

Acknowledgements

This edited volume derives from the first annual conference of the DFG Research Training Group 2571 “Empires: Dynamic Transformation, Temporality and Post-imperial Orders”, held at the University of Freiburg (Germany) on 1–3 December 2022. Covering only a part of the thematical scope of the RTG, we aimed to explore in an interdisciplinary way how references to past empires and imperialism shaped and still shape perceptions of history and imagined futures, both in empires and in post-imperial contexts. The result is the edited volume that lays before you. In 11 chapters written by scholars from seven countries and from several disciplines, including history, art history, comparative literature, and Middle Eastern Studies. Temporally, the case studies range from the Seleucid empire (early third century BCE) to the modern day and cover regions in western and eastern Europe, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. The paper presentations held at the conference by Deborah Holmes (History, Paris-Lodron Universität Salzburg) and Fatma Eda Çelik (Political Sciences, École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris) are not published in the edited volume, but deserve a special mention for their valuable contribution to the scope of the conference and the fruitful discussions both during and after the event.

Furthermore, we would like to say a special thanks to Élise Mazurié and Cornelius Beckers, our two colleagues at the RTG who helped to organise the conference, and to the coordinator of the RTG Philip Straub, without whose tireless dedication to the project the conference and this volume would not have been possible. The same goes to Peter Eich, *Sprecher* of the RTG, whose guidance at the start and free hand after that allowed us to shape the conference into an inspiring event that enriched our understanding of the political manipulations of the past. Finally, we acknowledge the financial support of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), the Stiftung Humanismus Heute, and the Open Access Publication Fund of the University of Freiburg.

