Books are strange artifacts. Often subscribed by a single individual, books are received as if the product of a lone actor: a subject who stands apart from yet in relation to the text. Their words stand as little more than ink stains on a page but are received as traces of an imaginary authorial voice. The author is conceived *as if* operating in isolation even when they are inevitably entangled with webs of relations, ideas, and practices. Books are among their many creations; they are mirages cast over these webs. The following pages are my attempt to undo the blurred contours of this mirage by recognizing those who have made this book a reality.

Across the ten years since I began work on this project, many people shared ideas, provided intellectual support, offered words of guidance, and granted solace and care. I would not have been able to start, continue, and finish without them. And even though I am responsible for the ideas put forth here, I would be remiss if I did not recognize their contributions. Friends, colleagues, family, and acquaintances gave their time, minds, and hearts so that you hold this book in your hands or have it flash across your screen.

The Cybernetic Border saw its first light in work that I undertook in American Culture at the University of Michigan, under the guidance of Lisa Nakamura and Alex Stern. Lisa's creativity and expansive knowledge about digital media theory and history informed how I came to understand racial formation and technology. More fundamentally, she was always a model of generous and bold scholarship. Alex joined the project without hesitation as I began putting together my initial proposal. Her thinking about nation making, borders, race, and infrastructures was critical in my intellectual formation. Both Lisa and Alex managed the insurmountable challenge of reining in my curiosity without stifling it. Their attentive and demanding feedback challenged me to tighten my ideas and justify my analytical maneuvers. This book is a humble homage to their teaching.

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