

## Acknowledgements

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Somewhat unusually, the volume came into its own via an orchestrated, directed process: instead of starting with an open call for papers, we chose an international group of scholars, both senior and at post-doctoral stages in their careers, according to their expertise. We suggested subjects to them, which over the course of long conversations gradually morphed into chapter headings: centrism, direction, teleology, among others. We discussed the authors' draft papers in two consecutive workshops held in January and September 2021 – online, since the volume came into its own during the years of the pandemic. We are grateful to Jan C. Jansen for first proposing the idea of that procedure, to Peer Vries for his advice in our quest for potential contributors and, of course, to our indefatigable authors, for taking up the challenge. We would like to gratefully acknowledge their encouraging, constructive and stimulating suggestions and feedback, both to one other and on our concept, framework and introduction.

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