Acknowledgements

Few things in society engage us as much as work does. Work is the subject of our daydreams and visions for the future when we are young; work engages our endeavours as adults. It provides a platform for community, as well as the opportunity to shape our identity. But work can also be something that shuts people out from community and participation and from shaping our own future. No wonder work is so central to politicians, scientists and bureaucrats as well as to people in general.

This book is the result of several years of research about the changes that have shaped the Swedish labour market over the last couple of decades. It has grown out of research projects and the research environment that constitutes Score (Stockholm Centre for Organizational Research) at Stockholm University and Stockholm School of Economics. The research projects that are relevant here are particularly: The politics and practices of capability: Lifelong learning for all in a knowledge-intensive work life? (supported by the Swedish Research Council); and the research programme Organizing Markets (funded by the Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences).

Our ambition has been to highlight what we have seen as key trends in the transformation of the Swedish labour market and discuss these with researchers with similar interests from other universities and disciplines. Our hope is that the book will serve both as a source of information for those interested in work and labour, as well as an inspiration for further reflection and discussion on the dynamics of the Swedish model.

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Christina Garsten, Jessica Lindvert and Renita Thedvall