
Preface

This book arose out of a need for an expatriate research text that combined and synthesized more than 50 years of expatriate studies in one handbook. To convey a sense of the extensiveness of expatriate research, the book is organized around the most important domains in the field: its historical roots, types of expatriates, contemporary expatriate challenges, expatriates in diverse (non-corporate) communities, conducting expatriate studies, and future directions. In this volume, our aim was to have scholars contribute in particular content areas for which they are already, or are becoming, known. This has resulted in chapter contributions from well-known and 'famous' scholars, as well as those who will undoubtedly be famous in the future. The goal of the *Research Handbook* is: (1) to provide readers with a solid working understanding of the field of expatriate studies; and (2) to help readers acquire a cutting-edge understanding of the key findings and issues across a broad range of expatriate research areas, from scholars who are experts in those areas. The *Research Handbook* is primarily intended for use in international human resource management, global business, international business, and international management courses at all degree levels (undergraduate, MBA, MA and PhD). In addition, scholars from other fields interested in expatriate studies will appreciate the comprehensiveness of the topics published here.

A great deal of time and effort was devoted to making this *Research Handbook* as accessible as possible. We accomplished it by ensuring that the chapter structure was consistent throughout, with nearly every chapter containing an introduction and overview, extensive review of extant literature and relevant theories, current debates, suggestions for better use of theories and empirical data (gaps), and areas for future research. We specifically requested that each set of authors position their chapter as being written by an expert whose voice we wanted to hear. The result is the most comprehensive collection of chapters by authors specializing in expatriate studies in any publication to date. All the authors can attest to the rigorous peer review and editing process their chapter underwent (often through multiple revisions) before being deemed 'good enough' for publication. We are thankful to all of them for their flexibility, patience and good-naturedness.

The vision for this book was borne out of Yvonne McNulty's desire to help establish expatriate research (once and for all) as its own field of study. It is not to suggest that it was not already, but that there was yet to be published a comprehensive summary of the field's contribution. She shared this vision at the Academy of Management Meeting in Philadelphia in 2014 with Francine O'Sullivan, a publisher of management books at Edward Elgar Publishing, who was very supportive of the idea and waited six months for a proposal to be developed. Jan Selmer graciously agreed to be co-editor and we have subsequently shared the editorial duties between us, including selection of chapter topics and authors, management of the review process, chapter revisions, editing and graphic design. In a project that has taken well over two years to complete, we have had only one disagreement along the way (about the picture on the cover!). There is much to be said

for choosing collaborators wisely, including our publisher, who it has been nothing short of wonderful to work with.

This *Research Handbook* contains six parts. It begins with an introductory chapter, which is followed by 24 chapters on different areas of expatriate research written by noted scholars in each of these topical areas. We used the editorial board listing in the *Journal of Global Mobility* as well as a list of publications in the same journal as a starting point to help identify the experts in our field and the most critical issues and topics. This initial review then led us to network with our colleagues to find and invite new expatriate researchers to join this prestigious endeavour. We hope that readers of this *Research Handbook* will come away with not just an extensive understanding of the field of expatriate studies, but also with excitement and passion for new ideas in expatriate research.

Yvonne McNulty
Jan Selmer
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