Acknowledgements

Not surprisingly, I owe many people a great deal in helping me write this book.

The idea of writing a book was planted by Rupert Lancaster after he attended a lecture I gave at the Leverhulme Foundation in 2018. At LSE, I benefited from being surrounded by people who are interesting and interested, starting with my colleagues in the School’s Management Committee and Council. Many colleagues shared ideas and provided generous comments on early drafts, and I am particularly grateful to Oriana Bandiera, Nick Barr, Tim Besley, Tania Burchardt, Dilly Fung, John Hills, Emily Jackson, Julian LeGrand, Steve Machin, Nick Stern, Andrew Summers, Andres Velasco and Alex Voorhoeve. Several friends and former colleagues pointed me to relevant literature, provided helpful comments and much-needed encouragement: Patricia Alonso-Gamo, Sonya Branch, Elizabeth Corley, Diana Gerald, Antonio Estache, Hillary Leone, Gus O’Donnell, Sebastian Mallaby, Truman Packard, Michael Sandel and Alison Wolf. I owe them gratitude for their good ideas; any errors are exclusively mine.

Max Kiefel provided outstanding research assistance, finding interesting material and helpful suggestions even though we only managed to meet in person once because of the pandemic.
James Pullen, my agent at Wylie, helped me navigate the world of publishing and was a constant source of good advice. Will Hammond, my editor at Penguin Random House, encouraged me to avoid academic jargon and helped make the text far more readable. Joe Jackson at Princeton University Press also gave helpful feedback.

I owe so much to my mother Maissa, who drove me to all those libraries and always supported me, come what may. I am grateful to my sister Nazli, niece Leila and my vast extended family, who provide a wonderful example of a social contract that is generous and enables everyone. To my husband Raffael, I owe thanks for making me braver and encouraging me to take on ever bigger challenges. Our children – Adam, Hanna, Hans-Silas, Nora and Olivia – were uppermost in my mind as I wrote the chapter on the intergenerational social contract. For them, and all our children and future grandchildren, I hope we manage to organise a better social contract for all of you to thrive.