## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The book presented now to the readers originally constituted my doctoral thesis prepared at the Graduate School for Social Research at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw under the supervision of Prof. Włodzimierz Wesołowski. It was defended at the above mentioned Institute in 2001, translated into Polish and published in 2004 in a slightly modified version. The publisher was the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the publishing was co-financed by the Institute of Applied Social Sciences of the University of Warsaw, where I have been employed since 2001. I have recently decided to publish the original English version to reach a different range of audience, in the context of a relatively stable analytical interest in the liberal-communitarian debates, and realizing the growing level of international exchange of social analysis between Polish and foreign scholars done mostly in the English language.

Having been encouraged by my present superior, Prof. Jacek Kurczewski, Chair in Sociology and Anthropology of Custom and Law of our Institute, I decided to offer my dissertation for publication by the Warsaw University Press. I would, therefore, like to thank Prof. Kurczewski for his encouragement as well as his and Prof. Joanna Kurczewska's constant inspiration to continue working on the topic of community even after completing the Ph.D. dissertation. I would like to thank the Institute of Applied Social Sciences, and the University of Warsaw for providing the environment hospitable to intellectual activity and for financial contribution to make the publication possible. But I would also like to express my gratitude to all of my teachers from the Graduate School for Social Research, where my dissertation has been prepared. I would also

like to give special thanks to my doctoral supervisor, Prof. Włodzimierz Wesołowski, for his help during the preparation of this thesis. I am grateful, likewise, to the reviewers of the book, Prof. Stanisław Czerniak and Prof. Paweł Śpiewak. I also remain fully indebted to the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna for offering me the Junior Fellowship in 1999, which provided me with a great opportunity to conduct my research on communitarianism. The hospitality of yet another institution needs to be mentioned: The Nanovic Institute for European Studies of the University of Notre Dame du Lac, where I had the pleasure of conducting research in 2005 mainly on a different topic, yet partly linked with communitarianism, which is confirmed by two articles on this subject which I was able to complete during my stay there. Dr Adrian Reimers from the Notre Dame University kindly agreed to look through my dissertation with his bright eye of both a philosopher and a native speaker, so I wish to give him due thanks for his generous help. Finally, I would like to thank all my friends, colleagues from the Institute, and family members, who have enriched my life with the unforgettable experience of various flourishing communities.