Languages of Community is the product of a rather long journey, a project that has commanded much of my time and energy for more than a decade. This study of the Jewish experience in the Czech lands over the last two and a half centuries is built upon essays that were produced at different points in time, all of which have been significantly revised and reshaped to provide if not a unified narrative of Czech Jewish life and expression, at least a sustained and cumulative engagement with what I understand to be its central themes. In a project of such duration one accumulates many debts, intellectual and otherwise, which I am happy to acknowledge. I would like to begin by thanking the libraries and archives in Europe, Israel, and the United States that made available to me their valuable collections. In Prague: the National Library (Národní knihovna v Praze), the library of the National Museum (Knihovna národního muzea), the Jewish Museum (Židovské muzeum v Praze), the Central State Archive (Státní ústřední archiv), and the State Regional Archive (Státní oblastní archiv). In Jerusalem: the Jewish National and University Library, the Central Zionist Archives, and the Central Archive for the History of the Jewish People. In the United States: the libraries of the University of Washington, Harvard University, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Columbia University, Brandeis University, Stanford University, and Washington University in St. Louis.

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