Acknowledgements

The anxiety of sameness in early modern Spain marks the culmination of about ten years of research. It sprang out of a different book project, which had attempted to examine Cervantes's exceptional treatment of the dominant religio-cultural practices of his time. It dawned upon me a couple of years into the project that I was spending as much time analysing the fascinating language and tropes that appeared in so-called historical accounts as I was the literary texts. It was at that point that I gathered the courage to write the book I was implicitly developing, that is, a broader study about the early modern Spanish obsession with genealogical purity.

This book would not have materialised had it not been for the scholarly support I received during this long journey from friends, family, and fellow Hispanists. Ignacio Navarrete played a key role when he introduced me to Cervantes's *Don Quixote* when I was an undergraduate at Berkeley. I am indebted to Alban Forcione, my doctoral adviser at Princeton, for more generally guiding me through the fascinating masterworks of the Spanish Golden Age, and for convincing me early in my career that I too could be an early modernist. I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have Marina Brownlee and Ronald Surtz as my senior colleagues at Princeton. I am grateful to Marina for being a great source of encouragement during some of the most laborious moments of writing this book. I owe Ron for advising me to come back to Princeton as a faculty member and for mentoring me since my return in 2007. I am especially beholden to him for the endless hours of stimulating conversations and laughter, and for his critical assessment of this book in its earlier and less appealing variants. Ron, I cannot thank you enough *por decirme las cosas sin pelos en la lengua*.

I would also like to thank the many scholars who made helpful comments on the parts of this book that I presented at meetings of the Renaissance Society of America, the Sixteenth Century Society, the Cervantes Society of America, the Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies, the

Modern Languages Association, and the Renaissance and Early Modern Studies programme at Princeton University. I am indebted to the office of the Dean of the Faculty for facilitating travel and access to research materials through a number of grants, and to our outstanding library and its head, Karin Trainer, for the amazing resources and services they have provided.

I am grateful to the editorial staff at Manchester University Press, who could not have been more helpful and professional during every step of the process of turning my manuscript into a book. I would also like to thank the two anonymous peer-reviewers who carefully read my manuscript and whose excellent feedback has made this book better.

There is a proverb that says that it takes a village to raise a child. The same may be said about bringing a book to light. I am forever grateful to my 'village' friends in Princeton: Karen Hong, Francois Gaudet, Joann and Jarett Messina, Nelly Alvarado and – especially – to Pei Hsiang, my children's Ya-ya. Thank you for your confidence in my work, your encouragement, and for babysitting and hosting more play dates and sleepovers than was fair. To my Umma, thank you for being such an exemplary model of resilience.

Growing up in Buenos Aires in the 1970s and 1980s with my grandfather, Kyo-Bum Lee, provided me with the foundational tools that have defined my academic interests. I only wish he were alive today to see this book in print. I am grateful to him for imbuing me with a love of reading and with a desire to understand the richness and complexities of all cultures, without prejudice. His aspirations for a professorship in History were cut short by the Second World War and the Korean War, yet he persevered in his intellectual pursuit in exile and amidst the difficulties of living under dictatorial regimes, first in South Korea and then in Argentina. To him I owe him the gifts of inquisitiveness and perspectivism.

I dedicate this book to David, my best friend and feminist partner, who never once questioned my decisions to sometimes suddenly go to Spain for research, or my absences during vacations and family gatherings; and who bore the heavier load on too many weekends so that I could have uninterrupted time to think and write. Thank you, David, for walking next to me throughout my journey in birthing this book.