Acknowledgments

This project was made possible through the support of the Colonel Return Jonathan Meigs Fund and Wesleyan University. I had the opportunity to present many of the ideas, themes, and arguments as invited lectures at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris, the Northwestern University Critical Theory Group in Paris, the Université de Rouen, the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, Fudan University in Shanghai, the Workshop on Critical Thinking at Missouri State University, the Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry at Brandeis University, the Graduate Center— CUNY, and at the fourth conference of the International Network for the Theory of History in Stockholm. I want to thank the organizers of and participants at these events for the opportunity to think more deeply about Levinas and the project of history. Other aspects of this book were worked out in articles and chapters on related subjects though they appear in an original form here. I want to thank my colleagues in the History Department and College of Letters at Wesleyan. I owe a special debt to Wesleyan's Center for the Humanities, where I started this project as a faculty fellow under the directorship of Henry Abelove and then later as director of the center myself. My conversations with Henry about Torah, Talmud, and Jewish learning still ring in my ears. Axelle Karera's precision and insight challenged me to think harder and differently about Levinas and the issue of the other. My colleagues at *History and Theory* were a constant source of support, intellectual stimulation, and also levity. Thank you Brian Fay, Philip Pomper, Julie Perkins, William Vijay Pinch, Richard Vann, Laura Stark, Matthew Specter, Shahzad Bashir, Courtney Weiss Smith, Elizabeth Boyle and David Gary Shaw. Saul Friedländer's interest in and enthusiasm for this project has been a source of motivation and inspiration. Samuel Weber likewise provided encouragement, opportunities to discuss Levinas, and so much more. I am especially grateful to Catherine Chalier who offered her time, expertise, and hospitality while I was in Paris. Noël Bonneuil welcomed me to the EHESS and helped me think through the many possibilities of Levinas's use of infinity. Sarah Hammerschlag, Martin Kavka, and Joseph Cohen were all incredibly generous with their time, resources, and expertise. I've learned so much from their work. Peter Eli Gordon, Carolyn Dean, Marnie Hughes Warrington, David Myers, Kari Weil, Stefanos Geroulanos, Zvi Ben Dor Benite, and Michael Roth all provided excellent counsel and advice. Samuel Moyn was a key interlocutor at the beginning of this project as was Nitzan Lebovic and especially Eugene Sheppard throughout the duration. A special thank you to Andrew Baird and Margaret Brose. Gary Wilder and Joan Wallach Scott, my fellow members of the Wild on Collective, helped me keep my focus on the practice as well as the theory of history. I am grateful to Judith Butler for her supportive comments on the manuscript in draft form and Michael L. Morgan for his detailed, critical, and enthusiastic comments. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Hent de Vries, Erica Wetter, Faith Wilson Stein and the editorial staff at Stanford University Press, as well as the anonymous readers.

I also want to express my love and gratitude to my friends and family. My sister Sarah and my brother Joel somehow put up with me. My mother and father, Marvin and Irene, have been waiting on this book for quite some time so it will be a relief to finally say it has been published. My daughter Lili worked as my research assistant as I finalized the manuscript for submission. Lili and Noa surprise me every day and give me hope for a better future. Of course, none of this would have happened without the love and support of my wife Tracy. I love you so much.