Preface and acknowledgements

A series of comparative academic studies provided the bulk of the raw material for this volume. We thoroughly acknowledge the researchers of these studies, who are listed on the title page. The correspondence between their work and the chapters that follow is not exact, and throughout the text draws on additional sources too. But it is worth acknowledging that Chapter 2 draws particularly heavily on work by Mary Waters; Chapter 3 on work by Ceri Peach; Chapter 4 on work by Yaojun Li; Chapter 5 on work by Edward Fieldhouse and David Cutts; Chapter 6 on the work of Daniel Hopkins; and Chapter 7 on work by Rob Ford. As well as providing our raw material, all these researchers have been generous with their time in responding to our queries throughout the production of this book. Further information on how to access their underlying research is given in the introduction.

The research under-pinning this book is a product of the five-year, £5 million collaboration between the University of Manchester and Harvard, headed by Professor Robert D. Putnam, known as *Social Change: A Harvard-Manchester Initiative* (SCHMI). *The age of Obama* is the first in a series of books examining different aspects of major contemporary social changes, which will include US-UK comparative studies of religion, inequality, and the social impact of changes to the way we work. SCHMI is based at the Institute for Social Change at the University of Manchester, directed by Professor Edward Fieldhouse (www.manchester.ac.uk/socialchange).

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