Preface

This book is particularly focused upon analyzing key issues about structural transformation of industries in China in terms of technology, innovation and internationalization, using the perspective of knowledge-intensive innovation ecosystems. The earlier Edward Elgar book *Innovation Spaces in Asia* (2015) also addresses related questions about the complex structural transformation undergoing in Asia more broadly. We would like to thank the many scholars and practitioners who have contributed to stimulating discussions with us about how they view such changes in China during recent decades. We would especially like to thank the authors, as well as the reviewers of chapters.

Indeed, the issues we study represent a moving target, because the phrase “becoming leaders” suggests that time and trajectories matter to how businesses act, and this will change in different periods. Moreover, the global economic and social conditions and relationships more broadly continue to change, including during the years we have been writing this book. Debates about globalization and international disputes have been on the rise, and at the same time digitalization has changed many social and economic patterns and business models. As we complete the manuscript in Spring 2020, COVID-19 has again changed the meaning of globalization, leading to re-examining visions for future social and economic patterns.

International collaboration also requires long-term interactions between individuals. Professors Jin and McKelvey have collaborated for many years, through the scientific organization Globelics and the related Cicalics PhD Academy. Both focus upon innovation and competence building for economic development. Most importantly for this book, Professor Jun Jin spent a year as visiting scholar at the Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Department of Economy and Society, University of Gothenburg. This facilitated our more regular collaboration – such as holding public lectures events and interviewing companies in both Sweden and China – as well as our work to edit this book and write related articles.

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