

Acknowledgments

I wish to humbly thank so many people in my professional and personal life for helping me in the writing of this book. First, I thank my editors, Sue McLeod and Rich Rice, as well as Mike Palmquist, all of whom have been supportive, helpful, and thoughtful colleagues. I feel blessed to have such good people working to help my book become public. I thank my wife and partner, Kelly Inoue, for all of her labors each day that allow me to sit in peace and do the labors of writing and revising. And when I needed to just talk about an idea, she has always given me her ear and time. Along with those precious gifts, Kelly has given me her trust, love, and presence, things I could not live without, and are essential ingredients in my ability to write this book.

I'm thankful to several colleagues who read earlier versions of this book, Chris Knaus from University of Washington, Tacoma, my brother in antiracist work, and Norbert Elliot, a friend, colleague, and always careful, kind reader. I extend a special thank you to Virginia (Gin) Schwartz, a Ph.D. student at the University of Wisconsin and long-time grading contract user, who read an earlier version of the book and gave me valuable and extensive, page by page, comments and ideas. She was an important part of making this book possible in its current form. Of course, I'm also, as always, thankful and grateful to my mentor, Victor Villanueva, who still helps, guides, and supports me. He is my academic father, and often I am mindful of his gifts to me, gifts of time and presence, of words of encouragement and kindness, and sometimes, just a smile and laugh. I am indebted to the two anonymous reviewers of the book, who each read thoughtfully, carefully, and compassionately, providing me with insightful and helpful suggestions, many of which I took, particularly in rethinking parts of the Introduction and the order of the last few chapters.

And lastly, I wish to thank all of my students at California State University, Fresno, and the University of Washington, Tacoma, for helping me with my labor-based grading contracts over the years. This book has been at least ten years in the making, and that labor started and ended in my classrooms, places that required open, compassionate students to help me think, labor alongside them, and do our social justice work together. My students have been, and continue to be, my main source of encouragement, inspiration, and joy. Thank you.