This book was initiated by Matthew Pitman at Edward Elgar Publishing, and I am greatly indebted for his trust in the book project and its inclusion in Elgar Research Agendas. Moreover, I am very grateful to Alan A. Lew, who conveyed the assignment of editing such a book to me and, at the same time, facilitated the recruitment of authors. Alan has been one of the most important and influential tourism geographers, not least by establishing the journal *Tourism Geographies* and through his commitment to the IGU Commission, but also because of his engagement in tourism geographies all over the world.

Many of the authors featured in this book have been or are affiliated with the IGU Commission in one way or another, and here I would like to acknowledge the role of the Commission in providing a longstanding forum for the exchange and debate of scientific ideas. It is also in this context that research agendas are framed and tested, as well as eventually agreed on.

Books are seldom solely dependent on the editor. I am very happy to have been able to recruit the outstanding group of authors featured in this book, and I would like to thank them for the prompt delivery of their texts. Besides the authors, I would like to thank my tourism friends Roger Marjavaara, Linda Lundmark, Doris Carson, Cenk Demiroglu, Jundan Zhang, Jelmer Jeuring, Czesław Adamiai, Joakim Byström and Andreas Back at the Department of Geography and Economic History, Umeå University, for making the department a great place for research into tourism geographies. Indeed, together we have grown into an important node in the global network of tourism geographers.

Furthermore, I would like to acknowledge the friendship and inspiration I have received from a number of colleagues all over the world; while the space does not allow me to mention all of them, those not named here are certainly not forgotten. C. Michael Hall has been a good friend, and has introduced me to international circuits and publishing. Jarkko Saarinen, Edward Huijbens, Gunnar Pór Jóhannesson, Dimitri Ioannides, Daniel Laven and Albina Pashkevich have been excellent tourism geographers to talk to and cooperate with in the Nordic realm. Beyond these colleagues, I would like to acknowledge inspiring conversations on the topic of tourism geographies, particularly with Patrick Brouder, Pat Maher, Suzanne de la Barre, Marius Mayer, Hubert Job and Gijsbert Hoogendoorn. Finally, Alison Gill, Gustav Visser, Sanette Ferreira, Julie Wilson, Rita da Cruz, Joseph Cheer, Tim Coles, Xu Honggang, Carolin Funck, Jie Zhang and Velvet Nelson are some of my
IGU friends who have been important and with whom I have discussed the future of tourism geographies in recent years.

Of course, the professional support from the production team at Edward Elgar Publishing is highly appreciated.

Dieter K. Müller
Umeå, 30 August 2018