## **Acknowledgements**

This collection of essays is based on the interdisciplinary conference *Narrating and Constructing the Beach* which took place on 14–16 June 2018 at the Amerikahaus München. We are very grateful to everyone who helped to make this event a success.

First, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our colleagues and friends Stefan Brückl, Ines Ghalleb, Jeannot Moukouri Ekobe and Roxanne Phillips for co-organizing the conference with us. Over the many months – and through more than one sleepless night – that we spent conceptualizing and planning this event together, we complemented and inspired each other, learned from one another, and, along the way, became a great team – a veritable 'beach-taskforce.'

We are greatly indebted to the Graduate School Language and Literature (GS L&L) at LMU Munich, whose generous support made the conference and this publication possible in the first place. We especially want to thank our coordinators Markus Wiefarn and Katharina Wagner, as well as the GS L&L's advisory board members Stephan Kammer, Annette Keck and Susanne Lüdemann for their encouragement and support. We gratefully acknowledge the funding for the event provided by the Graduate Center at LMU Munich, Duke Gin, and Brillen Schneider.

The board of the Bayerische Amerika-Akademie (BAA) and its director Heike Paul deserve our gratitude for the co-organization of the conference, as well as the co-sponsorship of Michael Taussig's keynote lecture. We would like to extend our particular thanks to the BAA's Margaretha Schweiger-Wilhelm and Markus Faltermeier, who not only opened up the doors of the Amerikahaus München to us and thereby provided us with a splendid location for our conference, but who also generously offered us their invaluable advice regarding the organization of the event in the months leading up to it.

We thank all the conference participants for their intriguing and thoughtprovoking presentations. A special thank you goes to our keynote speakers Virginia Richter and Michael Taussig.

The assistance provided by Helen Baur, Christiane Bayer, Anna-Marie Merkle, Janna Meyer-Schwickerath, Antonia Pensel, Sara Russo and Johanna Vejvoda during the conference was greatly appreciated. We would also like to offer a special heartfelt thanks to Heidi Kühn at the Amerikahaus for her kindness and dedication.

We warmly thank our editors at De Gruyter, Marcus Böhm and Anja Michalski for their expertise, guidance and counsel throughout the editorial process of this volume and their insightful answers to our manifold and incessant questions. We would also like to offer our thanks to the rest of the editorial team at De Gruyter for their help in turning our manuscript into an actual book. We are grateful to the editors of De Gruyter's Spectrum Literature for accepting our collection into the series.

We would like to express our gratitude to Myrto Aspioti, Daniel Brookman and Lucas-Jan Dörre for their valuable comments on the introduction.

Last but not least, we want to thank all of our authors for making this volume what it is with their inspiring contributions.

Munich, February 2020,

Carina Breidenbach, Tamara Fröhler, Dominik Pensel, Katharina Simon, Florian Telsnig and Martin Wittmann