## **Contents**

Preface ix

Caveat xiii

Introduction: Finding a Middle Ground in a Polarized Scholarly Arena 3
Benjamin Zablocki and Thomas Robbins

## PART ONE: HOW OBJECTIVE ARE THE SCHOLARS?

- 1 'O Truant Muse': Collaborationism and Research Integrity 35 Benjamin Beit-Hallahmi
- 2 Balance and Fairness in the Study of Alternative Religions 71Thomas Robbins
- 3 Caught Up in the Cult Wars: Confessions of a Canadian Researcher 99 Susan J. Palmer
- 4 Pitfalls in the Sociological Study of Cults 123 Janja Lalich

## PART TWO: HOW CONSTRAINED ARE THE PARTICIPANTS?

- 5 Towards a Demystified and Disinterested Scientific Theory of Brainwashing 159 Benjamin Zablocki
- 6 Tactical Ambiguity and Brainwashing Formulations: Science or Pseudo Science 215 Dick Anthony
- 7 A Tale of Two Theories: Brainwashing and Conversion as Competing Political Narratives 318
   David Bromley
- 8 Brainwashing Programs in The Family/Children of God and Scientology 349
  Stephen A. Kent
- Raising Lazarus: A Methodological Critique of Stephen Kent's Revival of the Brainwashing Model 379
   Lorne L. Dawson
- 10 Compelling Evidence: A Rejoinder to Lorne Dawson's Chapter 401 Stephen A. Kent

## PART THREE: HOW CONCERNED SHOULD SOCIETY BE?

- 11 Child-Rearing Issues in Totalist Groups 415

  Amy Siskind
- 12 Contested Narratives: A Case Study of the Conflict Between a New Religious Movement and Its Critics 452 Julius H. Rubin
- 13 The Roots of Religious Violence in America 478 Jeffrey Kaplan

Appendix 515 Contributors 521