Preface

The origins of *Spacing Ireland: Place, Society and Culture in a Post-Boom Era* lie in the sharp realisation that following the economic crash in 2008, Irish society had reached a major juncture in its development and that somewhere in the vibrant and critical work produced by geographers lay an opportunity to gather together new research to interpret this transition and make sense of Ireland's place in a more turbulent world. In taking up this challenge, we thank the collection's contributors for their unique insights and crisp, perceptive essays, which 'map' Ireland in novel ways. These essays, we hope, will engage and interest readers who are searching for new voices to interpret the rise and fall of the Celtic Tiger. Moreover, the advice of our contributors, their cooperation and their geniality throughout the publication process is gratefully acknowledged.

A number of colleagues have enhanced the contributions made by the authors. Our thanks in particular go to the cartographers Michael Murphy and Noel Cashman at University College Cork, for refining and improving the maps in the book. We also extend our thanks to the artist Brian McCarthy for his generous offer to reproduce his paintings from his collection 'Boomtown'. Likewise, for permission to reproduce photography, we are grateful to Derek Speirs, Irene Stevenson at *The Irish Times*, Liam Griffin at the Griffin Group and Susan Henry at *National Geographic* magazine. For support with some of the costs associated with the graphics in the book, we express our thanks to the College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences at University College Cork.

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Caroline Crowley and Denis Linehan