It is a truism that collaboration is the key to success. In the case of this volume, collaboration between scholars from different countries and disciplines was the key to success. Everything began with a chance encounter between a historian of science and a sociologist of science, who soon discovered their common interest in conceptual approaches to science policy. This set the scene for a fruitful interdisciplinary collaboration between the two of us. We both had studied historical science policy discourses in Germany and the United States. Analyzing these two countries suggested that the concepts of basic and applied research played a key role in shaping science policy. In order to explore the global synchronization of this distinction on the one hand, and the cultural variation of science policy discourses on the other hand, we decided to bring together scholars with expertise in the history of science policy in other countries who could widen our perspective.

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David Kaldewey and Désirée Schauz, March 2018