## Acknowledgments

This book project arose from my participation in an interdisciplinary DFG research group based at the University of Konstanz (2012-2014): "What If – On the Meaning, Relevance, and Epistemology of Counterfactual Claims and Thought Experiments."

I would like to extend my warmest thanks to those colleagues who have provided thought-provoking discussions, perceptive insights, and criticism while this book was being researched and written: first of all, Riccardo Nicolosi; Jurij Murašov; Wolfgang Spohn; Julian Reiss; John Beatty; Mirja Lecke; Maria Mikhailova; Fedor Poljakov; Muireann Maguire; Natalia Mikhalenko; Eliane Fitzé; the anonymous peer reviewers of the book manuscript; and many others. Some of the chapters of this book develop the argumentation of my articles listed in the Bibliography.

My deepest gratitude is reserved for my family and friends, for their love, moral support, and unwavering faith in me throughout my research.