

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Though the origins of this book predate COVID-19, the current pandemic has given me a deeper appreciation for professional collegiality and connectivity. Especially when one is writing about Chinese experiences and sinophone cultures in as remote a place as Maine, and for a decade at a time, an invitation to present one's ongoing work and share still ripening ideas can seem a gift of community, something few of us now take for granted. Looking back over the time since the beginnings of this project, I want to express my gratitude to the many colleagues both near and far who have sustained faith in the value of this work. First and foremost, I thank Carlos Rojas, who has provided so many opportunities for my writing over the years, and whose superhuman ability to curate a million projects and "workshops" at any given time never ceases to amaze me. Thanks, too, to Andrea Bachner, who, along with Carlos, welcomed me to Duke University in 2014 for the Modern Chinese Literatures Workshop, and also to Angelina Chin, who invited me to my first Association for Asian Studies panel that year, back when I still thought my book was about biocapitalism! More locally, I thank David Hecht for organizing the Health Studies Workshop at Bowdoin College in 2018, Nancy Riley for bud-dying up with me to present, and Priscilla Wald for her encouragement on the project at the time. Thanks to Kuei-fen Chiu and Yingjin Zhang, whose theme issue in *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture* gave me my first public forum for thinking through ideas of ordinariness. In March 2020, when everything moved online, Shiqi Lin and Kaiyang Xu were the first to introduce me to the notion of a "cloud panel," and theirs remains one of the

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