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## PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As I write this, sunlight glistens through morning rain and *casuarinas* bow to a soft north east breeze. Who ever would guess that life on earth is falling into precarity – threatened by global free trade, militarism, climate change, sexual violence, genetic and nano technologies. For this reason, these essays are a call to people who care: community leaders, researchers, students of political ecology, ecological economics, environmental ethics, global studies, movement politics, or critical geography. Others know the call already: activists in the World Social Forum, Via Campesina, Seattle to Brussels Network, or Ecological Debt campaign. The arguments will resonate too, with supporters of *The Commoner* project; with *Green Left Weekly*; with Women in Black, Code Pink, Women and Life on Earth, the World March of Women; and with friends who try to keep big NGOs and party politicians on track. The anthology has its roots in my earlier book *Ecofeminism as Politics*, part of an ongoing project to rethink humanity–nature relations with an embodied materialist epistemology. Here, a group of authors exposes the costs of ‘othering’ bodies and ecosystems. They show how capitalist globalisation carries forward cultural dualisms, which in turn, sustain primal forms of patriarchal power. Even climate change is gendered and racialised in its causes, effects, and solutions. But gender and ethnicity are not just descriptors of victimhood; far from it, ecological feminists recognise ‘difference’ as a source of innovative leadership for global alternatives.

Today, as the classic texts in political economy are giving way to political ecology, many scholars are unsure how to turn their human-centred study into a wider nature-oriented one. New conceptual tools are needed for describing the humanity–nature interface, working constructs such as – embodied debt – meta-industrial labour – eco-sufficiency – and metabolic value. At the