

## Preface

In 1998 a project called MUSSIM (Material Use and Spatial Scales in Industrial Metabolism) was started with funding from the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO). The project aimed to study the driving forces behind material flows at different spatial scales. The partners involved in the project were the Free University in Amsterdam (the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration and the Institute for Environmental Studies), Wageningen University (the Department of Environmental Economics), the Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (CPB), and the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM). The results of this comprehensive study form the backbone of this book.

As part of the MUSSIM project, we organized two special sessions on economics and industrial ecology during the First International Conference on Industrial Ecology, held in November 2001 in Leiden, the Netherlands. In addition to presenting the results of our own work, we invited leading scholars in the field from other countries to present their work too. The two types of contributions were combined to produce the present book. All contributions have been reviewed by at least two referees.

The result is a volume with a unique collection of studies that combine elements of economics and industrial ecology in a methodologically rigorous way. A range of modeling techniques is employed, and applications involve a wide array of materials, sectors, and countries.

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