

# Acknowledgments

This book is the result of the support of many individuals, who offered me suggestions and support over the last years. It is based on my Ph.D. dissertation that I defended in May 2022 at North Carolina State University. The completion of my dissertation would not have been possible without the valuable guidance of my advisor, Tammy Gordon. She showed a profound belief in my work and my abilities and helped me to transform my research ideas into historical arguments. I would like to thank her for encouraging my research and for allowing me to grow as a historian. I am deeply indebted to Frederico Freitas, who introduced me to the world of digital history both in theory and in practice. His graduate seminars triggered my interest in digital scholarship and his constructive comments shaped many ideas and methodologies of my dissertation. I am extremely grateful to Ross Bassett, who helped me think about the history of technology more broadly and see Wikipedia as part of it. Our discussions were very useful for the completion of the dissertation. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Andrew Johnston, whose methodological suggestions made me approach Wikipedia in a more interdisciplinary way.

The Department of History at North Carolina State University offered me a great intellectual environment to develop my research ideas and benefit from discussions with multiple scholars. I would like to thank Craig Friend for his valuable remarks and constructive criticism in the early stages of my dissertation, Akram Khater for his encouragement and for being a constant companion on the third floor of the Department, and Brent Sirota and David Zonderman for their generosity and support. I am also grateful to Katherine Mellen Charron and Megan Cherry for their suggestions and guidance.

Outside North Carolina State University, numerous people from different geographies have contributed to my development as a historian and helped me to complete my dissertation. My greatest debt is to Dimitra Lampropoulou. Back in 2012, while I was an undergraduate student at the University of Athens and was choosing my last seminars required to graduate, I accidentally took one of her courses. In the next few weeks, Dimitra not only made me interested in the course itself, but completely transformed my life. She made me see history as an interesting and enjoyable intellectual activity. Our discussions have shaped my research interests and the way I approach history to a significant extent. I cannot thank her enough. From the University of Athens, I would also like to thank Vangelis Karamanolakis and Antonis Liakos, whose seminars and broader contributions played a decisive role in the development of my historical thought. From VU University Amsterdam, I am grateful to Inger Leemans, who offered me the first opportunity to explore the production of historical knowledge on Wikipedia.

I would also like to thank Michael Frisch from the State University of New York at Buffalo, whose encouraging comments motivated me and inspired me to complete this project. I gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Helle Strandgaard Jensen from the University of Aarhus and Jane Winters from the University of London. Their comments in the early stages of my dissertation were extremely useful for the development of the wider project. Lastly, Marko Demantowsky from the University of Vienna offered me the opportunity to present parts of my research and our discussions helped me to reframe parts of this project.

After the completion of my Ph.D. studies, I started working at the Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C<sup>2</sup>DH) at the University of Luxembourg, where I found a great academic environment for someone conducting research on digital and public history. I would like to thank Sean Takats for giving me the opportunity to become part of his research team and for introducing me to a new (at least to me) aspect of digital history: the design of digital technologies for the facilitation of historical research. His critical comments helped me to reshape my dissertation and transform it into this book. I am also grateful to Andreas Fickers for his encouragement to complete this work and publish it as part of the series “Digital History and Hermeneutics”. At C<sup>2</sup>DH, I had the great pleasure of being a member of a fantastic research team. I would like to thank all the team members for our constructive exchanges: Florentina Armaselu, Luca Federico Cerra, Caitlin Burge, Mariella De Crouy Chanel, Marten Düring, Helena Jaskov, Anita Lucchesi, Eliane Schmid, and Lorella Viola. At C<sup>2</sup>DH, I also had valuable discussions with multiple people, whose knowledge shaped many approaches and theories of this book. Many thanks to Sandra Camarda, Thomas Cauvin, Sofia Papastamkou, and Valérie Schafer.

I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to my editor, Rabea Rittgerodt, who offered me invaluable assistance and guidance throughout the completion of this book. Of course, this project would not have been accomplished without the contributions of Wikipedia editors. I would like to thank all the editors, who shared their stories and experiences with me.

Nobody has been more important in the completion of this project than my family. I am grateful to my parents, Elia and Fofi, and my sister, Naya, for their love and encouragement. I dedicate this book to Katerina Petsi, to whom I owe the greatest part of my happiness.

Brussels, Belgium  
April 2024