

[DEDICATION]

*For Sonia Sanchez, Amiri Baraka, Ntongela Masilela,
Haunani-Kay Trask, Michael Neill,
Tim Reiss, and Pat Hilden*

*And in memory of the late Ngũgĩ wa Mĩriĩ,
Apollo Njonjo, Kĩmani Roki, and Ime Ikiddeh*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank Professor Skip Gates for inviting me to give the 2006 McMillan-Stewart Lectures at Harvard. I am also indebted to Professor Abiola Irele, Hamilton Dane, and the staff of the university for hosting me. In addition, I would like to thank Professor Gaby Schwab, Professor Jane Newman, Professor Laura O'Connor, Professor Alex Galley, and Professor Doug Pfeiffer, to whom I often turned for suggestions on further readings and discussions. My students—Robert Colson, Aisling Aboud, and Michelle Bishop—also contributed to my research, and I want to thank them for their help and take on the Irish situation. Colette Atkinson contributed ideas toward the title. Barbara Caldwell, my assistant and editor, never tired of running to the library and bookshop, or scouring the Internet, for books and references urgently needed. Laura O'Connor's *Haunted English* and

Ntongela Masilela's work on the intellectual history of South Africa were particularly inspiring. Ntongela additionally read over the lectures and came up with challenging comments and helpful suggestions. And special thanks to my wife, Njeeri, and my family for their support.