

# Preface

I decided long ago never to write my memoirs, because I knew that episodic memory is rather creative and, therefore, unreliable. But I changed my opinion when I read some strange biographies of mine, where even my mother's maiden name had been altered. Besides, some relatives and friends put pressure on me: they thought that, as both a philosopher-scientist and a hyphenated Canadian, I had something interesting to tell. Let them bear some of my guilt.

Some readers may wonder which are the worlds mentioned in the title of this glimpse into my life and work. They will find out if they read up to the middle of the book. And then they will realize that the worlds in question are not two but four. I put "two" in the title so as not to alienate potential readers rightly suspicious of talk about alternative worlds. I tell my life as a sequence of episodic recalls of the form what-what for who-where-when. And I describe my work and times by outlining only a few landmarks. When I started writing this book, I could not stop: contrary to my expectations, my memories poured out effortlessly – perhaps a sign that I had enjoyed living even in hard times.

I must have unfairly forgotten many people who have been good to me. It is also certain that I have underrated or even rubbished some people who deserved better. I will be the first to deplore all that. In any case, look out!

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