

# Acknowledgements

I owe a huge weight of gratitude to my supervisors, Adam Tickell and Peter Dicken, of the University of Manchester School of Geography. Adam, I thank for the immediacy and clarity of his insights, and for his encouragement during the first years of my work with the Geography School. Peter I thank, particularly, for his constancy, brilliant mind, attention to detail, and positive, supportive attitude, throughout.

I finally acknowledge and thank the E.S.R.C. for their financial support in the form of a research award (no. R00429634107).

My thanks go to everyone for showing that, although this thesis is attributed to a single author; it - probably like everyone else's - truly, has been a team effort.

It is dedicated to my mum, Barbara, always there, happy to listen and chat, quiet, stoical, pragmatic, always loving and caring; my brother Dilip and my father P.K. both, sadly, taken from us far too early, but always in our thoughts and forever by my side.