

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

While this book had its beginning and its end in Benjamin's city of Berlin, no book is ever really written in one place. Rather, it emerges in the extended conversations with the people with whom one works and lives, on the one hand, and in the encounters with the books, projects, and institutions that one has as one writes, on the other.

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Quite a number of years ago in Berlin, my daughter, Jordan, was picked up by a friend's father who was going to take her and her friend to the movies. He asked why she was living in Berlin for a year, and she replied (I am told): "I'm here with my parents. My dad is a philosopher, and my mother is writing a book about some guy named Benjamin." Here's the book, Jordan. It's for you.