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Preface and Acknowledgments

This book is a volume of collected papers which were presented in the international symposium titled 'The Logic and Conception of History: Cross-field approaches from around the world' held on 1 March 2019 in Osaka, Japan. This symposium was the second one in the new symposium series 'Research Trends Roundtable' started in the 2017 academic year and was programmed by the Department for Cross-Field Research of the National Museum of Ethnology.

As an organiser of this international symposium and editor of this book, I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to those who blessed us with grants and resources that made the research for book possible on behalf of the Department for Cross-Field Research. We are deeply grateful to Professor Ma Guoqing (Minzu University of China) and Vučinić Nešković Vesna (University of Belgrade) for giving us two keynote lectures about the intersection of anthropology and history in East Asia and addressing the role of history in anthropological research in Southeast Europe. Professor Yoshida Kenji, the Director General of the National Museum of Ethnology, provided opening remarks and gave a high evaluation of the significance of this symposium.

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During the symposium, 46 researchers from China, Serbia, and Japan attended. The discussions in the symposium and this book will contribute to deepen contemporary understandings of the logic and conception of history as a fundamental and contemporary issue for humanity. Historical research helps to link the past, present, and future in diverse ways and through diverse co-texts. Although we could address only a small range of topics in this symposium, the apparent contrasts and connections between them provide a good starting point for reflecting upon the logic and conception of history.

Min HAN Department for Cross-Field Research National Museum of Ethnology October 2021