Acknowledgements

This project has been a long time in the making, and during this period I acquired many intellectual debts to a great number of people. The roots of this project lay in the research which I conducted for the University of Melbourne. Therefore, I would like to extend my gratitude to Dr Julie Fedor for her support, patience and encouragement throughout the course of the project. I would also like to thank Professor Sean Scalmer for his continual faith in me and words of encouragement. While working on my book manuscript and proposal, I received immense support from Professor Dan Healey. He not only advised me on the location of some of the sources for my research but also was kind enough to read my whole manuscript and book proposal, offering detailed comments and encouraging me to be more ambitious with my arguments and academic pursuits. I would also like to thank Professor Deborah A. Field, who also gave me extensive comments on the book manuscript.

I am immensely grateful to the people who agreed to consider my work for publication in the volumes and journals they edited, as well as providing useful feedback on my work – Professors Melanie Ilić, Harriet Murav and Richard Mole. I am also grateful to the anonymous reviewers of *Slavic Review*, who offered incisive comments and assisted greatly in improving one of my articles which formed part of this book. I am also grateful to writers like Masha Gessen and Professor Dennis Altman for taking their time in their busy schedules to discuss my project.

Obtaining sources for this project was an arduous task, and I am grateful to the many scholars who answered my queries on possible archives to consult and people to interview. Among these scholars, I want to mention Professors Ben de Jong and Laurie Essig, as well
Acknowledgements

as Kateřina Lišková and Ineta Lipša. I am also grateful to the sexologists of the Moscow Research Institute of Psychiatry and especially Yan Genrikhovich Goland, a psychiatrist from the city of Nizhnii Novgorod, for sharing materials and documents from his collection. Whatever the differences I have with these doctors about the question of whether homosexuality is a disease or not, I realise that, without their aid, some chapters of this book would never have come into existence. I am also indebted to Russian, Ukrainian, Lithuanian and Estonian archivists for their immense help and guidance.

I am grateful to my friends and colleagues who offered their help and words of encouragement while I was writing this book. Among them are Samuel Gomes, Adam Elm and Mia Shouha. A special thanks to Peter McKerrow, who helped me fathom the differences between Russian and English legal terms and definitions; Konstantin Fillipenok and Anton Shubin, who tirelessly went to the libraries and archives to find the relevant materials for the book; and Megan Ivory, who helped me with the final changes.

Finally, I am indebted to my friend Rhett Miller, who on a rainy autumn day of 2013 in Moscow Propaganda Café pitched me what at the time seemed to me a crazy idea to live in Australia and do research on Russian homophobia. Without his initial encouragement, my life in this beautiful country, as well as the research and subsequent book, would never have come into being. This book is, therefore, my modest expression of gratitude to him.

Melbourne, 2020