

Acknowledgments

Joint research for over a decade prepared the ground for this volume. In 2012, we taught two seminars, one at the Center for Disciplinary Innovation, housed in the Franke Institute at the University of Chicago, the other at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität under the auspices of the then Centre Flaubert. Our topic was the long afterlife of Roman figurations of civil war in French literature. We decided at the end of the second seminar that we needed to write it up. The result is our book, *Civil War and the Collapse of the Social Bond: The Roman Tradition at the Heart of the Modern*, which came out with Cambridge University Press in 2022. As we wrote, more and more material emerged that surpassed the scope of the book. We knew already, but also discovered in more detail, how widespread and multifaceted the Roman model was and remains for Europe and America. The figuration of France as a new Rome, from both French and other perspectives, was an especially prominent motif. To explore this dimension would require the participation of a larger group, working from a broader angle – chronologically and nationally in substance and from diverse methodological and disciplinary perspectives. Hence, we organized a conference, from which this volume arises.

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ML and BV

