

Preface

The first of Giorgio Agamben's books to appear in English was *Language and Death*, in 1991, but it was the publication of the English translation of *The Coming Community*, two years later, that accelerated scholarly interest in Agamben's writings within the United States. Over the next decade, as more of Agamben's works found their way into the English-speaking context, it became increasingly evident that Agamben's influence on the current generation of scholarship would be a lasting one. Given the growing enthusiasm for both Agamben's writing and the questions his writings raise, the time has come for a broader dialogue about his work. The current volume was conceived to be part of this dialogue. Contributors were selected not merely for the respect they have for Agamben and his work, but for the incisiveness of their interpretation and for their honest engagement with the work's virtues as well as its limitations. We have not set topical restrictions, nor have we avoided including those who are unsympathetic to Agamben's ideas. In doing so we hope that this volume will contribute to the deepening dialogue about Giorgio Agamben's scholarship and, more importantly, foster a discussion about the larger issues his work addresses.

The editors wish to thank the publishers for permission to reprint the following essays:

William E. Connolly, "The Complexities of Sovereignty," in *Sovereign Lives: Power in Global Politics*, edited by Jenny Edkins, Véronique Pin-Fat, and Michael J. Shapiro (New York: Routledge, 2004), 23–40.

Dominick LaCapra, "Approaching Limit Events: Siting Agamben," in *Witnessing the Disaster: Essays on Representation and the Holocaust*, edited by Michael Bernard-Donals and Richard Glejzer (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2003), 263–304.