Acknowledgements

In recent years I have dedicated my research to understanding how policies travel internationally. During this time, I have also had the opportunity to meet many people and discuss this subject with scholars from all over the world at various academic events, studying this phenomenon from a wide variety of perspectives. The idea of organizing this Handbook came up during a conversation with David Dumoulin in Paris in the beginning of 2018. We met at a café in Saint-Michel. I was presenting him with some of my thoughts about a book project with a large group of experts, and he asked me ‘so you are going to organize a handbook?’ At the time, it wasn’t clear to me what form the publication would take. Then he told me about his handbook on multiculturalism and Latin America. David inspired me and I started to think that this project could be a major contribution to the area, as well as a unique academic experience. I have to thank him for all of his encouragement since the very beginning of the process.

The idea behind this Handbook was to offer the public an overview of policy transfer studies, bringing together the different streams of research that analyse policies moving across borders. It was also an attempt to overcome the epistemological and ontological cleavages that have appeared in this area over the past few years. In doing this, I wanted to move beyond this fragmentation, and also bring together authors from the Global North and especially the Global South, who have been in the minority in terms of the international production of knowledge. The result would be an eclectic text, presenting a plurality of research streams and examples of policies moving from different parts of the world, offering a map of the field, as well as possible future avenues for research.

In May 2018 I met with most of the authors of this handbook in São Paulo. This was the first time I presented the project and most of them agreed to participate in the publication. We had a great discussion and the structure of the Handbook was outlined. I had various conversations about this with Magdaléna Hadjiisky during the months that followed. She was central to this project and I owe her my gratitude for all her support. In October, I also started an exchange about this publication with Edward Elgar.

I was back in Paris in December of that year, this time for an appointment as a visiting researcher at the Institut des Hautes Études de l’Amérique Latine (IHEAL), of the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle. I spent two months in the former building of the Institute on Rue Saint-Guillaume and I dedicated part of my time there to the organization of the Handbook. A group of the authors convened at Maison de la Recherche in Paris in January 2019 to discuss the very first draft of the chapters. Present were Leslie Pal, Magdaléna Hadjiisky, Giulia Romano, Laura Waisbich, Jacint Jordana, Kidjie Saguin, Markus Taube and David Dumoulin. Carlos Milani also joined us and offered many interesting comments to the chapters’ first draft. The support of IHEAL was crucial to this process, as it offered me the opportunity to dedicate myself to the Handbook and consolidate the project in early 2019. All the colleagues who came to Paris to discuss the text were fundamental in sharing their thoughts about how to prepare an innovative publication in this area. I am thankful to both IHEAL and my colleagues who were in Paris for the meeting, as well as to all of the authors of the chapters, preface and endorsements for making this publication possible.
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