Acknowledgements

This thesis began with an awareness of the ubiquitous nature of intellectual property rights. IPRs today form a crucial part of trading negotiations and are often present in multilateral and bilateral negotiations. They impinge upon the cultural and social spaces of individuals, communities, nations; link with issues which begin with knowledge control but critically affect issues like health, livelihood, food security etc. Few issues combine, and yet reflect the schism between the cultural, economic, political and the normative, as do intellectual property rights. It therefore meant that there were several entry points into the subject, and to find one that would add value to existing debates and dialogues was a challenge. A number of people contributed in big and small, but always important, ways to make this challenge easier than it would have been in their absence.

The process of knowledge creation is a collaborative and a shared effort. Given this nature of intellectual creations, it would be hypocritical to claim that this dissertation was the result of creativity or the ‘intellectual labour’ of the individual cited as the author. This thesis owes a lot to a number of people. Foremost I’d like to thank my supervisor, Professor Niraja Gopal Jayal for her generosity with praise and encouragement and for her patience with errors and inconsistencies in arguments and documents, whenever they arose. She has truly been a ‘friend, philosopher and guide’.

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