

Acknowledgments

This volume has been developed out of the “Postcolonial Studies and Beyond” conference held at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, April 25–28, 2002. The editors of this volume, who also organized the conference, would like to thank the many people, too numerous to be individually acknowledged, who sustained this entire venture. We are particularly grateful to Professor Jesse Delia, the Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, who offered a state-of-the-art conference grant. Peter Garrett, then director of the Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory, was quick to offer the programmatic, logistical, and financial resources of the unit, and Dennis Baron, then head of the Department of English, joined in making possible the major funding for the conference. For generous sponsorship we are also grateful to Christine Catanzarite, the associate director of the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities (whose expertise we also drew on at each stage of planning) and Masumi Iriye, the associate director of the Center for Advanced Study. Several colleagues helped prepare the intellectual grounds for this event, and we would like particularly to thank David Prochaska, Tony Ballantyne, Bill Kelleher, Martin Manalansan, Adlai Murdoch, Dara Goldman, Jean-Phillipe Mathy, Elena Delgado, Simona Sawhney, Zsuzsa Gille, William Munro, Andy Orta, Eve-Lynn Jagoe, Kwaku Korang, Alejandro Lugo, Bob Parker, Adam Sutcliffe, and Michael Rothberg. Thanks also to Rob Henn, Boatema Boateng, and Dan Vukovich at the Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory, to Cathy Harney and Christine Clark of the Department of English, and to Scott Paceley of the University of Illinois Printing Services, all of whom proved vital to the planning and smooth functioning of the conference. While we have not been able to include all the papers originally presented, we would like to thank all the participants (including several members of the audience) who contributed to the conversations and exchanges that took place at the original event and that have shaped this book in numerous ways.

Our emphasis on the future directions of postcolonial studies locates this volume within a local genealogy, that of two major conferences previously

organized at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and of the volumes they produced—*Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture* (1988) and *Cultural Studies* (1992). Cary Nelson, who had an important role to play in both of those conferences and volumes, was always available for advice as we put together our conference. Even as we took such earlier ground-clearing enterprises as models, we also recognized that, in a sense, the moment for monumental interdisciplinary intervention has passed. But this is not by any means to subscribe to premature and exaggerated accounts of the “death of theory,” nor to strike an elegiac pose toward postcolonial studies itself. Indeed, we undertook this project not so much in order to define or defend a specific intellectual territory according to its institutional origins, its decisive crises, and its ultimate destiny, but to try to locate the most exciting and fresh examples of the interdisciplinary, theoretical, and critical work currently redefining the meaning of postcolonial studies. A project like this requires the cooperation of many individuals and institutions, and we cannot list them all here; suffice it to say that the work of a great many people enabled this volume. Of them, no one was more gracious and efficient than Miriam Angress, our editor at Duke University Press. Finally, we wish to acknowledge the three anonymous readers at Duke University Press who offered valuable perspectives on the project.