

Acknowledgments

Tracing the ideas for this book is like reconstructing an air traffic controller's map of criss-crossing flight lines that eventually converge to land on the same runway. The first idea concerned a critique of the dominant 'strong' conceptions of identity excluding difference, and the alternative proposal of a, philosophically speaking, 'weak' conception of identity/alterity forming a dialogical pair (hence the slash in our title). This approach emerged from a Wenner Gren Conference on 'Time and Temporalities in the Anthropological Record', for which thanks are due to Sydel Silverman.

The second idea, that of distinguishing different 'grammars of identity/alterity', originated at a seminar series on 'Multiculturalism and Gender', for which thanks are due to Mary Nash and Diana Marre at the University of Barcelona. The impetus to put together the two ideas emerged at the 2001 Socrates Intensive Programme, a summer school at the University of Vienna for which we thank Thomas Fillitz. To try out this fusion of ideas, we were able to convene a panel at the Sixth EASA Conference at the University of Copenhagen, for which our thanks go to Inger Sjørølev. Thinking together with colleagues coming from very different flight paths again, there developed quite new moments of convergence as well as differentiation. The time to pull these together was given us by the Austrian Science Fund and its award of the Wittgenstein Prize to Andre Gingrich, and by the International Research Centre Cultural Sciences (IFK), Vienna, which awarded a three months' fellowship to Gerd Baumann.

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