Acknowledgments

This book began as a dissertation I wrote while a graduate student in the Department of Political Science at Yale University. I want to thank my advisers, Donald Green, Rogers Smith, and Cathy Cohen, for their guidance and continuous encouragement. Each provided advice, constructive criticism, and insights on many occasions.

While in graduate school, I was fortunate to meet people who have become lifelong friends and cherished colleagues. Dara Strolovich, Vivian Tseng, Elizabeth Cohen, Maria Eugenia Verdaguer, Andrew Rich, Reuel Rogers, Karthick Ramakrishnan, Lisa Garcia-Bedolla, Dorian Warren, and Sandra Lara-Cinisomo shaped this project with their insightful comments and honest observations.

Paul Frymer, Michael Jones-Correa, Jane Junn, Taeku Lee, Pei-te Lien, John Mollenkopf, and Eric Oliver generously provided feedback during my efforts to turn my dissertation into a book manuscript. Kristi Andersen, Cathy Cohen, Michael Dawson, Mark Sawyer, and Katherine Tate extended great support as well as invitations to present parts of the manuscript at workshops and conferences, where I received valuable comments. Dennis Arguelles took time to share with me his expertise about community mobilization.

I finished the book while teaching at the University of Southern California, where Jeb Barnes, Ann Crigler, Nora Hamilton, Gaspar Rivera-Salgado, and Leland Saito offered many useful suggestions on how to improve the manuscript. Beth Garrett, Howard Gillman, Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, Sheldon Kamieniecki, Mark Kann, Michael Preston, Alison Renteln, and George Sanchez helped me to refine my ideas and negotiate the publication process. I am also grateful to my USC colleagues Jane Iwamura, Judith Jackson Fossett, Roberto Lint-Sagarena, Viet

I thank Jim Reische, my editor; Katherine Tate; and Rodney Hero for encouraging me to pursue and publish this project. I am grateful beyond words to Patricia Rosas, who read the entire manuscript several times and offered substantive and editorial suggestions that greatly improved the project.

I am deeply indebted to the many community organization members, staff, and leaders who allowed me to conduct research and interviews, especially Rosalind Gold and Erica Bernal of the NALEO Education Fund. Their tireless efforts to improve the social and political lives of others are an inspiration to me. Special thanks also go to the Mexican and Chinese immigrants who opened up their lives to me during the course of this research.

Susan Lai and my aunt and uncle, Laurel and Henry Eu, provided me with food, shelter, and support while I conducted research in Los Angeles. This book would not have been possible without them. Ellen Greenberger, Mike Burton, Martin and Liz Greenberger, Kari Edwards, and Jack Farrell also provided great encouragement and support.

While I was writing, as at all times, I have received wonderful support from my parents, Dan and Brenda Wong, and my brother, Jeff Wong. Their constant love and encouragement were as important to the completion of this book as my academic training. While finishing my dissertation, I met David Silver, who read through the entire manuscript and shared his thoughtful ideas, statistical expertise, and critiques with me. He also made the writing—and more importantly all other aspects of my life—more enjoyable, rewarding, and fun than I could have ever imagined.

My research was supported in part by funding from the Social Science Research Council International Migration Program and the Yale Center for the Study of Race, Inequality, and Politics.