Acknowledgements

This book is a revised version of the dissertation I submitted at the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Tübingen in March 2023. The journey to this publication was long and sometimes tedious, but I had the privilege of having been supported by a long list of people to whom I would like to address a few words of gratitude.

First and foremost, I want to thank my supervisors, Angelika Zirker and Matthias Bauer, for everything I learned from them about (English) literature, for the countless hours they invested in discussing my research with me, and for always pushing me to become a better student and scholar. Nobody has ever challenged and encouraged me as much as they have; I am immensely grateful for their support. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the members of my defence committee: Matthew Gardner, Sandra Linden, and Holly Nelson. My gratitude also goes to the CRC 1391 Different Aesthetics, especially to its speaker Annette Gerok-Reiter, not only for giving me the necessary resources for this study, but also for always encouraging interdisciplinary discussions outside of my research niche. I will also be forever grateful for Marisa Irawan who helped me finalise this book.

I am deeply grateful for the many colleagues with whom I not only shared my daily life as a PhD student, but who were also incredibly supportive. Thank you to all my colleagues at the *Lehrstuhl Bauer* (from the early years to the last few months); they provided me with a great sense of community, lots of laughter, and helpful advice: Miriam Lahrsow, Leonie Kirchhoff, Susanne Riecker, Tobias Kunz, Yves Herak, Ferdinand Lück, Sarah Schnitzler, and Alexa König (my heroine in the final stretch of this book!). If I forgot one or two names, please know that I am grateful for every colloquium participant, student assistant, and visiting scholar.

I was lucky enough to have been part of two research teams: for the duration of my PhD research, the CRC, particularly Keplerstraße 17, became my academic home. My thanks go to Marion Darilek and Jan Stellmann, who always made sure to pass on their vast knowledge of PhD procedures, to Michael Göggelmann for making me laugh, and, of course, to my safe haven during the pandemic and now friends for life, Anna Katharina Heiniger and Nathalie Wiedmer.

At this point, I must mention two more colleagues and cherished friends whose dedication to help me finish this dissertation has surpassed everything I could have expected of friends: Sandra Wetzel and Julia Schatz – I could not have made it without you! Outside of my academic bubble, I had the privilege to have been cheered on by all my friends and family. I could not possibly list every person who accepted long stretches of silence from me towards the end of this project, but I need to express my deep appreciation of Sonja Koczy and Sara Hillemann, who never tired of listening to my thoughts,

ideas, and concerns during this challenging time (and beyond). Thank you to Julia and Robert Rogalski with my nieces Helena and Hanna, who continuously encouraged me and who provided the cutest distraction in the world. Zum Schluss möchte ich meinen Eltern, Jolanta und Zbigniew Rogalski, dafür danken, dass sie meine Ambitionen immer mit Stolz verfolgt und jeden Meilenstein gebührend gefeiert haben.

Ohne diese herzliche Unterstützung von Euch allen hätte ich diese Arbeit niemals abschließen können – danke, thank you, dziękuję!