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.

The pathway to this book is more than ten years long, and draws upon research and dialogue in the United Kingdom and the USA. Our sustained engagement has been generously supported by the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN), the University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for European Studies (a US Department of Education National Resource Center), the UW-Madison European Union Center of Excellence (funded by the university and the European Commission), as well as the Division of International Studies and the Department of Geography. We are grateful for the background support of key UW-Madison faculty, staff, and students including Gilles Bousquet, Elizabeth Covington, Jason Nu and Noah Rost. Indirect support and valuable insights over this decade have been provided by some of the European architects of the Bologna Process (including Pavel Zgaga and Eric Froment), as well as key policy practitioners and analysts (including Anne Corbett and Michael Gaebel).

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.

Susan L. Robertson, Kris Olds, Roger Dale and Que Anh Dang - 9781784712358
Downloaded from Elgar Online at 08/11/2019 04:18:14PM via free access
We have many people to thank for believing this was a worthwhile project; you know who you are. We would also like to thank many of our students, some not in this volume but nevertheless present, treading along fascinating paths researching global higher education regionalisms. All of us would like to thank our own institutions for providing intellectually challenging environments to work in, and for their support for this kind of academic endeavour. Finally, we would particularly like to thank Alex Pettifer and colleagues at Edward Elgar Publishing for all of their help in making sure we could bring this publication to fruition. Now, over to you.