

Preface

It is ironic that the focus of this book is time, given how long the collection has been in development, as our long-suffering contributors know only too well. Its origins lie in an extended series of conversations over many years stimulated initially by a network of researchers whose focus was principally on Europe's eastern borders but which also included scholars with a conceptual and theoretical emphasis. EastBordNet, as the network was known, was richly stimulating and productive and, under the leadership of Sarah Green, then at the University of Manchester and now at the University of Helsinki, secured EU funding (COST Action IS0803) for 'Remaking eastern borders in Europe: a network exploring social, moral and material relocations of Europe's eastern peripheries', which enabled EastBordNet researchers to take their work further. Three years of intense and frequent workshops and two international conferences followed, for which we gratefully acknowledge this EU support. It was from this concentrated and sustained engagement that a series of themes emerged, of which the focus of this volume on border temporalities is one.

Given this long period of gestation, it will be no surprise that many colleagues have contributed along the way. Sarah Green is clearly foremost amongst them and we wish to thank her for her enormous energy, insight and leadership not only in driving the programme forward from the outset but in negotiating a book series with Manchester University Press to ensure its legacy. To our contributors we record our heartfelt thanks both for their inspiring contributions and for their faith that the team of apparently leisurely editors would ultimately deliver. And to our many EastBordNet and COST network friends and colleagues we offer our thanks for stimulating suggestions and critique as well as for their warmth, passionate scholarship and camaraderie. We are especially grateful to Emilio Cocco for his help in shaping the focus of this volume at a very early stage. The Imre Kertész Kolleg at the University of Jena provided Carolin Leutloff-Grandits with a highly appreciated advanced study scholarship and a stimulating intellectual environment as the volume entered its final stages. Tom Dark and Rob Byron at Manchester University

Press were a pleasure to work with, always prompt and clear-headed about what was required. Juanita Bullough and Sally Phillips, copy-editor and indexer respectively, did an outstanding job. We believe our text has been substantially improved with the input from our referees and we also thank them in the hope that they too will recognise where we have benefited from their suggestions.

Finally, we should be clear that this book and its introduction are the result of equal authorship, regardless of the order in which our names appear.

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