In this work, positionality matters: I am a settler Canadian, and my family home is in the overlapping territories of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples. The benefits that I and my family have experienced or accrued have come at the cost of the safety, freedom, and well-being of Indigenous peoples. I also lived in the territories of the Coast Salish people during my studies, and parts of this book were written in all of these territories as well as in the city of Leicester, England. Although I have lived in England for most of the past decade, I have continued to benefit from the settler colonization of Turtle Island in many ways. Taking the settler out of the settler colonial nation-state does not end the obligation to pursue justice and decolonization.

It is my hope that this book supports making positive change in the places on Turtle Island that I have called home. However, the real work being done by Indigenous communities is far more important. From Idle No More to NoDAPL, Shut Down Canada, and 1492 Land Back Lane, it has never been more obvious that Indigenous peoples’ movements are strong, vibrant, and increasingly successful. Black Lives Matter and movements for racial justice are continuing to force change in ways that no academic ever can; as I write, the United States of America is in well-earned and heroic upheaval over the police murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and a staggeringly long list of others. More and more brave folks are putting their lives on the line to fight institutional and systemic injustices. I hope that this book contributes
to understanding and action to bring about fundamental change in North America. In my analysis and ideas, but particularly by making my failures a key part of this project, the book forms the next step in my attempts to help settler people like me catch up to the incredible work being done by those directly confronting colonialism and racism while honouring our obligations to work out some aspects of our decolonial practice.

I have benefited from the support, mentorship, and constructive critique of incredible academic mentors who have guided me on my path. For this project, I particularly want to thank Professors Gavin Brown and Jenny Pickerill. Jenny and Gavin have been models of compassion, relationship building, and networking while showing me how to funnel righteous anger into both scholarship and activism. I extend my sincere thanks as well to my postdoctoral supervisor with the Carceral Archipelago project, Professor Clare Anderson, whose intellectual and practical advice opened up exciting new areas of research, and to Professors Peter Kraftl and Jason Dittmer for their strong collegial support. I remain forever indebted to the scholars and activists who shaped my thinking over the past decade, including Danielle B, Liz Carlson, Jeff Denis, Adam Gaudry, Damien Lee, Adam Lewis, Eva Mackey, “Roots” Ogilvie, Dan Rück, Claire Shamier, Audra Tallifer, Lorenzo Veracini, Sakej Ward, Vanessa Watts, Bonnie Whitlow, and so many others. I want to specifically thank Margaret August, the Coast Salish artist whose piece *Homelessness* is on the cover of this book, for their friendship and support over many years. In remembrance, I also offer special thanks to David Dennis and Trish Rosborough, two friends and leaders who played significant roles in my personal and scholarly growth. Both Dave and Trish left this world too soon, and I am among the many who will treasure the transformative teachings, experiences, and laughter that they so generously shared.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the hard work, encouragement, and patience of the editors at UBC Press, especially Emily Andrew (now with Cornell University Press) who helped get the first submission off the ground, and Darcy Cullen who saw the final versions home. As well, production editor Ann Macklem has been a sharp and positive presence through the final stages of preparation. I would also sincerely like to thank the expert, engaged, and constructive anonymous reviewers who significantly improved this work.

I am deeply grateful to my parents, Joe and Kathy, and to my parents-in-law, Melanie, Robert, and Mary, whose loving support has made all the difference in my ability to pursue this work. Early in the writing of this book,
my first nephew, Charlie, was born to my brother and sister-in-law, Chris and Deanne, whose family has grown alongside its emergence, and Charlie is now big brother to Weston and Harry; I’m a very lucky uncle. My heartfelt thanks go to my Leicester family – Jo, Tim, Ben, Harry, and Milly; Kevin, Jody, William, and Olivia; Lorna and Alex; Jo and Mandy; Tine; Lou and Jane; and Adam – for their unending love, dog joy and support, cooking, and adventures. The incomparable Neil Connolly, my partner in no crime whatsoever, has kept me (somewhat) sane, which is no small feat; thank you.

My dear partner, spouse, and friend, Dr. Emma Battell Lowman, inspires me every day with her brilliance, heart, meticulous strategies and flashes of creativity, and profound vision for who and what we can be. The strength of our relationship and ability to work together fuels the passion that keeps me striving to do and be better.

During the decade of work on this project, Xena, a gorgeous ginger coloured rescue mutt who came home to us in early 2010, was my closest friend and companion. Through two transatlantic moves and a half-dozen different jobs, triumphs, and successes along with bottomless depression and myriad disappointments, she was with me every step. Most of this book was written with her at my side, and my writing breaks consisted of taking her to the park or the woods for the joy of watching her run. She was the most loving, calming, encouraging presence anyone could wish for while working on such a long and difficult project. Shortly after I completed the final revisions of this book, Xena was taken by cancer, and I miss her every day. Her successor, Gabrielle, may not have yet achieved Xena’s grasp of colonialism and social theory, but has otherwise taken over admirably.