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# Industrial organisation and location

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## Preface

This book has its origins in work done in industrial geography since the late 1960s. However, rather than being concerned with factories and the factors that influence their location, it is about organisations and their development. This difference marks a shift in industrial geography from concern with manufacturing plants as the basis for geographic variations in economic development to concern with the larger structures of organisations and enterprises which collectively make up the economy, and of which factories are frequently only components.

However, the study described in this volume is only a first step in an attempt to explore some of the elements of a geography of organisations. At the same time it points the way to a more comprehensive approach to spatial development patterns in which the relationships between individual organisations and sets of organisations are made the focus of future research and possibly even policy making.

The present volume can not be divorced from its antecedents. The foundations for the work were laid by two people in two places, David Keeble at the University of Cambridge and Peter Wood at University College London. Both played a large part in advancing the study of industrial geography from a largely deterministic approach to one in which attention has been directed towards the behavioural processes underlying observed patterns of economic activity in space. Both contributed directly as supervisors to the graduate research programmes through which the various ideas brought together in this study were investigated. To them we express our special thanks. We would also like to acknowledge Dr J. H. Johnson for his advice and comments on the use of *q*-analysis. However, much of the ground work and idea building for this volume took place at the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Special mention should also be made of the patience of the many businessmen who, through their cooperation with tedious interviews and interminable questionnaires, may have helped to advance geographical research during the past two decades. Thanks are extended especially to the many members of the electronics industry upon whose assistance the empirical research described in this book is based.

The book itself, however, we dedicate to our long-suffering families.

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