

Acknowledgements

In our Preface we thank everyone who played a role in setting in motion the work that often happens behind the scene prior to a book synopsis being submitted to a publisher. Edited collections are always joint efforts, and sometimes (as is the case for this one) there are colleagues who have played a role in the discussions that sparked the motivation to start a book project, and people who have been specifically instrumental in supporting those who have edited the collection. These acknowledgements are therefore about those who have played a direct role in keeping us committed to managing this project.

Sarah Donnelly would like to thank the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice at University College Dublin (UCD) for facilitating the sabbatical leave that made the final stages of this project possible. Without this protected time, she would not have been able to commit to this exciting but time-consuming project. In particular, she would like to thank her Head of School, Professor Jim Campbell, and the School Executive and co-director of the Professional Masters in Social Work Programme, UCD, Dr Elaine Wilson, whose ongoing encouragement and support were invaluable.

Sarah would also like to thank her family and friends who have kept her sane and grounded throughout this journey. She would like to send massive thanks to her husband, Marty, who has always kept a smile on her face and helped her to see the big picture in times of stress (which were many!). Her dear parents, Barbara and Michael, brothers and sister and her mother-in-law, Eileen, deserve also a sincere thanks for their unwavering belief in her and their unconditional love and support. Sarah sends also a special word of thanks to the Irish Association of Social Workers 'Change Warrior' colleagues, Sinead Mc Garry, Amanda Casey, Celine O'Connor, Kerry Cuskelly and Cliona Murphy, who inspire her with their advocacy, activism and true commitment to social justice. Last but not least, she thanks her UCD Health Systems buddies Eidin Ní Shé, Carmel Davies and Deirdre O'Donnell for the many debriefs and good times over the last two years.

Sandra is grateful for the intellectual oasis that is the Welfare Research Group at the Department of Sociology of Uppsala University. She co-founded the group in 2012 and feels blessed to count on their constructive feedback on most of the work she publishes. The group is currently led by Professor Hannah Bradby and Dr Clara Iversen and she sends special thanks to them for creating the welcoming and thought-provoking environment that the group offers to those who partake in the seminars they organise every third week. The chapter of which she is the sole author (Chapter 7) benefited greatly from the comments received from the following research group members (besides the group's leaders) who attended the seminar

dedicated to this chapter: Professor Ilkka Henrik Mäkinen, Dr Markus Lundström, Professor Beth Maina Ahlberg, Dr Krisina Engwall, Dr Minoo Alinia, Dr Anna Olaison, Dr Richard Gäddman Johansson, Dr Jan Grimell, Dr Katharina Wesolowski, Dr Jessica Okumu and the inspiring group of doctoral students who contribute to keeping all of us in our toes, that is: Frida Höglund, Aija Duntava and Henrik Daniel Eriksson. Final thanks go to Sandra's darling husband, who is always supportive and never complains about the fact that she spends most of her time in her library.

Last but not least, we thank our contributors for agreeing to work with us in this book project and for attending to various queries and comments as promptly as they did. Their commitment to this edited collection made our journey enjoyable, even though working in the midst of a pandemic.

We dedicate this book to students of social work around the world, whose commitment to the profession will be instrumental to the well-being of the communities they serve. To them we say: never forget that a commitment to social justice and human rights determines whether you will play your part in contributing to creating the caring democracies we all deserve!