

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Partway through the introduction to this collection, it will become clear why it was significant that I read Greg's final draft while I was cramped on the floor of a late train during a long and crowded commute. I write these words from a new home, having embarked on an experiment to disrupt some old habits and hopefully allow more time to register "the stretching."

By sheer coincidence, during the final stages of this project both Greg and I moved house on opposite sides of the world in the very same week. This is just one of the sweet synergies and sympathies we have shared over the years that I hope will continue long after this publication. It is Greg's venerable alacrity as a reader that makes me so delighted that *a book* now stands as an archive of the hope and sustenance I have gained from a defining intellectual friendship. Greg's brilliant mind, graceful words, and contagious hospitality have made this a far greater achievement than I could have imagined.

Our contributors have been more than generous in offering words, affirmation, and patience during the long gestation of this collection. We thank them for believing in us and persisting through the many stages—and hope they enjoy the result.

Two reviewers of the manuscript provided extensive and engaged feedback that helped us immensely. We thank them for their time and encouragement, knowing that the collection is stronger for their suggestions. That we have a manuscript at all is due to the brilliant editorial work of Bryan Behrenshausen, who has been a complete pleasure to work with. We also thank Ken Wissoker for his enthusiasm and advice from the very beginning, and Mandy Earley for guidance in the later stages.

This book took shape while I was living in Brisbane, Australia, working at the Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies at the University of Queensland. For their help, collegiality, and energy I would like to thank Andrea Mitchell, Rebecca Ralph, Angela Mason, Maureen McGrath, John and Lisa Gunders, Kitty van Vuuren, Adrian Mabbott Athique, Melissa Bellanta, Anita Harris, Jinna Tay, Anna Pertierra, Mark Andrejevic, and Zala Volcic. For supporting this idea and so many others, I give sincere thanks to Graeme Turner. And for making Brisbane home, especially given that it wasn't ours to begin with, my thanks go to Rachel O'Reilly, Zala Volcic, Nadia Mizner, Michelle Dicoski, and Heather Stewart.

Elspeth Probyn is the main reason I became interested in affect, and it is her remarkable ability to *enthuse* that allowed me to write these words and many more for a living. I am forever grateful. For showing me how to think and write bravely, I also thank Eve Sedgwick, Katie Stewart, Lauren Berlant, Ros Gill, Sara Ahmed, Genevieve Bell, Meaghan Morris, and Catherine Driscoll.

Finally, my deepest thanks go to Jason Wilson, who has taught me the most important lesson about affect: follow your heart.

Melissa Gregg

A register of speeds and slownesses, relations of motion and rest: this is what Deleuze said of Spinoza's philosophy with its special attention to a body's affects. A book is also, as it turns out, very much all about motion and rest, speed and slowness. From start to finish, Melissa has truly been a force of nature, a great gust of wind, and never once flagged through the duration of this project. I have just tried to keep up with her pace, her eminently practical and affective voice, her generosity of spirit. Across longitudes and latitudes, we found a rhythm (several actually) and a mutual capacity for the modes of composition that go into making a book, a book of affect and affects. Or that remains our hope.

And “hope” is in the air as I write these words. While Melissa composed her acknowledgments in the cramped space of a late-night train from Sydney, I write mine within another kind of cramped space, another kind of long, dark train—it is the end of eight years of the Bush-Cheney administration here in the United States. At this very moment, we are on the eve (literally, tomorrow) of the inauguration of Barack Obama. It is difficult to register this change as a shuttling of mere incremental affective intensities. After eight years that have only felt more and more closed, the potential for a world, *this* world, to be otherwise—to open elsewhere, anywhere—is palpable. So much, too much. Promise. We do not yet know. But there is a collective hope, and that’s a start—an affective/affectionate start.

This book, for me, began over twenty-five years ago in Clarion, Pennsylvania, when Stan Denski mailed to me an essay by Lawrence Grossberg. In the years since, I have been fortunate to be able to count Stan and Larry as among my dearest friends. It would be impossible for me to sum up what Larry Grossberg’s ongoing work has meant to me (I can only keep on writing as small recompense). Likewise, I am tremendously indebted to the inspired work of, as well as my correspondences with, Meaghan Morris, Brian Masumi, Karen Ocana, Gil Rodman, Greg Wise, Ben Anderson, Michael Gardiner, Ben Highmore, Charley Stivale, and Nigel Thrift. Thanks also go to my home institution of Millersville University, where I have been supported while being left free to follow wherever, whatever I desire: in my research and in the classroom. A special shout-out goes to my Lancaster-York best pal Mike Jarrett, both a remarkable sounding board for theories of every stripe and my constant supplier of sounds.

Last, and never least, I thank Jackie and Kendall. Jackie has been around for all of it, affect through and through.

Gregory J. Seigworth