ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book would not have been conceived without the rich contributions and guidance that I have received since 2013, when I first decided to conduct research into cultures of maternity care and child health among Jews in the UK. I am indebted to all my research participants in Jewish Manchester, who will remain anonymous but deeply appreciated. It was an honour to share moments in their lives that ranged from birth to death, from chuppah to get and tears of joy to those of sorrow. In Jewish Manchester I made unlikely friends, and since leaving in 2015 I have been invited to the full range of family events and simchahs, which reflects the sheer generosity of the people who shared their time with me.

Some individuals in Manchester might not appreciate or accept everything that has been discussed in this book, but I hope they can recognise that a diversity of experiences from their neighbourhoods have been included – experiences that they may not be familiar with themselves. Any errors are mine. Particular thanks go to a righteous family for providing a shelter in every sense of the word, to a rabbi who opened his door and heart to me on one rainy afternoon, to the doulas who were the inspiration behind much of this book and to all the Gehah volunteers. I will always have hacarat hatov for Adoniyahu, I., Nomi Kudrén, Treena Raffles and Caroline Maxwell as their friendship helped me to get through the ups and downs of my time in Manchester.

Weaving historical documents into this book was made possible by David Govier and Larysa Bolton at the Manchester Archives and Local History, and especially Alexandra Cropper at the Manchester Jewish Museum. I also wish to give a note of thanks to the past residents of Manchester from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, who unknowingly contributed to this book through their oral histories.
Generous funding from the Wellcome Trust enabled me to conduct the research presented in this ethnography, and I am grateful for their investment in my career and for making this book openly accessible. In particular I thank Paul Woodgate and Margaret Hurley. Berghahn’s series on Fertility, Reproduction and Sexuality has shaped my worldview as an anthropologist, so publishing Making Bodies Kosher as part of their dynamic collection has been a dream come true for me. I am forever thankful to Marcia Inhorn, Philip Kreager and Soraya Tremayne for their support in making this happen. I fully appreciate the anonymous reviewers who gave fantastic comments on a previous draft of this book, which has enriched the chapters that follow. Vivian Berghahn, Tom Bonnington, Harry Eagles, Caroline Kuhtz, Ben Parker-Jones and Leigh Waite made themselves constantly available during the entire process of publication – thank you.

The first trimester of this book was guided by Durham University’s Department of Anthropology, and it is impossible for any acknowledgement to do justice to the amount of inspiration I received from Claudia Merli (now at Uppsala University), Tessa Pollard, and Yulia Egorova. In many ways this book reflects how they have brought me up as an anthropologist and the imprints they have left on me. Kate Hampshire has continuously made me think about the role of anthropology in re-configuring understandings of health, which I have tried to impart in Making Bodies Kosher. My heartfelt thanks go to Jane Macnaughton at Durham’s Institute for Medical Humanities for the generous opportunities and support she gave me during my fieldwork and beyond. I also wish to inscribe a tender note of thanks to Lucille Cairns; we met often for coffee to discuss my research before her untimely death in 2017. Aaron Parkhurst at University College London carefully examined an earlier draft of this book, and his stimulating comments opened further directions to explore. At the University of Sussex I am thankful to Maria Moscati for reviewing draft chapters and Maya Unnithan. I shared many conversations around ethnic minorities in the UK and health with Kaveri Qureshi at Oxford’s Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, and she provided thoughtful comments on a draft chapter.

My final thanks go those who helped with Hebrew and Yiddish translations, discussed the many facets of Judaism with me and encouraged me personally throughout this endeavour: Jonathan and Leigh Kasstan, Aimee and Greg Kasstan-Turner, Susie (Sophie) Kasstan, Carol Brosgart, Freda Brogarth, Diane Drayer, Uri Horesh, Ruth Illman, Dori Beeler, Jana Funke, Amie Liebowitz, Steph