Contents

List of Tables and Figures vii Acknowledgements viii

1 Evidence in Times of Crisis

- 1.1 The Status of Evidence in Evidence-Based Medicine 3
- 1.2 Organization of Chapters 5
- 2 Narrative Rationality and the Logic of Good Reasons 8
 - 2.1 The Narrative Paradigm: Basic Tenets 8
 - 2.2 Narrative Paradigm vs RationalWorld Paradigm 11
 - 2.3 Narrative Probability, Narrative Fidelity and the Logic of Good Reasons 14
 - 2.3.1 Narrative Probability (Coherence) 15
 - 2.3.2 Narrative Fidelity 23

3 Whose Evidence? What Rationality?The Face Mask Controversy 28

- 3.1 Structural and Material (In)coherence in Expert Narratives 28
- 3.2 Transcendental Values, Narrative Accrual and Narrative Identification 35
 - 3.2.1 The Logic of Good
 Reasons, Narrative Accrual
 and Identification: Public
 Safety and Structural
 Racism 36
 - 3.2.2 Good Reasons, Precarious Manhood and Homophobia 40
- 3.3 Beyond Precariousness:
 Personal Freedom vs Social
 Responsibility 42

4 Whose Lives? What Values? Herd Immunity, Lockdowns and Social/ Physical Distancing 45

- 4.1 Structural/Material (In)coherence or Science vs Values in the Great Barrington and John Snow Declarations 47
- 4.2 Health, the Economy and the State: Resonance and Lived Experience 53
- 4.3 Transcendental Values and Conceptions of Freedom 56
- 4.4 Public Health Recommendations and the Values and Principles of Evidence-based Policy Making 59
- 5 The Rational World Paradigm, the Narrative Paradigm and the Politics of Pharmaceutical Interventions 61
 - 5.1 Structural and Material(In)coherence: Science and PublicPolicy under Pressure 62
 - 5.2 Characterological Coherence and Public Confidence in Vaccines 66
 - 5.3 Transcendental Values and Conceptions of Freedom 69
 - 5.4 Pure Bodies, Microchips and Genetically Modified Organisms 73
 - 5.5 Resonance, Lived Experience and Trust 77
- 6 Objectivist vs Praxial Knowledge: Towards a Model of Situated Epistemologies and Narrative Identification 81

- 6.1 Limitations of Fisher's Narrative Paradigm 82
- 6.2 Revisiting and Extending the Narrative Paradigm 85
- 6.3 Narrative Identification in the Age of Fragmented Narratives 88
- 6.4 A Final Note on Critical Appraisal in the EBM Model 90

References 92 Index 103