The idea of writing this book goes back to 2005. At that time, I finished writing my doctoral dissertation on the personal individuation of the Holy Spirit (published later as God Without a Face? On the Personal Individuation of the Holy Spirit, [Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2011]). In order to pursue my doctoral research, I delved deeply and extensively into the doctrine of the Trinity in modern, medieval, and patristic eras alike. I realized from that intellectual journey the profound relevance and connectedness of the doctrine of the Trinity to the entire spectrum of Christian theology. I also perceived from my broad reading of the literature on trinitarian theology, especially the contemporary ones, that the doctrine of the Trinity is undoubtedly center-stage on the theological and philosophical scene in our postmodern age.

Be that as it may, I decided to take my study of trinitarian theology further, into the realm of the key anthropological and conceptual notions of “personhood” and “relationality.” The result was this book, which attempts to think about how trinitarian theologians of the modern and postmodern eras interacted with, and were shaped by, other modernist and postmodernist forms of inquiry. Postmodernity is thus the main context of this endeavor, and the notions of “personhood” and “relationality” are its primary subject.

Between 2005, when I started developing this project, and 2009, when I finished its first draft, many people contributed to my research process and made the production of this book a real possibility. I am deeply indebted to the Langham Trust, especially Dr. Chris Wright, and to its sister trust, John Stott Ministries, for generously offering me a one-year scholarship to pursue this project in a proper research center at the Yale Divinity School. Without this generous grant, I would have not been able to achieve my goal.

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