Firebrand Waves of Digital Activism 1994–2014

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The Rise and Spread of Hacktivism and Cyberconflict

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Preface and Acknowledgements

The research for this book was conducted between 2007 and 2014, in what was a period of intense cyberactivism in the global political arena: proliferation of socio-political activist networks; social-media-enabled political protests and mobilizations leading to social or political change; and increased resistance to surveillance and censorship of global communications, including leaks from government employees uncovering significant problems in the use of ICT by both states and corporations. This book brings together work specifically relevant to media movements and radical politics and the interaction between states and corporations with these movements.

In engaging with this work, I have incurred many intellectual debts. I extend my lasting thanks to all my colleagues at Hull and Leicester, who I often stopped in corridors to talk to between writing sessions. My list of gratitude for stimulating intellectual exchanges over the years includes Noel O'Sullivan, Andrew Robinson, Michael Schandorf, Christiana Gregoriou, Gillian Youngs, Cony Beyer, Phoebe Moore, Bev Orton, Mike Brayshaw, Adi Kuntsman, Korina Patelis, Petros Ioannidis, Popi Aggeli, Ming-Yeh, Gary Rawnsley, George Michaelides, Christos Sideras, Eugenia Siapera, Anthimos Tsirigotis, Artur Alves, Michel Bauwens, Zizi Papacharissi, Geert Lovink, Gabriella Coleman, Martin Gak, Patricia Clough, Rafael-Cohen Almagor, Richard Aldrich, James Zborowski, Maria Karanika, Marie-Hélène Bourcier, Mayra Rodrigues Gomes, Simon Willmetts, Peter Wilkin, James Connelly, David Lonsdale, Peter Young, Luke O'Sullivan and Panagiota Tsatsou. In addition, I extend my gratitude to my students for many inspiring conversations.

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I have published parts of the case studies included in this book over the past seven years (Karatzogianni, 2010; 2012a; 2012b; 2012c; 2013; Karatzogianni and Michaelides, 2009; Karatzogianni and Robinson, 2014; 2016), and I am grateful to colleagues, editors and publishers for permission to use the material again. I have indicated in the text when this is the case and where the relevant study originally appeared. In doing so, I am opening my modest and often inadequate research vault in the hope that scholars of digital activism and cyberconflict might discover continuities, patterns and discontinuities, as well as paradoxes to aid the analysis of future cases, for they are virtually certain to emerge.

This book is dedicated to my family in Greece, my son Sebastian and his dad, Tim Hawkins, who is still tolerant of my frequent absent-mindedness, travelling and smashing of kitchenware.