

Acknowledgments

Readers will quickly notice that references to the author throughout the book are written in the plural, although but a single name appears on the title page. My wife, Professor Suzanne L. Parker, played an instrumental role in this inquiry but refused to take any credit whatsoever. Not only did she formulate, administer, and conduct the entire survey on which subsequent analyses are based, but she was a willing listener (sometimes more willing than others) as I rattled on about human capital, Congress, and postelective officeholding; she also advised me about statistical procedures, properties, and potential pitfalls and rendered invaluable assistance when it seemed that statistical packages and I were on different pages. I clearly could not have even started this project, let alone completed it, without her assistance.

I have always felt that such dedicated effort warranted at least half a piece of the prize, so to speak—that is, coauthorship—but Suzie insisted otherwise. To my relief, she assured me that her position had nothing to do with the quality of the work; still, this is slight consolation. No matter how much I tried to convince her of the irrationality of her preferences, she stood steadfast in her position. So, I am left with no other option but to recognize her assistance—but refusal to take any credit for it—by treating her as an unnamed co-conspirator, silent partner, or shadow author through the use of plural personal pronouns throughout the study. This, I believe, is but a small way of acknowledging her pivotal and selfless contribution to this endeavor.

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central ideas, with profitable results. In total, I cannot envision a better set of scholars to peruse any manuscript; collectively and individually, their intellectual breadth is stunning. I consider myself unusually and extremely fortunate in this regard.

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