Acknowledgements

The authors contributed equally to this work and are given in alphabetical order on the title.

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Fred Kruger
Skukuza, South Africa, February 2015

This book would not exist if I had not received a chance email in February 2010 from my co-author, Fred. I had just presented a draft chapter of my dissertation at Stellenbosch University when I received an email from him informing me that he had received the paper from a friend who attended the meeting. Would I care to speak with him because he had ideas that may be useful for my ongoing research? As it turned out, I was soon to fly to Pretoria, where he lived. Fred generously invited me to stay at his house during my visit; I agreed. The rest is history, or more accurately, it is a history book.
A second meeting with Fred in the Kruger National Park in 2011 solidified our mutual interests and raised a few possibilities for collaboration. The decision to co-author a book was made during a transcountry archival research trip in 2012 across Southern Africa with Fred Kruger and Gregory Barton. We drove from Pretoria, South Africa, to Maun, Botswana, and Windhoek, Namibia, before returning to South Africa. Fred was taking a creative writing unit and decided to write about Christiaan Wicht. Perhaps inspired by Greg’s vivid dreaming as a result of a fever in the Kalahari (when the air conditioning broke down in Fred’s Land Rover), we decided to toy with the idea of doing a book. Fred and I agreed to write the book together while eating Kalahari truffles and hartebeest for dinner in Windhoek. Discussions continued—apologies to Greg who had to endure them for around 20 hours in the car as we drove all the way back to Pretoria. The conversation has never really ended.

Though much of the book focuses on the Cape, we drafted most of it in the Kruger National Park. Many of the ideas we had for the book emerged while driving in the evening throughout the Kruger National Park after we finished writing in the late afternoon. Thanks go to Laurence Kruger for housing me in Skukuza, and for introducing me to the Kruger and wider region, especially the Escarpment and Sabie River catchment, which are the focus of one of the next projects Fred and I are undertaking.

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Brett Bennett
Sydney, Australia, August 2015