ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My first thanks go to all the lockdown diarists cited and not cited in this book. Among the cited diarists, Chu Ma, Guo Jing 郭晶, Li Xiaoyan 李晓燕, Second Uncle 二叔, Tao Tao 桃桃, Wu Shangzhe 吴尚哲 (known online as Ah-Nian 阿念), Xuan Yue 炫悦, and Ye Qing 叶青 responded to my queries about their diaries. Many other diarists could not be reached and are referred to by pseudonyms. Their lockdown diaries were not only the most valuable life documents for this study but also sources of strength for my own year-long stay-at-home life in Philadelphia.

Several friends who are residents in Wuhan provided valuable help as I did my research and wrote: Dr. Wu Shiwen 吴世文 and Dr. Wang Qiong 王琼 of Wuhan University and Dr. Gu Yu 谷羽 of Hubei University.

Professor Gail Hershatter and Professor Elizabeth J. Perry read the entire manuscript and offered insightful and encouraging comments for revision. I am extremely grateful to them for their longtime mentorship and support and for being such radiant models of scholar-teachers. I am indebted to two anonymous reviewers for their detailed and thoughtful comments, which helped me improve the manuscript.

I also thank Ruoyun Bai, Thomas Chen, Bingchun Meng, Elaine Yuan, and Mengyang Zhao for sharing their thoughts and feedback on parts of the manuscript.
Preliminary ideas in parts of this book were presented at a virtual talk at Zhejiang University at the invitation of Professor Wu Fei 吴飞, at a virtual roundtable discussion organized by Professor Jack Qiu of the National University of Singapore, and at a symposium organized by Professor Zhongdang Pan of the University of Wisconsin at Madison and Professor Wei Lu 韦路 of Zhejiang University. I am grateful to them for their longtime support and friendship.

Other friends and colleagues in China who provided help and support in one way or another are Cai Xiongshan 蔡雄山, Chen Jingxi 陈静茜, Lei Weizhen 雷蔚真, Li Kun 李堃, Pan Ji 潘霁, Shi Anbin 史安斌, Shi Zengzhi 师曾志, Wang Zhe 王喆, Wu Xinwei 吴欣慰, Xu Jinghong 徐敬宏, Yan Wei 闫薇, Clara Chuan Yu, Zhang Junfang 张军芳, Zhao Yunze 赵云泽, Zhou Baohua 周葆华, Zhou Kui 周逵, and Zou Jun 邹军.

Scholars at the Social Science Research Council, especially Michael Miller, Alondra Nelson, and Jason Rhody, invited me to contribute an essay to its Mediated Crisis series and gave me an opportunity to write about lockdown diaries in Wuhan.

At the University of Pennsylvania, colleagues in the Annenberg School, the Department of Sociology, the Center for the Study of Contemporary China, Penn Global, and Perry World House have been supportive of my work in more ways than I can mention here. I especially thank Dean John Jackson at the Annenberg School, Dean Steven Fluharty of the School of Arts and Sciences, and Associate Dean Emily Hannum of the School of Arts and Sciences for their unwavering support. For intellectual, professional, and moral support, I am grateful to Rosemary Clark-Parsons, Jacques deLisle, Irmo Elo, Jasmine Erdener, Elisabetta Ferrari, Amy Gadsden, Avery Goldstein, Yue Hou, Klaus Krippendorf, Annette Lareau, Neysun Mahboubi, Scott Moore, Emilio Parrado, Monroe Price, Joseph Turow, Barbie Zelizer, and Tukufu Zuberi. In tracking down references, Sharon Black and Min Zhong at the Library of the Annenberg School provided help in the most timely fashion. I am indebted to all the superb staff at the Annenberg School for their help and support but especially to Richard Cardona, Margie Chavez, Elizabeth Cooper, Alison Feather, Altagracia Felix, Kelly Fernandez, Emma Fleming, Marley Goldschmidt, Rose Halligan, Patricia Lindner, Joanne Murray, Deborah Porter, Julie Sloane, Andres Spillari, and Ashton Yount.
My research and writing benefited from conversations with many PhD students at the University of Pennsylvania, especially students in my two doctoral seminars in the 2020–2021 academic year, The Performance Society and Qualitative Ways of Knowing. Special thanks are owed to Pris Stephanie Nasrat for introducing me to the literature on critical aunty studies and to Haolin (Angela) Deng, Victoria Zhang, and Kyle (K. C.) Legacion for their valuable research assistance.

I thank Clare Foster and Ruichen Zhang for inviting me to contribute an article, “Online Lockdown Diaries as Endurance Art,” to their guest-edited special issue of AI & Society (https://doi.org/10.1007/s00146-020-01141-5), which gave me the opportunity to explore the meaning of endurance in lockdown diaries. Parts of the article are incorporated into chapter 4 in this book. I am most grateful to Gan Junchao 甘俊超 for permission to use his photograph on the book cover.

I am honored to publish a third book with Columbia University Press. Colleagues there, especially Jennifer Crewe, associate provost and director of the press, have long supported my work. I am deeply indebted to Eric Schwartz and Lowell Frye, who showed enthusiasm for this project early on and shepherded it through the review and publication processes with great skill and good humor. I am most grateful to my copyeditor Annie Barva for her superb editing of the manuscript and to my supervising editor Michael Haskell for helping to keep the production on schedule. Lisa Hamm was most helpful on matters of design and art used in this book.

I alone am responsible for any flaws this book may have.

I owe my deepest gratitude to my families in China and Philadelphia. My parents, siblings, and in-laws in China are exemplars in managing the hardships of the COVID pandemic. They are my heroes. My brother, Xinbin, always a sharp observer of China’s media scene, queried me often as I worked on this manuscript. My wife, Lan, has always been the strongest supporter of all my writing projects, but I owe her even more than ever for her love, care, and sacrifice as I worked on this book. She felt more acutely than I the extreme stress of the pandemic—when we were unable to go out as we used to, I could at least devote my time to writing. We were lucky that our son, Jeff, was around much of the time, on the phone when not in person. His good humor brightened our days.