I have taken much, much longer than I really should have to complete this thesis. If I have been able to finally see it through, it is more a tribute to the incredible support I have received rather than because of any perseverance on my part. Every one who has 'participated' one way or another—friends, parents, brothers, colleagues, and a host of others who defy categorisation—has helped in ways over the years which have been absolutely essential. Not always have I been vocal in my expression of feelings and not always has everyone realised how important their help has been for me.

It is customary to express one's gratitude by 'naming' all those who have helped. If I do not do so it is not because I wish to be 'different'. My delays ultimately turned the thesis into something more than just a 'thesis'. And the understanding I received during my procrastination was crucial in urging me to completion. A listing of names would only dilute all the help I received.

For very long the feeling that would remain of the past years is of what is possible between people.