

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Writing this book was like an archaeological dig, not only through the history of the European Court of Human Rights and its anti-torture jurisprudence but also a dig through my own drafts that took shape over years and years of work. While the initial idea behind this book was my doctoral dissertation that I wrote at the Geneva Graduate Institute, to my chagrin, I ended up writing an entirely new manuscript – one that truly reflected the maturation of my knowledge of the Court and the norm against torture and inhuman or degrading treatment. My analysis and findings were shaped in different sites of research with the support of several co-conspirators. I am particularly indebted to my interviewees, including the judges and the Registry lawyers at the European Court of Human Rights, as well as human rights experts and members of civil society organisations. My understanding of the issue got sharpened in the course of our conversations. I am also grateful for the financial support from the Swiss National Science Foundation (grant agreement no. 149034), which allowed me to spend some time at the Court and undertake these interviews, and complete my dissertation research.

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