Foreword

This book introduces international bureaucracy as a key field of study for public administration and also rediscovers international bureaucracy as an essential ingredient in the study of international organisations. The questions posed by this book are to what extent, how and why international bureaucracies challenge and supplement the inherent Westphalian intergovernmental order based on territorial sovereignty. To what extent, how and why do international bureaucracies supplement the existing international intergovernmental order with a *multidimensional* international order subjugated by a compound set of decision-making dynamics? The ambition of this book is to rediscover international bureaucracies as a key engine of international organisations in particular, and as one important component of modern public administration more generally. The book explores the compound nature of international bureaucracy by comparing three such institutions: the European Commission, the OECD Secretariat, and the WTO Secretariat.

This book is the result of six years of co-operation between the authors. The project was launched in 2003 with the idea that international bureaucracy should be given more systematic scholarly attention and with a wish to compare everyday life inside international bureaucracies. The project was titled 'DISC – Dynamics of International Secretariats'. The initiative to compare international bureaucracies was partly triggered by claims in the literature of the *sui generis* nature of the European Commission compared to other international bureaucracies. This claim, we believed, was often put forward without systematically comparing the European Commission with other international bureaucracies, and thus, it was more often claimed than tested. Prior studies of the OECD and the WTO also indicated that the *sui generis* claims of the Commission should be challenged, substantiated and partly modified. This book adds to the comparative literature on international organisation particularly and to the wider field of public administration with fresh and original empirical observations from the life inside international bureaucracies.

During the 2003–9 period the research group has met several times in Brussels, Copenhagen, Kristiansand and Oslo to discuss and write. We have benefited extensively from the excellent infrastructure provided by the Larsson family in Brussels, by Martin Marcussen in Copenhagen, by Jarle Trondal in Kristiansand, and by ARENA in Oslo (the Centre for European Studies, University of Oslo). The process of writing this book has been firmly co-ordinated among the authors. All the authors have written in every chapter and the book is thus truly multi-authored. The need to ease the burden on each author, however, means that some authors have had the main responsibility of certain chapters. In order to make the book as coherent as possible and also in order to make the arguments as solid as achievable, all chapters have been internally reviewed by all authors through the whole writing process. Among the most enduring discussions in the research group has been how to operationalise different decision-making dynamics within international bureaucracies and also how to disentangle them. The second continuing theme of discussion during the project period has been how to theoretically account for what we see. How do we best theoretically anchor the compound dynamics within international bureaucracies?

The project has been supported over the years by financial allowances from the Joint Committee of the Nordic Social Science Research Councils, from the Norwegian Research Council, and from ARENA. Thanks should also be given to the CONNEX network (Connecting Excellence on European Governance) for providing opportunities to present and discuss earlier versions of the book at several conferences and workshops. Different sections of the book have been presented at several CONNEX conferences, the Norwegian Political Science Association, the European Consortium for Political Research and the European Union Studies Association. We have benefited greatly from discussions with Michael Bauer, Morten Egeberg, Hussein Kassim, Morten Øgård, Anchrit Wille and two anonymous referees who provided valuable comments on several draft versions of this book. We are also indebted to Simon Bulmer for thorough comments on the very last draft of the manuscript. During the production of the book the editorial team at Manchester University Press has been most helpful. Without their support and backing we would not have been able to finalise this manuscript. The authors would also like to thank Hege Haugland, Lene Jeppesen, Zuzana Murdoc and Anders Siegmundfelt for much-needed research assistance, and Melinda Hill for improving our language. Last but not least, we are most grateful to those officials at the European Commission, the OECD Secretariat, and the WTO Secretariat who gave of their scarce time to this project.

Jarle Trondal, Martin Marcussen, Torbjörn Larsson and Frode Veggeland
Kristiansand, Copenhagen, Brussels and Oslo