First and foremost I would like to thank Martin and Margaret Ansdell-Smith, without whom this book would never have been written. They always encouraged me through difficult periods in writing, helping me to get the book into shape several times by suggesting new ways of looking at the work, new messages to give and even some new ideas. They also undertook much of the painstaking work of ensuring many details were correct and commenting on its readability.

Next I would like to thank Henk Geertsema, emeritus holder of the Dooyeweerd Chair at the VU-Amsterdam in the Netherlands, and Roy Clouser, emeritus professor of philosophy at Trenton State College, New Jersey, both internationally acknowledged experts in Dooyeweerdian philosophy. They read and commented on my exposition and use of Dooyeweerd from the perspective of Dooyeweerdian scholarship, correcting some of my misunderstandings, suggesting new ways of expressing Dooyeweerd’s ideas and giving much encouragement.

I would like to thank my friend and colleague, Heinz Klein, professor emeritus SUNY Binghamton, USA, and internationally recognised as one of the major thinkers in information systems research over the past 20 years, whose knowledge of the phenomenological, hermeneutic, linguistic and critical turns in philosophy as applied to IS is second to none. Despite many pressures, including a very heavy work schedule, he gave me continual inspiration and, with his customary incisive way of thinking challenged my beliefs and stimulated me to clarify a number of issues, especially about the lifeworld.
Special thanks are due to my colleagues at the University of Salford, Dr. Helen Richardson and Professor Alison Adam, who both encouraged me to keep going when I felt like giving up. Helen read a draft of the manuscript and saw more clearly than I did what the value of the work might be. Professor Michael Myers, University of Auckland, New Zealand, might be surprised to be included in my acknowledgments, but on one occasion with one comment he helped me see more clearly what the book was to be about.

I would like to thank my friend Lyndon Fallows for useful advice about the style of writing to use in the book.

I would like to thank Dr. Michael Winfield, recently of the University of Central England, for permission to adapt a diagram from his thesis and for pushing me, years ago, to publish philosophical works.

Thanks are due to the University of Salford for allowing me 6 months’ study leave in 2003, which enabled me to begin the project of writing this book, and to the Herman Dooyeweerd Foundation, which funded travel to North America to visit a number of people who knew Dooyeweerd’s ideas. Thanks are also due to the publishers of this book for permission, despite their house style, to add numbers to the headings within chapters in order to facilitate cross-referencing. In particular, Kristin Roth, managing development editor, has been very effective in helping me prepare the book for publication. I would like especially to thank three anonymous reviewers whose challenging questions and most helpful suggestions helped me shape the argument of the book.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife Ruth for her patience, support and encouragement over several years when the writing of this book dominated much of our lives.

Andrew Basden

June 2007