

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I became indebted to several individuals and institutions for their support and encouragement in the long process of writing this book.

The Center for Excellence in Learning, Teaching, Scholarship and Service (CELTSS) at Framingham State University generously provided research, travel and course release grants at various stages of the project. Thanks to the centre's support, I was able to present some of the ideas that were later developed in the book at a number of events including: the American Sociological Association's 2014 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, the Sociology of Development Conference in Providence in 2015, the Council of European Studies' (CES) 2016 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, the Mid-term Conference of the International Sociological Association's Research Committee RC 48 in Catania in 2017 and the International Sociological Association's Virtual Forum in Porto Alegre in 2021.

A visiting fellowship by the International Affairs Program at Northeastern University during my sabbatical leave between January and May of 2018 provided me with the opportunity to conceptualise the current form of the book. My conversations with Berna Turam and the late Jeff Juris were thought-provoking and inspiring. In June 2019, I became a fellow in the summer seminar 'Communism: Return to the New Commons?' facilitated by Étienne Balibar at the Institute for Critical Social Inquiry (ICSI) at The New School. I benefited immensely from the stimulating discussions and side conversations

with Balibar and other participants which allowed me to develop radical democracy and the commons as one of the core ideas in the book.

I am grateful to Alpaslan Özerdem and Ahmet Erdi Öztürk, editors of the *Edinburgh Studies on Modern Turkey*, for welcoming this book into their series. Emma House and Isobel Birks at Edinburgh University Press were always encouraging and supportive and made the publication process seamless. Bülent Batuman, Camilo Tamayo Gomez, Derya Özkaya and Gamze Evcimen read and commented on various chapters or their early incarnations. I am thankful for their time and insightful interventions. Barış Ünlü read the entire manuscript with scrupulous attention, like a dedicated editor, for which I am much obliged.

The Ağartan, Aydın and Ünalı families availed a warm and welcoming home during my research trips to Turkey. My daughters Saba and Neva accommodated my capricious absences (in mind and body) and unprovoked mood swings while they were busy growing up. My *wife* fellow-traveller and partner-in-crime Tuba remained the biggest support (emotional and more) that kept me going. If it wasn't for the 'brutal awakenings' each morning when she would whisper into my ear: 'wake up. This book won't write itself', it might indeed not have been written at all. It is to her that the book is dedicated.

I would be terribly remiss if I did not recognise the brave, bright-minded and big-hearted activists with whom I crossed paths during this project. They accepted me into their meetings, welcomed me to their events and spent hours with me to share their experiences, hopes and disillusionments. They were – and still are – the embodiment of 'freedom dreamers' in a country where dreaming has always come with a heavy price. It is my hope that they accept this book as a token of my deepest appreciation of their inspiring and admirable courage, perseverance, moral clarity and generosity.