Acknowledgments

The possibility of forming strong and lasting ties of intellectual exchange and inspiration over time and across generations of scholars is one of the main perks of academic work and life. Initiating this project and shepherding it through the twists and turns of a truly collective endeavor, involving scholars from different countries, traditions, and generations, has been a tremendous privilege and source of joy for us. The project gained motivation and inspiration from many sources, three of which we want to mention here.

First, from the very start – at the Annual American Political Science Association meeting in 2019, where we were struck by the consistency of the findings on patterns of voter transitions – our goal was to answer a joint set of questions about the transformation of the left in emerging knowledge societies through the integrated empirical analysis of different types of data. Going beyond individual studies and articles seems of increasing importance to us, in order to further the cumulative progress of knowledge in our discipline. Joint projects, such as the one presented in this volume, can be a venue where this cumulative progress of knowledge can and should take place. Second, the project very consciously involved different generations of scholars, in particular many younger scholars. This tight network of intergenerational exchange allowed us to assess current transformations with novel data and methods, while avoiding reinventing the wheel. Third, the project had a strong outreach dimension all along. We worked in particular with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Berlin to reflect on our research questions and hypotheses, share and discuss our findings, and better understand the political, internal debates within the left, as well as their inside perception of the strategic dilemmas they are facing. At the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Katharina Hofmann de Moura was a very important outreach partner, facilitating reciprocal benefit for researchers and practitioners alike. This collaboration also allowed us to publish three International Policy Analysis strategy papers with the Foundation in early 2021, which reached large audiences and allowed us to discuss our findings with many

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interested audiences in different countries. This exchange has been both instructive and rewarding for us.

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