

Preface and acknowledgments

This collection focuses on the challenges of practising the social sciences in the Asia-Pacific region in the twenty-first century. Most of the chapters draw on papers presented at the 2012 Annual Symposium of the Academy of the Social Sciences, Australia, on 'Australian Social Sciences in the Asian Century' (see www.assa.edu.au/events/symposium/2012). The symposium developed from discussions between several fellows of the academy—Carol Johnson, Vera Mackie, Pal Ahluwalia, Dennis Altman, Raewyn Connell and Michael Dutton (with Tessa Morris-Suzuki also a strong supporter)—and was co-convened by Carol Johnson and Vera Mackie. We also worked closely with Tim Rowse, chair of the academy's Public Programs Committee. We were keen to open up a dialogue between social scientists in the Asia-Pacific region. The symposium took shape over several years of planning. During this period, the Australian government released the White Paper on *Australia in the Asian Century*, in 2012. The White Paper became one focus of our discussions, although our concerns were more wide-ranging. We would like to express our thanks to the current and former president, executive and secretariat of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, for their support of the symposium and this publication. We would also like to thank Professor Marian Sawer and Professor Renee Jeffery of the ANU Press Social Sciences Editorial Board, and the anonymous reviewers for constructive comments.

—Carol Johnson, Vera Mackie and Tessa Morris-Suzuki

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