Acknowledgments

The process of researching and writing this book has been unlike any other academic project I have undertaken. What I have learned from my engagements with the people involved has not only produced the scholarly insights that I try to relay in the pages that follow but also fundamentally transformed and enriched my own life and understanding of the world we share. This book is the product of an expansive collaborative effort involving hundreds of individuals and groups scattered across multiple cities, countries, and institutions. It is impossible to thank them enough.

My thanks, first to all, to those in various parts of the international education industry who lent their support at different stages to facilitating the primary research, including Bo Bonifacio, Joanna Buckingham, Denise Bush, Pinky Cai, Sunny Chen, Diana Crvenkovic, Melanie Duncan, Dressie Fan, Noah Feng, Chris Fyfe, Danielle Hartridge, Kang Tianfeng, James Kerley, Simon Kwok, Gary Lee, Li Yanhong, Nian Liu, Rosaline Luo, John Qiu, Lisa Renkin, Clare Shen, Andrew Shi, Liz Stinson, Cathy Su, James Sun, Jacqueline Taylor, Justin Tighe, Ben Waymire, Xu Cheng, Sherry Xu, George Yue, Venice Yun, O. J. Zhang, and Janet Zhuang. Thanks also to those who generously read and offered invaluable feedback on earlier drafts of parts of the book, especially Wanning Sun, Chris Healy, Anita Harris, Shanthi Robertson, Dallas Rogers, and the anonymous readers at Duke University Press. My thanks, too, to the many other colleagues and friends who offered various kinds of support and assistance along the way: Jon Chew, Jamie Coates, Helen Forbes-Mewett, Koji Iwabuchi, Ka Weibo, Michael Cheng Liu, Lu Ye, Simon Marginson, Simone Meng, Jinghua, Juni, Greg Noble, Louise Olliff, Nikos Papastergiadis, Nick Parissis, Jessica Walton, Sun Wei, Meng Xu, Fan Yang, Jamie J. Zhao, and Andy Xinyu Zhao. Without the contributions of the project research assistants, this book would never have been written. Heartfelt thanks to Zheng Yue in Shanghai and to Juliet Wen Zhou, Yuxing Zhou, Carman Fung, and especially my project collaborator, Can Qin, in Melbourne. Special thanks, too, to Wang Xiaoming and Luo Xiaoming, who hosted the China-based research at the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies at Shanghai University.
Most of all, thanks to all of the participants in the fieldwork study. Words cannot express my gratitude for their generosity and grace in sharing their lives with me over these years. The opportunity to know them has changed me, just as this book shows that studying in my hometown changed the students.

I acknowledge the financial support of both the University of Melbourne and the Australian Research Council, which funded the project under its Future Fellowships scheme (FT140100222). It is rare for a researcher to be afforded the resources to dedicate herself full-time for several years to a single research project, and I am grateful to the Australian Research Council for that opportunity and hope that such schemes will continue to offer researchers assistance to undertake important research into the future.

Thanks to Ken Wissoker at Duke University Press for his unflagging enthusiasm and support for this project and to Ryan Kendall, Ellen Goldlust, and Liz Smith for all of their help during the production process.

Finally, my thanks to my immediate family—Peter, Tom, and Mum and Dad—for the love and support (emotional, musical, and comestible) they have lavished on me over the course of the geographic and intellectual journeys that have resulted in this book.