

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Writing this book was possible only with the willingness of the people I interviewed for it. They are too many to list individually, but include all those in the groups that advocated for safe school lunches and the leaders and volunteers at citizen radiation measuring organizations who shared their stories with me with patience and open hearts. I enjoyed working with Katano Yohei at Tottori University, who provided invaluable expertise on food systems and environmental politics in Japan. Doshisha University's Global and Regional Studies Department became my institutional home during my fieldwork, and Matsuhisa Reiko and Futamura Taro at Doshisha University and Yasutake Rumi at Konan Women's University were wonderful hosts. Hosokawa Komei at Kyoto Seika University helped me get in touch with some key informants. Hiraga Midori and Momoe Oga were extremely helpful in conducting interviews in Japan. I also thank the editor of *School Lunch Magazine*, Mochizuki Shoko, for sharing her insight in regard to school lunch programs in Japan. Everett Wingert in the Department of Geography at the University of Hawai'i graciously helped create the maps in this book. Special thanks are due also to Christine Yano, Jane Moulin, Allison Sterling Henward, Nicolas Sternsdorff-Cisterna, and a reviewer for giving me great feedback. I am especially thankful to Keiko Tanaka for numerous valuable suggestions. Courtney Berger of Duke University Press gave astute comments on many renditions of the project. Laurie Durand proofread many drafts and did meticulous editing. For a research grant, I thank the National Science Foundation's Science, Technology, and Society program. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in

this book are mine and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

In the space given to acknowledgments the writer is forgiven, I hope, for being a bit personal and self-indulgent, and I want to use it for expressing gratitude to my family. My parents—Ryoko and Masahiro Hirata—have been the best parents I could hope for, always supportive of whatever I have set out to do since childhood. I dedicate this book to them with my deepest gratitude for providing love and confidence. My sister, Miwa, whose son was still small when the accident happened, was an ardent observer and listener in the research process. I also want to thank my extended family members, particularly the Nakano clan in Kyoto, who took me and my family under their wing when we moved there for one year for the research. My parents-in-law, Keiko and Rihito Kimura, have supported my family in numerous ways, and they also connected me to important interviewees. Finally, my biggest thanks go to my partner, Ehito Kimura. With his generous heart, he has been an intellectual comrade and soul mate, encouraging me to take this journey, acting as a sounding board for ideas, and always willing to help.

My children, Isato and Emma, came to Japan with me for a year and endured my absence when I went off to different places for research. They remember that year as “when mama was on trips a lot.” But even when I was away from them, they were never far from my thoughts. They were in my mind when I interviewed mothers and fathers who wondered if what was in the pot for dinner was contaminated and about feeling guilty for not being able to take their children to a cleaner place. I could not help thinking about my own children when I listened to interviewees talking about their families, which made me feel these other parents’ pain and agony viscerally. It is for Isato and Emma—and for all children—that I wrote this book, in the hope that it will help make their future more sustainable and just.

Except for people in public offices, individuals’ names are pseudonyms. For Japanese names, I followed the Japanese convention of putting the surname first, before the given name. The quotes from interviews in Japanese and from Japanese-language publications were translated by the author unless otherwise indicated.