My thanks to the many people who contributed to the work presented in this book. First and foremost, I cannot adequately express my gratitude to Didier Bigo for his support and steadfastness, and for teaching me how to follow my curiosity. In Didier I could not have found a more perfect mentor. This project was made possible through the generous financial support of the Economic and Social Research Council of the United Kingdom (grant number ES/I017992/1). A contribution to book production costs was made by source, Societal Security Network, under the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development, and demonstration (grant agreement no. 313288). The Department of War Studies, King’s College London also provided much-appreciated intellectual and fieldwork support.

As my research was based on in-depth ethnographic fieldwork, none of what I have written would have been possible without the generosity of those who so kindly gave of their time, befriended me, and invited me into their homes, particularly the Friends of Syria organization and the people of Öreby. To respect our agreement of anonymity and confidentiality, I have used pseudonyms throughout this work; however, I am grateful for everything that they did for me.

Of the many colleagues and companions who have supported me throughout this project, I especially thank Monique Jo Beerli, Hanna Ketola, Bruno Magalhães, Isabel Rocha de Siqueira, and Renata Summa for setting the bar so high on what it means to be a friend.

My sincere thanks to everyone who kindly offered comments on and critiques of various parts or drafts of the book – most notably
Claudia Aradau, Tugba Basaran, Peter Busch, Victor Coutinho Lage, Nicholas de Genova, Elspeth Guild, Peo Hansen, Jef Huysmans, Vivienne Jabri, Akta Kaushal, Ulrike Krause, Sankaran Krishna, Mariella Pandolfi, Ben Rampton, Jennifer Riggan, and Nisha Shah, as well as the three anonymous peer reviewers. Their suggestions helped focus and improve the project immensely.

To the team at McGill-Queens University Press, particularly Richard Baggaley and Eleanor Gasparik, thank you for your patience, encouragement, and attention to detail during the production process. Working with MQUP has been a pleasure from start to finish.

I am extremely grateful to Susan and Lasse Carlsson, the centre of my life in Sweden, not only for opening up their home to me during my time there but also for being research assistants extraordinaire. It is no understatement to say that this project would not have gotten off the ground without their dedication. I am profoundly indebted to my wonderful parents who, with boundless love and tolerance, have always encouraged me. My gratitude also to my sister Fi, for the music, the laughs, and the pep talks.

Special thanks, however, are reserved for Peter Carlsson and Svea McCluskey. I remain most inspired and sustained by their love and their energy. This book is dedicated to them.