

## Acknowledgments

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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.