

## Preface

This book breaks new ground in examining the changing relationship between the contemporary innovation and intellectual property systems. Often treated discretely, the two are brought together here and, as all of the chapters show, there are many tensions between them. The book is also new in bringing together specialists from a variety of disciplines, including sociology, economics, law and intellectual property management.

The origins of this book lie in a Workshop the editors organised at Anglia University in March 1994. This received generous support from the Economic and Social Research Council, who have since initiated a full research programme on intellectual property in conjunction with the Department of Trade and Industry and the Institute of Intellectual Property. Following the Workshop, contributors' papers were revised for publication; in parallel the editors invited other specialists to contribute to the volume. The result, we believe, is an up-to-date series of papers covering three major areas crucial to the analysis of intellectual property today: innovation and firm strategy, the commercialisation of university research and the international policy dimensions of intellectual property policy.

As always, book production depends on the generous support of many others. We want to thank Chris Caswill, Research Director at ESRC for his kind support of the initial Workshop, to those at Kluwer who have seen this book through to a speedy publication, especially Patrizia Signorini and Lukas Claerhout, as well as Hilary Scannell who has been an invaluable copy-editor. Finally we would like to thank our colleagues at the Science and Technology Studies Unit for their patently obvious support.

Kathryn Packer is now working at the Office of Science and Technology and wishes to make it clear that the views expressed are her own personal opinions and do not represent those of her employer.

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