There are countless people who have supported me in different ways on this journey. Their encouragement and constancy have added significantly to completion of this book. At many times it has felt more like a collaboration than a sole venture, which has enriched the process and filled it with a sense of connection.

I could start with any number of people, but will begin with Heidi Mirza whose conversation is always stimulating and fills me with so many ideas, possibilities, and delight. Her accompaniment into uncharted territory always feels uplifting and explorative and leaves me with a sense of growth and possibility. But there is also deep guidance and reassurance and focus that arises for which I am so grateful.

For her engaging dialogue and shared interest, Jaime Kucinskas reminds me just by virtue of her nature to adopt a wide-open perspective to this work that can feel very focused and intense. I have so much appreciation for her deep interest in my writing and her enthusiasm for the different perspective I bring. This connection is enriching and has helped me value my work and think more deeply about it.

I am grateful to Stephen Stanley for his early read, comments, and enthusiasm for my project that buoyed me at times when the content has felt isolating. I also thank those who read very early drafts of my writing: Ulrich Pagel and Sian Hawthorne provided helpful insight when I was first forming ideas and spurred me on as I started this journey. Jo Gillibrand willingly gave time to help me shape initial ideas, as did Masato Kato, Thando Njovane, and many others who dipped into different aspects of my work and boosted my vision. Dima Chami always offered stimulating engagement and
connection, as have Juliette Liebi, Meera Patel, Gillian Marcelle, Shireen Badat, Rachel Lilley, Bernadette Carelse, Pauline Gibbs, Byron Lee, Barbara Reid, Aesha Frances, Dean Frances, Tracey Cramond, and Tarik Dervish.

I am also thankful to many colleagues for their time and willingness to enter challenging conversations that diversity and decolonisation raise. Despite the discomfort the topic can bring, they remained faithful to a commitment to change. The office staff at various organisations who fielded my questions, I realise, remain nameless, but I am most grateful for their quiet facilitation and the time taken to deliver and verify information. This provided a tremendous steer and helped me navigate the field.

Gratitude to my editors at Manchester University Press, Tom Dark, Laura Swift, and Emma Brennan, for clear guidance and patience as I produced this book. They made the journey a pleasure. My gratitude also to the reader/s at Manchester University Press of the initial proposal, and any external readers whose supportive feedback helped guide my writing and improved the final piece.

Deep appreciation to my circle of friends and family who’ve shown interest in my work, checked in on me regularly, and taken time to acquaint themselves with my field. My wonderful South African roots have been nourished through rich collaborations with Lucille Meyer and Shafika Isaacs. Our collective political, practical thought and work is always inspirational and bridges many worlds of ethics and transformation, filling me with a sense of possibility and imagination.

My spirit is always nurtured by Lama Rod, whose felt presence elevates my being and reminds me to consciously cultivate joy, gratitude, and tenderness.

I am ever grateful to my amazing family. Thank you for your love, devotion, and backing. Charli, thank you for your careful reading and encouragement and your ever helpful feedback. B, the many conversations continue to stimulate and set me in new directions. Joseph, you are my muse, thank you for the many laughs, the wonderful company, and Motown Wednesdays, all of which have kept me on form. Lynne and Mark, thank you for all your care and amity. Finally, Ché and Ruth, I am constantly inspired by you. You continue to amaze me and grow my heart and I am unceasingly grateful for the relationship you share with one another. You bring me infinite joy.