

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The first words of this book were written in Barcelona, followed by a torrent of other words, typed out on eight computers in a dozen homes in as many years, in Spain, Argentina, and the United States. My friends know that along the way I have become a connoisseur of the acknowledgments in books, looking for the most gracious and artful way to render tribute to the host of witnesses, colleagues, allies, and supporters who were so essential to a project that is formally attributed only to me. But on this point I must admit a small defeat: clever formulas have failed me, and so I can only turn to the familiar list, the small written attempt to honor a greater debt.

The institutions are a good place to start. This project has been generously funded by fellowships from Duke University, the Fulbright Commission, the Social Science Research Council (with the American Council of Learned Societies), the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the United States Department of Education, the Conference of Latin American Historians, and the Woodrow Wilson National Foundation. I have also received ample support as a postdoctoral scholar and faculty member from New York University, the University of Mississippi, and the University of California, Berkeley. In particular, of course, I am grateful to Valerie Millholland and Miriam Angras at Duke University Press for believing in this book and guiding it into its final form.

In research on Argentina, and on Latin America in general, the very availability of sources is never a given, and thus I owe a great deal to the librarians and archivists who made this work possible at all. All of the institutions they capably run are named in the bibliography.

In Buenos Aires, I owe a deep debt to Graciela Milani, for offering shelter,

guidance, and sustenance, and also to Facundo, Juan Manuel, and Oscar Rodríguez Pérsico for their company over the years. Jorge and Virginia Lanza took me in as their own; I am grateful for wine, conversation, and the joyous use and abuse of Allen wrenches, not to mention the genio and enthusiasms of Federico, Jerónimo, and Valentina.

From our first meeting, Anahí Ballent has selflessly shared her superb insights and exhaustive research on architecture and Peronism. Her openness and camaraderie, along with that of Adrián Gorelik and Graciela Silvestri, have been an invaluable help and encouragement. Jorge Liernur and Juan Molina y Vedia kindly allowed me access to private papers they held. Lila Caimari and Mirta Lobato have been gracious mentors. Lucas Rubinich and the *banda del CECyP*, Alex Laje, Fernanda Velázquez, María Baliero, Eduardo Jakubowicz, Laura Radetich, *Comandante* Fernando García, and Moira MacKinnon were excellent compañeros along the way.

In Mendoza, Susana Ramella de Jefferies opened her home and her father's papers to me, and I greatly enjoyed our debates on religion, Peronism, and the historian's craft. I also benefited from discussions with Enrique Zuleta Alvarez, Florencia Ferreira de Cassone, Marcela Aranda, Esteban Fernández, Margarita Gascón, and particularly Diego Escolar, a wonderful friend and wise critic.

In San Juan, I would like to thank Carlos and Rubi Díaz, the late José and Felipe Santamaría, the late Dora Roitman de Schabelman, and the Allub family—Sarui, Ximena, and the late Leopoldo—for their hospitality and kindness. Luis Garcés and Nelly de León were invaluable guides into local politics, architecture, and cuisine, as well as models of scholarship and political engagement. Graciela Gómez and Hugo Basualdo shared their own research and later invited me to teach an oral history course to an inspiring cohort of students. I am particularly grateful to everyone who agreed to be interviewed on their experiences of Peronism and rebuilding.

Along the way, I was blessed with the friendship and example of other scholars of Argentina, especially Adriana Brodsky, Alistair Hattingh, James Cane-Carrasco, Javier Auyero, Steve Levitsky, and Oscar Chamosa. Nancy Westrate blazed a trail. Oscar Bragos retrieved obscure documents. From Brazil, Cathy Karr-Colque, Bebel Delgado, and Bryan McCann sent moral support and motivational music. From Chile, Jody Pavilack offered wise advice. From France, Rob Maxwell dispatched mysterious requests and wonderful wine.

I am grateful to junior colleagues who assisted with research: Aldo Gaete, Fabiana González, Laura Zambrini, Katharine French-Fuller, and the amaz-

ingly resourceful Adrianna Catena. Leopoldo Mazuelos Cortés and Juan Carlos Bataller kindly provided permissions and copies for key images. Debra Wong and Bill Nelson produced a series of splendid maps.

Friends and colleagues at our various stops across the United States have kept me grounded and sane: I deeply appreciate the *compañerismo* of María Teresa and Mike Palmer, Chris and Sandy Franks, Kelly Lyn Logue, Will Jones, Margie Brache, Adriana Johnson, Jody Pavilack, Kecia and Mohamed Ali, Ivonne Wallace-Fuentes, Tom Rogers, Jefferson Cowie, Scott Littlehale, Ernesto Semán, Claudio Benzecry, Amy and Mathew Randall, Doug Sullivan-González, and all of the Wednesday bar night gang—Ann Claycombe, Jake Selwood, Wayne Lee, Rhonda Mawhood, Philippe Rosenberg, and Jennifer Terni.

Everything I know about Peronism I learned through the teaching and example of Daniel James. He has shaped the questions and approach of this work in fundamental ways and proven an excellent guide all through the long march. Above all, he kept me from the natural path of trying to reproduce his work, pushing me instead to pursue something further afield and remaining patient as I defined and refined that something.

John French was equally important in my intellectual formation. His hands-on style was an excellent complement to Danny's more philosophical approach; his intense dedication to students, and sense of responsibility for us, has been a blessing and an example. For years, John has been a tireless fount of enthusiasm and support—if sometimes offered rather early in the morning—as well as a rigorous and always constructive critic. It was only because John and Danny placed their confidence in me that I came to deserve it.

This book has benefited from thoughtful readings by Daniel James, John French, Tulio Halperín, Oscar Chamosa, Bryan McCann, Ernesto Semán, Diego Escolar, James Cane-Carrasco, Will Jones, Javier Auyero, Daniel Levinson-Wilk, and Claudio Benzecry. It has also been enriched by specific suggestions from Alberto Moreiras, Gabriela Nouzeilles, Thomas Bender, Sukhdev Sandhu, William Marotti, Danna Kostroun, Mark Sheftall, and Greg Grandin. Two anonymous readers for Duke University Press offered useful thoughts. I appreciate the insights from each of the scholarly venues where I have presented this work: at the Universidad de Buenos Aires, the Universidad de San Andrés, the Universidad Nacional de San Juan, the International Center for Advanced Studies at New York University, the Latin American Labor History Conference at Duke University, and meetings of the American Historical Association, American Society for Environmental History, and Latin American Studies Association. At Berkeley, I am especially

grateful for comments from William Taylor, David Henkin, Mark Brilliant, John Connelly, Maureen Miller, Rebecca McClennan, Kerwin Klein, Mark Peterson, and Peter Zinoman. Mark Brilliant deserves particular recognition for offering not only astute observations but steady comradeship in many early morning runs. My graduate students have been a great encouragement. Above all, I owe a special debt to Margaret Chowning, for her repeated, rigorous, and at times heroic readings and critiques.

My family has been amazingly supportive of my work over the years, even through unexpected turns, and especially in the crucial final stretch. Many observations were first aired in conversations with my cousin Pam, brother Brian, and sister Janice over the years, and their encouragement has been a great resource. My parents, Alan and Sharon, have been kind throughout, whether in discussing the larger ideas at play, carefully proofreading the text, or spirited away Mateu and Julia for a “mystery trip” so I could write. The hospitality of our Catalan family—especially Enriqueta Parera, Pilar Giribets, and Pilar Parera i Giribets—has also been a wonderful help, especially at the very beginning and end.

Our children, Mateu and Julia, have grown up in the shadow of this book, and though they hardly realize it, their joy and chaotic energy have been essential to bringing this to a worthy close. I greatly look forward to future frolics with them, now that it is done.

Finally, and most importantly, Magdalena Parera i Giribets has been an anchor and a beacon through these years, encouraging, cajoling, enticing me as I took the work in new directions and finally brought it back to safe harbor. I simply could not have done it without her patience, presence, and love—and this is the debt I most look forward to repaying.