Acknowledgment

Editing this encyclopedia was an experience without precedent which enriched me a lot both from the human and professional side. I learned a lot from the expertise, enthusiasm, and cooperative spirit of the authors of this publication. Without their commitment to this multidisciplinary exercise, I would not have succeeded.

The efforts that we wish to acknowledge took place over the course of the last two years, as first the premises, then the project, then the challenges, and finally the encyclopedia itself took shape.

I owe a great debt to colleagues all around the world who have worked with me directly (and indirectly) on the research represented here. I am particularly indebted to all the authors involved in this encyclopedia who provided the opportunity to interact and work with the leading experts from around the world. I would like to thank all of them.

Crafting a wealth of research and ideas into a coherent encyclopedia is a process in which the length and complexity I underestimated severely. I owe a great debt to Kristin M. Roth the managing development editor of this second edition. She helped me in organizing and carrying out the complex tasks of editorial management, deadline coordination, and page production—tasks which are normally kept separate, but which, in this encyclopedia, were integrated together so we could write and produce this book.

Mehdi Khosrow-Pour, my editor, and his colleagues at IGI Global have been extremely helpful and supportive every step of the way. Mehdi always provided encouragement and professional support. He took on this project with enthusiasm and grace, and I benefited greatly both from his working relationship with me and his editorial insights. His enthusiasm motivated me to initially accept his invitation for taking on this big project.

I would like to acknowledge the help of all involved in the collation and review process of the encyclopedia, without whose support the project could not have been satisfactorily completed.

Most of the authors also served as referees for articles written by other authors. Their constructive and comprehensive reviews were valuable to the overall process and quality of the final publication.

Deep appreciation and gratitude is due to members of the editorial board: Prof. Raymond A. Hackney of Manchester Metropolitan University (UK), Prof. Leslie Leong of Central Connecticut State University (USA), Prof. Nadia Magnenat-Thalmann of University of Geneva (Switzerland), Prof. Lorenzo Peccati of Bocconi University (Italy), Prof. Nobuyoshi Terashima of Waseda University (Japan), Prof. Steven John Simon of Mercer University (USA), Prof. Andrew Targowski of Western Michigan University (USA), and Prof. Enrico Valdani of Bocconi University (Italy).

I owe a debt of gratitude to the Management Department of Bocconi University where I have the chance to work for the past seven years. I am deeply grateful to Prof. Lorenzo Peccati and Prof. Enrico Valdani for always having supported and encouraged my research endeavors.

I would like to thank Prof. Charles Fine at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Sloan School of Management) for writing the foreword of this publication. Thanks also to Anna Piccolo at Massachusetts Institute of Technology for all her support and encouragement.

Thanks go to all those who provided constructive and comprehensive reviews and editorial support services for coordination of this two-year project.

My deepest appreciation goes to all the authors for their insights and excellent contributions to this encyclopedia. Working with them in this project was an extraordinary experience in my professional life.

In closing, I'm delighted to present this encyclopedia to you and I am proud of the many outstanding articles that are included herein. I am confident that you will find it to be a useful resource to help your business, your students, or your business colleagues to better understand the topics related to multimedia technology and networking.