Acknowledgements

Many people provided help and assistance in the preparation of this book. Firstly, I would like to thank the participants in this study for their time and cooperation, which made my research possible. Much of the research and writing of this book was undertaken during two periods of study leave in 2010 and 2013. I thank Flinders University for providing these opportunities to concentrate on my research. I also undertook two fieldwork trips to China while on study leave, during which I visited several institutions and spoke to several people about my research. I will not name these institutions or people in order to maintain their anonymity, but I am grateful to them all for their assistance.

I would also like to thank the following people for the various kinds of assistance they provided: the anonymous reviewer provided useful comments and suggestions on the whole manuscript; Gwendolyn Campbell read and commented on drafts of Chapters 2, 3, 4 and 5; Stefano Bona located and translated information about the Dante Alighieri Society; Eric Bouvet assisted with the translation of information about the Alliance Française; and Anna Roderick and Kim Eggleton at Multilingual Matters commissioned the book and responded to my queries during the writing and publication process.

The biggest thanks must go to my family, who offered support and encouragement throughout the writing of this book. In particular, my wife Lin Han (林函) has been a constant source of understanding, reassurance and advice, even though she has had her own research to work on. Han also read and commented on drafts of most of the chapters of this book, either in whole or in part. Our son Alexander provided many welcome and often entertaining distractions from the writing process. While I was writing this book, we also discovered we would soon have another son joining our family, and Nicholas is indeed a welcome addition. This book is dedicated to my wonderful wife and sons.

Finally, parts of this book draw on my previously published works. Chapters 1 and 6 are substantially revised and expanded versions of Gil, J. (2010) How should applied linguists respond to the rise of China? In E. Morrell and M.D. Barr (eds) *Crises and Opportunities: Proceedings of the 18th*

Biennial Conference of the ASAA, 2010, Adelaide, Australia. Canberra: Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA) Inc. and the University of Adelaide (ISBN 978-0-7258-1136-5). Sections of Chapters 2 and 4 are based on Gil, J. (2009) China's Confucius Institute project: Language and soft power in world politics. The Global Studies Journal 2 (1), 59–72 (Common Ground Publishing). Chapter 3 and sections of Chapters 4 and 5 are revised and updated versions of Gil, J. (2015) China's cultural projection: A discussion of the Confucius Institutes. China: An International Journal 13 (1), 200–226 (NUS Press). Some sections in Chapters 1, 2 and 6 also draw on this article. Chapters 3 and 6 include some material from Gil, J. (2014) An exploratory study of why language learners opt for Chinese and its competitiveness as a world language. Journal of the Chinese Language Teachers Association 49 (1), 51–93 (The Chinese Language Teachers Association). I would like to thank the publishers for permission to reprint this material.