractions in economic activity and employment in all parts of the world.

Undertaken, as in the earlier volume, as a partnership between the Edward A. Clark Centre for Australian and New Zealand Studies at the University of Texas at Austin and the Monash Institute for the Study of Global Movements, Immigration and the Financial Crisis covers a variety of important topics. These include the politics of immigration, labour markets, border control, job loss, income distribution, and second generation inclusion.

Immigration and the Financial Crisis draws on eminent scholars from Texas and Monash Universities, as well as from a variety of other distinguished institutions. Based on peer reviewed papers and inter-group discussions held at a workshop at Monash’s centre in Prato, this volume will, I believe, assist policy formulation and add considerably to contemporary knowledge of the undercurrents determining immigration flows in two of the world’s major immigration countries. It will also carry lessons for other nations grappling with the hard questions of how best to respond to the continuing difficulties around immigration flows in an environment of international economic volatility.

I wish to thank all the authors and the editors who combined to produce another excellent addition to the Monash Global Movements series, published by Edward Elgar.

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