

Preface

The present volume has its origins in a colloquium that took place on the occasion of the awarding of the Bielefeld Scientific Award 2016 to Pierre Rosanvallon at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research, Bielefeld. As the papers from this conference and the intense debates with the author that followed during the colloquium proved once again, Rosanvallon situates his research beyond the usual distinctions between scientific disciplines. His reflections on urgent political challenges like the consequences of inequality on the conditions of democratic self-government or recent tendencies within western democracy to transfer decision-making authority from parliaments to governments draw upon and contribute to a wide variety of disciplines including political science, history, sociology, economics as well as philosophy and the humanities.

The colloquium assembled a group of experts in modern political thought, having already widely published in the field and being particularly interested in Rosanvallon, it gave birth to the idea of publishing such a volume. And because the *genius loci* of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research underpinned once more the interdisciplinary character of Rosanvallon's political thought, it quickly became clear that the volume had to highlight this important dimension present throughout Rosanvallon's writings. We would like to thank the participants of the colloquium who have contributed to this book and those who have contributed chapters to its final version. We would like to extend our thanks to Pierre Rosanvallon for publishing the lecture he gave in the context of the Bielefeld science award to this volume. Finally, we are very grateful to the rectorate of Bielefeld University for the financial and organizational support which made this publication possible. We also thank the Center for Interdisciplinary Research at Bielefeld for hosting the colloquium in honor of Pierre Rosanvallon in November 2016.

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