

Acknowledgments

I didn't set out to write a book on sheaves. In 2017, as I was wrapping up my PhD in philosophy, I received a Fulbright grant to work with Fernando Zalamea in Bogotá, the ostensible aim of which was to support the completion of a brief supplementary chapter giving a high-level overview of certain philosophical elements of interest in category theory and sheaf theory. While I had already been doing research in category theory for some years, as I came to devote more attention to sheaf theory in its own right that year I became entirely engrossed and found myself thinking about sheaves all day every day. By the end of that year, I found that I had produced over 200 pages of notes on sheaves with novel examples and reflections. A number of mathematicians with whom I shared these early notes found them stimulating and encouraged me to circulate them. While it was never my intention to write a book, many readers of those early notes encouraged me to develop them into something more. Over the next four years, as my research led me further into the land of sheaves, and guided by feedback from new readers, I continued to add new examples and content here and there, and at some point it became evident that these were no longer notes. It had grown into something close to the present book.

Over the years, I have tried to fill out the story in a number of ways. But on account of its somewhat accidental genesis, the book remains necessarily incomplete and my selection of examples and points of focus is certainly partial. On the other hand, after years of new additions and revisions, I do hope some of the initial excitement of those early notes still shines through.

There are many people whose feedback over the years has greatly improved this work, and many people from whom I have learned an immense amount along the way. Above all, I would like to express my profound gratitude to Fernando Zalamea, without whose support and encouragement, from the earliest stages, this book would never have come to be. Among the colleagues who offered encouragement and/or valuable feedback on various versions of this manuscript, I would like to thank Colin McLarty, Emily Riehl, Michael Robinson, David Spivak, Walter Tholen, and Philipp Zahn. I am especially grateful to Justin Curry and Alan Hylton, whose detailed comments, suggestions for substantial improvements to the organization of the manuscript, stimulating discussions, and ongoing encouragement helped me get the book over the finish line. Let me also express my indebtedness to William Lawvere, whose work has been a well of inspiration for me over the years; without his particular wisdom, I am sure that I would never have come to aspire to the new knowledge of reality that is thinking categorically. I would also like to thank

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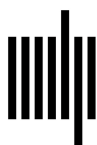
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