

Acknowledgements

This book is the outcome of a stimulating and highly fruitful collaboration over a decade between the authors of the chapters on global regionalisms and higher education. Like many intellectual endeavours, it was built upon a number of formally and informally organized encounters, conversations and exchanges between us as we tried to make sense of what was going on around us. Already several of us were collaborating on the changing spatial organization of higher education, and the ways this sector was being mobilized in the refashioning of cities, their regions, and nations and globally. We were also intrigued by the ways in which these disparate but often connected projects were increasing taking on a supra-regional form – the most obvious of course being Europe – but not only by this. Indeed there were other intriguing, novel, as well as imitative developments under way, many of which are presented in this book.

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This volume is an outcome of this journey. But what makes it particularly remarkable is that it is one of the first systematic efforts to bring together this range of work on regionalizing projects and higher education from around the globe, and present it to a wider audience. There are huge gaps still to be filled, especially on emerging regionalisms and inter-regionalisms in regions such as Africa, the Mediterranean and North African region, and Oceania. But we see this as the start of an intellectual journey, and not its endpoint.

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