Acknowledgments

The accomplishment of this project is largely owed to the support of my supervisor, Professor Gotelind Müller-Saini. She primarily inspired me to approach heritage conservation from a Chinese Studies perspective and has provided me intensive mentoring and valuable advice. I would like to express my deep gratitude for her patient guidance and continuous encouragement throughout the entire project.

Moreover, I would like to express my special thanks and great appreciation to my second supervisor, Professor Ylva Monschein. She has guided the development of this project with great dedication from the very beginning. I am particularly grateful for her constructive suggestions and impulses which greatly contributed to the advancement of this research.

The project was supported by a Ph.D. scholarship of Cusanuswerk, a young talent program funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. In addition to financial assistance and a travel grant for fieldwork in China, I greatly benefitted from inspirational support in the course of this program. I am further grateful for the generous financial support of the Confucius Institute which granted me a Joint Research Ph.D. Fellowship as part of the program "Confucius China Study Plan" for the period of my research in China.

During my research stay at Fudan University, Shanghai, from fall 2015 to summer 2016, I was mentored by Professor Yu Hai who welcomed me warmheartedly. I would like to thank him for letting me participate in his research on Tianzifang as well as sharing his experiences and valuable insights with me. I would also like to thank Professor Ruan Yisan, Professor Du Xiaofan and Professor Han Feng for deepening my understanding of heritage conservation in China.

Furthermore, I owe particular gratitude to the UNESCO Archives in Paris for granting me access to important source material which has greatly enhanced the development of this project. My admission to the third Asia-Pacific Region Training on Historic Urban Landscape (Shanghai, 14–17 December 2015) by the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITRAP) offered me key insights into the HUL management approach and its pilot cases in China.

At Heidelberg University, I was fortunate to present the progress of my work to our Ph.D. research group at several stages and I would like to warmly thank my colleagues for sharing with me helpful insights, ideas and literature. The finalization of the manuscript is owed to Nancy Matos, Aaron Chiang, Stanley Setiawan and Michael Dunn who were willing to help with proofreading despite great time pressure. My deep thanks also go to Nicole Merkel-Hilf, Elizaveta Ilves and

Daniela Jakob from CrossAsia-eBooks for providing me excellent advice throughout the entire publication process.

I am deeply indepted to the help of colleagues and friends who offered me professional, technical but also moral support. While many contributed to the advancement of this project, I particularly want to thank Professor Prem Poddar, Zhong Xiaohua, Tang Fangfang, Wang Liqi, Wang Xi and Zhang Lei, Dong Bijuan, Patrizia Kühner and Fabian Barthruff, Renata Vinci, Giulia Falato, Charlotte Pageot, Bushra Anwar and Melanie Job. Finally, I would like to thank my family, Renate, Siegfried, Gabriele, Chantal and Marcel for their constant support and strong belief in me and this project.