Preface

The research presented in this book is the result of passion, and personal ambition. It is a solo effort, although serendipitous encounters and occasional conversations have been fundamental to its full development. It is the interim result of a long process of maturation, aimed at learning excellence in research as well as in politics and empathy. It relies on the vision that a researcher is a person capable of reasoning and constantly in search for solutions to give people the chance to live better. It was born in a moment of deep transformation, both socially and economically. Thus it shares the passion of many to seek new futures, while imaging the exciting steps that could get everyone there. By presenting this text, the main hope is that other researchers will share the views and hypotheses discussed, and will be willing to move forward and promote this field of investigation in appropriate and relevant ways.

> "*The art of reasoning consists in getting hold of the subject at the right end, of seizing on few general ideas that illuminate the whole, and of persistently organizing all subsidiary facts around them. Nobody can be a good reasoned unless by constant practice he has realized the importance of getting hold of the big ideas and hanging onto them like grim death.*" *A.N. Whitehead, 1914, Presidential address to the London branch of the Mathematical Association*

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