Preface

During my three decades of studying the politics, policy and ethics of climate change, relatively little progress has been made in realizing climate justice. Indeed, the problem has only gotten worse. Greenhouse gas pollution continues to increase globally. The impacts of climate change are increasingly being felt around the world. It is all but certain that they will accelerate and widen with time. So, too, will the resulting suffering to individuals, communities and other species. Meanwhile, most of the world's affluent people and communities are living high on the hog, using energy and consuming stuff as if there were no tomorrow – and as if the consequences for the world's poor and weak did not matter. In the context of climate change, injustice far outstrips justice.

What should we do about this? The answer is long and complex, so it may be simpler to put the question in negative terms: what should we *not* do about this? Put this way, the answer becomes simpler: we – every capable person and every other capable actor (governments, businesses and all the rest) – should not continue doing what we are doing now. If we do not change our ways dramatically and quickly, climate change will definitely be the greatest injustice experienced in all of human history. The longer we delay, the greater the injustices to come.

As part of efforts by scholars and activists around the world to mitigate both the causes of climate change and the injustices it portends, this book aims to portray and stimulate alternative, innovative perspectives for understanding climate justice (through theorizing and researching) and implementing it (through individual behaviour changes and collective policy actions). It comprises of a dozen original chapters by scholars who are more than disinterested researchers. By my reckoning, each of them shares my frustration with the lack of robust global action on climate change. Each has a genuine desire to further the realization of climate justice. With luck, their ideas may help to nudge the world toward that objective, or at least move it a bit away from so much climate injustice.

Every book is a collaboration. This one is no exception. My thanks go to Rachel Downie at Edward Elgar Publishing for asking me to put this collection together. I trust that it will make a valuable addition to Elgar's list of books on climate change. I am obliged to the contributors for surrendering to my arm twisting by writing for this book. My appreciation goes to anonymous referees who read and commented on early drafts of the chapters. Finally, for companionship and domestic support during this project and so many others over the years, I am grateful to Keith, Mobie

and especially our beloved Susie, who was at my side during all of my work on this book apart from the last few days, when she sadly passed away. Susie's passing was absolutely terrible, but there was nothing unjust about it. That is because it was nobody's fault. We cannot say the same about climate change.

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